

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**Item No 8**

**MEETING: 11 DECEMBER 2017**

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**SUBJECT: LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 13 &14 MARCH 2018**

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

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Annual Fire Conference of the Local Government Association (LGA) is scheduled to be held in Gateshead on 13 and 14 March 2018. This report proposes an Authority representation at the conference.

**2. LGA ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE 2018**

- 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 will be held at the Hilton Hotel Gateshead. This provides an opportunity for TWFRA to maximise the many benefits available from such a prestigious event which was also held in Gateshead in 2017.
- 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. 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 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. As the 'host' FRA, TWFRA are provided with two free places at the conference.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost to attend the conference is £395 + VAT per person for LGA member authorities 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 when the conference is not local, 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. 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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