

Fire Services Management Committee update paper

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

The report outlines issues of interest to the Committee not covered under the other items on the agenda.

Recommendation

Members to note the update.

Action

Officers to progress as appropriate.

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Fire Services Management Committee update paper

Councillor Jeremy Hilton

1. On 26 November Councillor Hilton attended the Public Accounts Committee to discuss the National Audit Office's report in to the financial sustainability of the fire and rescue service (**Item 3**). Councillor Hilton gave evidence alongside Paul Hancock, President of CFOA, and Sir Ken Knight, former Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser.
2. On 24 November Councillor Hilton met the new Chief Executive of the LGA, Mark Lloyd, to outline the work of the Fire Services Management Committee. He spoke about the priorities for fire and rescue authorities around governance, funding and the role of fire in health.
3. Councillor Hilton spoke at a Public Policy Exchange conference on 29 October titled "Building Safe and Healthy Communities: The Role of Fire and Rescue Authorities". The session looked at how the fire and rescue service could change in the future, including further developing their role in the wider prevention agenda. Councillor Kay Hammond also spoke at the event, representing Surrey County Council, and discussing the work that they have been involved in.
4. On 15 October Councillor Hilton met with the Chairman of the LGA, Lord Gary Porter, to brief him on the work of the Fire Services Management Committee and the submission to the consultation 'Enabling closer working between the Emergency Services.

Fire Minister

5. The LGA continues to seek a meeting with the Minister of State for Communities and Resilience, and to secure his attendance at a meeting of the Fire Commission and the annual Fire Conference.

National Operational Guidance

6. Councillor Kay Hammond, attended the National Operational Guidance Programme's Parliamentary Seminar. Councillor Hammond spoke about the pressures and challenges facing fire and rescue services as we look to the future. She outlined the priorities of the Fire Services Management Committee as well as discussing the importance of a sector-led approach towards improvement.

Fire and Health

7. Following the publication of the Consensus Statement between the LGA, CFOA, Public Health England, NHS England and Age UK in October the LGA has continued to engage with these organisations. The next phase of this work will involve a series of regional meetings. These will be led by the local areas and will look at how the fire and rescue service can contribute towards the needs identified in each area's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. An initial regional meeting in the West Midlands was scheduled for the 24 November but this has now been postponed. We will continue to keep members informed as this work progresses.

Fire Bulletin

8. Following discussions at the last FSMC, that the bulletin should follow on from the FSMC dates the next three issues of the fire bulletin have been scheduled for:
 - 6.1. FSMC date 11 December: Bulletin date 18 December
 - 6.2. FSMC date 7 March: Bulletin date 21 March
 - 6.3. FSMC date 24 June: Bulletin date 8 July