



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

Agenda No:

Date: 18 December 2009

Purpose of Report:

To inform Members of the Local Government Association Conference to be held at Hilton Deansgate, Manchester, from Tuesday 09 March to Wednesday 10 March 2010 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 2010 will take place from Tuesday 09 March – Wednesday 10 March 2010 and will be held at the Hilton Deansgate, Manchester.
- 2.2 Whilst planning for next year's conference is still underway, the theme of the conference is "Fire Service: The Next Five Years". The programme for the two days will cover a range of topics of interest to the fire community with particular focus on the pressures and opportunities facing the Service in a time of economic downturn and changing political landscape. The conference will also consider how the Fire and Rescue Service can continually improve services, while increasing efficiency and becoming more sustainable and representative of the community they serve.
- 2.3 Speakers are being drawn from both within and outside the fire community, and include Stewart Jackson MP (Conservative Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government), Councillor Brian Coleman (Chairman of the Fire Services Management Committee), Chief Fire Officer John Bonney (President of the Chief Fire Officers Association) and Sir Ken Knight CBE (Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser). Additionally, a number of workshops will be offered, including:
 - Fire resilience – new challenges;
 - The leadership challenge – fire authority members under scrutiny;
 - High rise – community fire safety in wake of the Camberwell fire.
- 2.4 There will be a mix of satellite sessions and plenary sessions with opportunities to question the speakers.
- 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.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The conference fee is £414.00 (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 Chair, Vice-Chair and two other Members of the Authority.

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

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER