

**MEETING: 25 JANUARY 2010**

---

**SUBJECT: LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE - 9 /10 MARCH 2010**

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

---

**1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The thirteenth Annual Fire Conference of the Local Government Association (LGA) is scheduled to be held in Manchester on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010. This report proposes an Authority representation at the conference.

**2. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2010**

- 2.1 The LGA Annual Fire Conference is now firmly established as one of the key conferences for Fire and Rescue Authorities and this is reflected by the quality of the subject matter and the speakers who will be attending.
- 2.2 This year, the conference will be held at the Deansgate Hotel, Manchester on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and is entitled, 'Fire Service: the next five years'. The conference theme has been planned to address the pressures that Authorities will be subject to in striving to improve services in the face of the economic turndown and with a general election scheduled for the first half of 2010.
- 2.3 Accordingly, the conference will explore a range of concerns and includes the following topics; current and future issues in the fire and rescue service; the future of FiReControl and national procurement; and managing expectations in a recession.
- 2.4 Speakers will be drawn from Fire and Rescue Services, Fire and Rescue Authorities, central government and other key organisations and will include addresses from the Fire Minister, Shahid Maliq MP and the Shadow Fire Minister Stewart Jackson MP. 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 It is envisaged that there will be a strong attendance from members and officers from Fire and Rescue Authorities as well as key figures from central government, which will provide an ideal opportunity to further develop understanding of the issues facing fire and rescue services.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The cost of the conference is £360.00 plus VAT per person for LGA member authorities, which covers the main conference and workshop sessions. The costs can be met from within the existing budget.

3.2 The Chief Fire Officer proposes that, due to the significance 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;

---

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

LGA Conference notification letter– December2009