



**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**  
**Fire & Rescue Service**  
*Creating Safer Communities*

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham  
Fire and Rescue Authority

# **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2010**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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**Agenda No:**

**Date:** 25 June 2010

**Purpose of Report:**

To inform Members of the outcomes of the Local Government Association Conference held at the Hilton Deansgate, Manchester, on Tuesday 09 March to Wednesday 10 March 2010.

## **CONTACT OFFICER**

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Government Association organises an annual conference for Fire and Rescue Authorities. This event has now become a major event in the 'fire' calendar. Previous themes for the conference have included "Making Connections – Solutions for our Communities", "Forward Together", "Fire and Rescue in 2017: Rising to the Challenge" and "Building Resilience: Responding to Environmental Change."
- 1.2 At its meeting in December 2009 the Fire Authority approved attendance of this conference for the Chair, Vice-Chair and two other Members of the Authority.

## **2. REPORT**

- 2.1 The Local Government Association Fire and Rescue Conference 2009 took place from Tuesday 09 March – Wednesday 10 March 2010 and was held at the Hilton Deansgate in Manchester.
- 2.2 The theme of the conference was "The Fire Service – the next five years". The programme for the two days covered a range of topics of interest to the fire community with particular focus on current and future issues in the fire and rescue service, meeting future challenges, and what will be done regarding poorly performing fire authorities.
- 2.3 Speakers were drawn from both within and outside the fire community and a number of workshops were offered, covering:
  - Equality and diversity;
  - The leadership challenge – Fire Authority Members under scrutiny;
  - Leaders of the future – high potential leadership scheme;
  - Fire resilience – new challenges;
  - Saving money – saving the environment.
- 2.4 There was also a mix of panel sessions and plenary sessions with opportunities to question the speakers. These included a ministerial and shadow ministerial address, in addition to themes encompassing "is there a future for FiReControl and national procurement" and "Reality check – managing expectations in a recession."
- 2.5 In addition to the opportunity to receive information on current fire and rescue service issues, and networking with Members from other Authorities, attendance at the event contributed to the learning and development opportunities for Members and has been recorded within the development portfolio of those Members who attended.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Conference Fee was £414.00 (inc. VAT) per delegate for Member Authorities, excluding travel, accommodation and subsistence, which took the final cost to approximately £650 per delegate. This was met from the budget for Members' conference expenses.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

The LGA Fire Conference offers an excellent learning opportunity for Members associated with the Fire and Rescue Service. The opportunities of networking with their peers from other areas of the country, as well as being updated on national issues, supports the ongoing awareness required within the role.

### **5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no specific equality issues arising from this report.

### **6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Attendance at the LGA Fire Conference ensures that Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service remains abreast of all of the upcoming issues and developments within the Fire and Rescue Service sector and reduces the risk of valuable learning and information sharing being missed.

### **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That representation by the Fire and Rescue Authority is noted and that the Fire and Rescue Authority agree to continue to support this event in the future.

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**