

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No. 10

MEETING: 10TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: LGA CONFERENCE AND MEMBER TRAINING

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 TWFRA is a member organisation of the Local Government Association (LGA). The LGA is the national voice of local government who works with councils to support, promote and improve local government. This report proposes Authority representation at the forthcoming annual conference (2nd-4th July 2013) and the LGA Leadership Academy fire and rescue programme (11th -12th September 2013).

2. LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013

2.1 The annual conference is the biggest event in the local government calendar. It also is one of the biggest political conferences of the year regularly attracting over 1,200 delegates.

2.2 This year, the conference will be held in Manchester on the 2nd to 4th July 2013. The conference will discuss and debate the central role that local authorities play in promoting economic growth, jobs and prosperity, delivering public service reform and ensuring that financing for local government is sustainable and fair.

2.3 It is envisaged that there will be a strong attendance from members and officers of local authorities as well as key figures from central government, which will provide an ideal opportunity to further develop an understanding of the emerging issues.

2.4 This year will be the first time TWFRA have considered attendance at this conference.

3. LGA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FRS PROGRAMME

3.1 The Chair of the Fire Services Management Committee, Councillor Kay Hammond announced a new Fire Leadership Academy for elected members at this year's Fire Conference. The Academy is scheduled to take place on 11th and 12th September 2013 at Warwick Business School Conference Centre.

3.2 The main objectives of the programme are to develop the nature of political leadership in FRAs, ensure elected members are kept up to date on the key strategic issues facing the sector, appreciate how different leadership styles can assist in organisational change and exploring tools and techniques for working with communities, partners, and the media. As this will be the first year of this reinvigorated programme, the LGA are offering up to 12 places on a free basis.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the conference is £495 per person for LGA member authorities, which covers the main conference and workshop sessions.
- 4.2 The Leadership Academy is free, however travel costs would be incurred.
- 4.3 All costs can be met from within the existing budget.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Authority is recommended to discuss the report and if supported approve the attendance of one member of the Authority to attend the conference and one member be nominated to attend the Leadership Academy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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