
REPORT AUTHOR: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

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Background Papers: Prior years' FRA papers on Member Development

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		FINANCIAL	
HUMAN RESOURCES		EQUALITY IMPACT	
ENVIRONMENTAL		POLICY	
CORPORATE RISK	Known	OTHER (please specify)	
	New		

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

To consider arrangements for Fire and Rescue Authority Member development in 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Members:

1. Consider arrangements for Member development in 2021/22;
 2. Nominate a Member to attend the LGA Fire Leadership Essentials Programme; and
 3. Consider representation to the Combined Fire Authorities Conference
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The following sets out the normal schedule of Member development for the year, however, in the current circumstances Members may find that some of the events remain unscheduled at present or organisations are looking at alternative ways of holding conferences/training events.
- 1.2 Two dedicated virtual Members' Development Days are included in the Fire and Rescue Authority's calendar for 2021/22; 6 July and 11 November 2021. It is also proposed that two extra dates will be added and confirmed in due course, to cover items such as Treasury Management, Fire Reform Programme, Building Safety, Emergency Cover Review, Role of a Member and Code of Conduct, the new Code of Ethics for Fire & Rescue Services, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Data/Digital Transformation.
- 1.3 In addition, Members are to attend two virtual Budget Workshops on 23 November 2021 and 25 January 2022 to review and consider the Budget for 2022/23. The workshops will also review the development of the Fire and Rescue Authority's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and, on 25 January 2022, Members will review the Fire and Rescue Authority's effectiveness and action plan for 2022/23, which will feed into the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.4 To complement these arrangements, and to provide an informal means of holding discussions with Station personnel, there would also ordinarily be a programme of regular Members' visits to Fire Stations. These are yet to be arranged, again due to the pandemic.
- 1.5 A Combined Fire Authorities conference is normally held annually in October; date is yet to be confirmed.
- 1.6 The LGA hosts a Fire Conference annually in March; the 2022 Conference date is yet to be confirmed.

2. Members' Development Day: 6 July 2021

- 2.1 A virtual horizon scanning workshop has been arranged to help inform the short, medium and long term strategic priorities for the Service. Members will be joined by a range of strategic and middle managers from the Service along with a selection of stakeholders in facilitated sessions to identify and debate the opportunities and risks that lie ahead and ensure our strategic plans are not developed in isolation. An agenda and joining instructions will be circulated separately to Members.

3. Members' Development Day: 11 November 2021

3.1 It is proposed that the programme for this Development Day and others will be considered at the next meeting of the FRA on 15 July 2021.

4. LGA Fire Leadership Essentials Programme: to be confirmed

4.1 The LGA are currently considering whether to provide a Fire Leadership Essential Programme for Fire Authority lead members; Democratic Services will be notified if a date is confirmed.

The main objectives of the programme will be to develop the nature of political leadership in fire and rescue authorities, ensure elected members are kept up to date on key strategic issues facing the sector, show how different leadership styles can assist in organisational change, and explore tools and techniques for working with communities, partners and the media.

4.2 The LGA provides fully subsidised places to fire and rescue authorities, and Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority are invited to nominate a Member to attend the LGA Fire Leadership Essentials Programme.

5. Combined Fire Authorities Conference – to be confirmed

5.1 At present there is no Combined Fire Authorities Conference planned for October with further details awaited with regards scheduling of future events.

6. Station Visits

6.1 At the Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 10 February 2006 Members agreed to establish a programme of visits to fire stations to familiarise Members with different types of appliances or equipment, as well as providing an opportunity to talk to personnel and understand the different duty systems.

6.2 A programme of Members' visits to stations has been in place since 2006 to provide Members with:

- A greater awareness of the changing role of the Fire and Rescue Service from a local perspective;

- An understanding and appreciation of the impact of future planning and budget decisions; and
- An understanding, both strategically and locally, of the rationale behind integrated risk management.

6.3 Members are asked to consider whether a virtual station visit would be welcomed, noting that this may have to be adapted accordingly as meeting the firefighters, seeing the kit and demonstrations may not be as easy to facilitate via virtual means.

7. Further Development

7.1 The range of development activities available to Members is noted at Appendix A to this report. Any additional items may be raised through Work Plans or the Annual Review of the Fire and Rescue Authority's effectiveness.

ANDREW HOPKINSON
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

IN-HOUSE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2021/22

Two extra dates will be added and confirmed in due course, to cover items such as Treasury Management, Fire Reform Programme, Building Safety, Emergency Cover Review, Role of a Member and Code of Conduct, the new Code of Ethics for Fire & Rescue Services, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Data/Digital Transformation.

DATE	SUBJECT	CONTENTS	COMMENT
6 July 2021 09.30 – 13.00 hours	Members' Development Day No 1	Horizon Scanning Workshop	A virtual workshop to help inform the future strategic direction and priorities for the Service.
11 November 2021	Members' Development Day No 2	Arrangements and proposed Agenda to be discussed at the FRA Meeting on the 15 July.	Programme to reflect Member feedback.
23 November 2021	Budget Workshop No1 CRMP		To review the budget position and work towards the February Fire and Rescue Authority meeting which sets the Budget and Council Tax for the coming year. Review of CRMP
25 January 2022	Budget Workshop No2 CRMP		To review the budget position and work towards the February Fire Authority meeting which sets the Budget and Precept for the coming year. Review of CRMP

DATE	SUBJECT	CONTENTS	COMMENT
March 2022 (date to be confirmed)	Review of Authority's Effectiveness		Facilitated meeting to review effectiveness and Action Plan for 2022/23
The facilitation of a programme of Station visits is being considered.			