



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2009

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda No:

Date: 03 April 2009

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of the outcomes of the Local Government Association Conference held at the Bristol Marriott Hotel, Bristol, on Tuesday 10 March to Wednesday 11 March 2009.

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 of 19 December 2008 the FA approved attendance of this conference for two members from the majority group, one from the head opposition group and one further member.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The Local Government Association Fire and Rescue Conference 2009 took place from Tuesday 10 March – Wednesday 11 March 2009 and was held at the Bristol Marriott Hotel, Bristol.
- 2.2 The theme of the conference was "Improving outcomes for communities through partnership working – the role of fire and rescue". 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 Comprehensive Area Assessment and Local Area Agreements mean for the fire and rescue service.
- 2.3 Speakers were drawn from both within and outside the fire community and a number of workshops were offered, covering:
 - Implementing the new Regional Control Centres – practical issues;
 - Future of operational leadership in the fire and rescue service;
 - Role of Elected Members in partnership working;
 - Equality and diversity.
- 2.4 There was also a mix of satellite sessions and plenary sessions with opportunities to question the speakers. This also included a specific session for Fire & Rescue Authorities. There was also an address from the minister for Fire & Rescue Services, Sadiq Khan, who focused on future challenges and in particular Equality and Diversity.
- 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 £423.00 (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

An initial impact assessment (attached at Appendix A) has revealed that 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

Initial Equality Impact Assessment Questionnaire

This questionnaire will enable you to decide whether or not the new or proposed policy or service needs to go through a full Equality Impact Assessment.

Title of policy or service							Local Government Association Annual Fire and Rescue Conference 2009							
Name of Employee completing assessment:							Department and Section:							
Frank Swann							Strategic Management Suite							
1. State the purpose and aims of the policy or service.														
To seek representation by the Fire and Rescue Authority at this annual conference on the basis of two Members from the majority group and one from the lead opposition group.														
2. Who is responsible for implementing it?														
The Chief Fire Officer.														
3. Who is likely to be disproportionately affected by the proposal? People from which of the equality strands? (please tick)														
Age	Disability	Family Status	Gender	Race	Sexual Orientation	Religion or Belief								
4. If no boxes are ticked – there is no need to continue the EIA														