

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
7 June 2022

REPORT AUTHOR: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

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Background Papers: Prior years' FRA papers on Member Development

PURPOSE:

To consider arrangements for Fire and Rescue Authority Member development in 2022/23.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Members:

1. Consider the proposed arrangements for Member development in 2022/23
 2. Consider and advise on topics for the diarised Member development days
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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 Four dedicated Members' Development Days are included in the Fire and Rescue Authority's calendar for 2022/23; 7 July, 6 October (combined with Budget Workshop No 1), 22 November 2022 and 23 February 2023. These are to cover items such as Treasury Management, the White Paper, Building Safety, Emergency Cover Review, Role of a Member and Code of Conduct, the new Code of Ethics for Fire & Rescue Services and Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. These diarised development days are to ensure that Members receive appropriate updates or training that Members request.
- 1.3 As noted above, Members are to attend two Budget Workshops on 6 October 2022 and 25 January 2023 to review and consider the Budget for 2023/24 onwards. The workshops will also review and input into the development of the Fire and Rescue Authority's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP). If not planned before, Members could also on 25 January 2023, review the Fire and Rescue Authority's effectiveness to feed into the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement action plan for the following financial year.
- 1.4 To complement these arrangements, and to provide an informal means of holding discussions with Station personnel, there will be a programme of regular Members' visits to Fire Stations. These will be organised following the Annual Meeting; it is currently proposed that there will be 7 visits a year, across two years and will be held during the evening.
- 1.5 A Combined Fire Authorities conference is normally held annually in October, however, Democratic Services has been advised that a conference will not be held going forwards.
- 1.6 The LGA hosts a Fire Conference annually in March; the 2023 Conference date is yet to be confirmed.

2. Members' Development Day: 7 July 2022

- 2.1 It is currently planned for the first Members' Development Day to include Treasury Management Training and also a discussion on the White Paper and the FRA's consultation response.

2.2 The items to be covered at future Members Development Days can be discussed in due course, so Members can request what is to be included. Examples of topics are included in para 1.2 above.

3. LGA Fire Leadership Essentials Programme

3.1 Previously the LGA ran a variety of face-to-face development programmes, including Leadership Essentials for fire and rescue. The LGA continues to support fire and rescue authority Members to develop leadership skills but following the pandemic have refocused their activity to bring together already available resources including a webinar series to look at a range of issues related to governance in the fire and rescue sector:

[Leading the fire sector: Governance support | Local Government Association](#)

4. Station Visits

4.1 As previously agreed, post pandemic a programme of visits to fire stations will recommence. This is to familiarise Members with different types of appliances or equipment, as well as providing an opportunity to talk to station personnel.

4.2 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.

4.3 These will be organised following the Annual Meeting; there will be 7 visits a year, across two years and will be held during the evening.

5. Further Development

- 5.1 An early indication of planned Member development activities for Members is noted at Appendix A to this report and this is to be added following further discussion with Members. Examples of topics to include are noted in para 1.2 above. Timings are to be confirmed and will be ascertained once the content of each day is confirmed.

ANDREW HOPKINSON
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

IN-HOUSE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR 2022/23

DATE	SUBJECT	CONTENTS	COMMENT
7 July 2022	Members' Development Day No 1	Treasury Management Training White Paper discussion prior to FRA consultation response	Previously requested and planned Treasury Management training by Link Asset Services White Paper FRA consultation response due in 26 July 2022
6 October 2022	Combined Members' Development Day No 2 and Budget Workshop No 1	Programme to reflect Member feedback.	To review the budget position and work towards the February 2023 Fire and Rescue Authority meeting which sets the Budget and Council Tax for 2023/24. Review and input for 2023/24 CRMP planning
22 November 2022	Member's Development Day No 3	To be discussed with Members	
25 January 2023	Budget Workshop No 2 CRMP		To review the budget position and work towards the February 2023 Fire Authority meeting which sets the Budget and Precept for 2023/24. Review and input for 2023/24 CRMP planning
23 February 2023	Member's Development Day No 4	To be discussed with Members	