

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**MEETING: 19 JANUARY 2009**

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**SUBJECT: LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE - 10 TO 11 MARCH 2009**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, FINANCE OFFICER AND THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Local Government Association (LGA) twelfth Annual Fire Conference is scheduled to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009 in Bristol. This report proposes an Authority representation at the conference.

**2. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2009**

2.1 The LGA Annual Fire Conference is now firmly established as one of the key conferences for Fire and Local Authorities, and this is reflected by the quality of the speakers.

2.2 For 2009, the LGA has announced that the conference will be held at the Marriot City Centre Hotel, Bristol from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009. The theme of the Conference is 'Improving outcomes for communities through partnership working – the role of fire and rescue'.

2.3 The conference will explore a range of strategic issues including: the role of the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor's Unit; the elected member contribution to driving improvement in performance; the wider role of fire and rescue in creating safer communities and improving the quality of people's lives and the future of operational leadership in the fire and rescue service.

2.4 Speakers are being drawn from the fire and rescue service and fire and rescue authorities, central government and other key organisations. There will also be a mix of breakout and plenary sessions with opportunities to question the speakers on the range of issues put forward at the conference.

2.5 It is envisaged that a wide audience of Authority members and officers from both Fire and Rescue Authorities and central government will be attending together with the Fire Minister Sadiq Khan MP. In addition, a panel discussion will allow delegates to engage with a range of key players from the sector and consider a range of perspectives on the most current issues.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost of the conference is envisaged to be in the region of £360.00 plus VAT per person for LGA member authorities, which covers conference and workshop sessions.

3.2 The Chief Fire Officer proposes that, due to the significance of the subject matter of the conference, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one other member of the Authority be nominated to attend.

**4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 The Authority is recommended to approve the attendance of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and one Member at the conference;

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The undermentioned background papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

Conference notification – January 2009