

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item 6

MEETING: 15 DECEMBER 2014

SUBJECT: LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE - 10th and 11th MARCH 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Annual Fire Conference of the Local Government Association (LGA) is scheduled to be held in Gateshead on 10th and 11th of March 2015. This report proposes an Authority representation at the conference.

2. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2015

2.1 The LGA Annual Fire Conference is the key conference of the year for fire and rescue authorities as it deals with issues of direct concern to the fire and rescue service as a whole.

2.2 Next year, the conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel Gateshead on the 10th and 11th of March 2015. This provides an opportunity for TWFRA to maximise the many benefits available from such a prestigious event.

2.3 The conference theme will be designed to address the issues and key challenges facing the service in the coming months and years.

2.4 Speakers will be drawn from fire and rescue services, fire and rescue authorities, central government and other key organisations. It is envisaged that the Fire Minister, Penny Mordaunt MP and the shadow Fire Minister Lyn Brown MP will both attend and speak to conference. In addition, there will also be a number of breakout and plenary sessions available, with opportunities to question speakers on the issues put forward at the conference.

2.5 There will be a strong attendance from members and officers of fire and rescue authorities as well as key figures from central government, which will provide an ideal opportunity to further develop an understanding of the emerging issues. As the 'host' FRA, TWFRA are provided with 2 free places at the conference.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the conference is £360 per person for LGA member authorities, held at 2008 prices, which covers the main conference and workshop sessions.

3.2 Under normal practice the Chairman and one other member of the Authority would be nominated to attend, however as the conference is in Tyne and Wear, Members

may wish to discuss the number attending this year and advise the Chief Fire Officer accordingly.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Authority is recommended to discuss the number attending this year and advise the Chief Fire Officer to proceed with booking the LGA Fire Conference.