

MEETING: 10 DECEMBER 2018

SUBJECT: LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 12 & 13 MARCH 2019

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER /CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK TO THE
AUTHORITY) THE STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER AND THE PERSONNEL ADVISOR
TO THE AUTHORITY**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Annual Fire Conference of the Local Government Association (LGA) is scheduled to be held in Brighton on 12 and 13 March 2019. This report proposes an Authority representation at the conference.

2. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2019

- 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 The conference theme will be designed to address the issues and key challenges facing the service in the coming months and years. The last year has seen widespread change in the sector. There is a new inspection regime in place, a new standards approach has been announced and there have been a number of changes in governance. There have been strides to improve the diversity of the service as well as issues around finance and funding. The 2019 Fire Conference provides an opportunity to examine these changes, consider notable practice and examine how we develop this activity further.
- 2.3 Speakers will be drawn from fire and rescue services, fire and rescue authorities, central government and other key organisations. 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.
- 2.4 There will be a strong national 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.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost to attend the conference for LGA member authorities, which covers the main conference and workshop sessions is £395 + VAT per person plus the additional travel and accommodation.

- 3.2 Under normal practice the Chairman and one other member of the Authority would be nominated to attend when the conference is not local, Members may wish to discuss the number attending this year and advise the Chief Fire Officer accordingly.

4. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 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.
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