



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: 27 May 2011

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of the outcomes of the Local Government Association Annual Fire Conference held at the Hilton Hotel, Gateshead, on Tuesday 8 March to Wednesday 9 March 2011.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name : Frank Swann
Chief Fire Officer

Tel : (0115) 967 0880

Email : frank.swann@notts-fire.gov.uk

**Media Enquiries
Contact :** Elisabeth Reeson
(0115) 967 5889 elisabeth.reeson@notts-fire.gov.uk

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 February 2011, the Fire Authority approved attendance at this conference for the Chair to accompany the Chief Fire Officer.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Local Government Association Fire and Rescue Conference 2011 took place from Tuesday 8 March – Wednesday 9 March 2011 and was held at the Hilton Hotel in Gateshead.
- 2.2 The theme of the conference was "The Future of Fire". 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:
 - Localism and spending cuts.
 - Radical approaches to delivery.
 - National functions.
 - Fire and Rescue and the voluntary sector.
 - Minister's address.
- 2.4 There was also a mix of panel sessions and plenary sessions with opportunities to question the speakers. These included flexible staffing arrangements, improved sickness management, pay restraint and recruitment freezes and shared services, amongst other areas.
- 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.
- 2.6 The meeting of Combined Fire Authorities was also held on the evening of Tuesday 8 March 2011, where items such as the impact of the Localism Bill, business rate impact for CFAs and the formula funding review were discussed. Agreement for a further CFA conference in 2011 was obtained, with a time and venue to be decided.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The conference fee was £360 (+VAT) per delegate for Member Authorities, excluding travel, accommodation and subsistence, which took the final cost to approximately £600 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