



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2011

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda No:

Date: 25 February 2011

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of the Local Government Association Conference to be held from Tuesday 08 March to Wednesday 09 March 2011 and to seek approval of the Authority for the attendance of Members at this conference.

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1. BACKGROUND

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."

2. REPORT

2.1 The Local Government Association Fire and Rescue Conference 2011 will take place from Tuesday 08 March – Wednesday 09 March 2011 and will be held at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead Hotel.

2.2 Whilst planning for the conference is still underway, the programme for the two days will explore a number of the most topical issues on the national agenda, and will debate the key challenges facing the Service in the future. The impact of the coalition government on fire service policy will be a priority area for discussion.

2.3 Over two days, delegates from government, leading fire and rescue authority members, local authorities, senior officers and leading lights in the fire industry will come together to hear from the foremost experts in the field. A variety of interactive workshops designed to share practical knowledge and look at best practice case studies will be available to delegates. The programme will include sessions on:

- the implications of the spending cuts on Fire and Rescue Authorities;
- radical approaches to delivery;
- national functions;
- the use of technology in fire death prevention; and
- a range of workshops on staffing issues, including flexible staffing arrangements; shared services/back office functions; sharing chief officers and other senior staff and improved sickness management.

2.4 Speakers are being drawn from both within and outside the fire community, and include:

- Bob Neill MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government
- CFO Peter Holland, President, Chief Fire Officer's Association
- Matt Wrack, General Secretary, Fire Brigades Union
- Cllr Mark Healey, Chairman, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority
- Lee Howell, Vice President, Chief Fire Officers Association and Chief Fire Officer, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- CFO Vij Randeniya, West Midlands Fire Service

- 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 such events contributes to the learning and development opportunities for Members.
- 2.6 The LGA Fire Conference also sees the scheduled meeting of Fire and Rescue Authorities' Chief Officers and Chairs, which discusses implications which affect the particular interests of Fire and Rescue Authorities. This meeting is scheduled for 18:00hrs on Tuesday 8 March 2011.
- 2.7 Given the current financial concerns of the Service as a result of the 9.5% reduction in grant, it is recommended that in 2011 the Chair of the Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer attend and report back to the full Authority on the outcomes.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The conference fee is expected to be in the region of £400 (inc. VAT) per delegate for Member Authorities, excluding travel, accommodation and subsistence, which will take the final cost to approximately £600 per delegate. This will be met from the budget for Members' conference expenses.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

Attendance at this event ensures that Members of the Fire Authority remain abreast of key developments within the Service and can demonstrate that they are providing evidence of their own development in the Fire Service arena.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

There are no specific aspects relating to a disproportionate effect in respect of the key equality strands.

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 this event ensures that the Fire Authority can demonstrate its engagement to external audit as part of wider inspection processes. This removes the risk of criticism and intervention.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That representation at this conference is made by the Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Fire Authority.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER