

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
20 June 2023

SUBJECT: MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

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Background Papers: Prior years' FRA papers on Member Development

Appendix	Title	Protective Marking
A	In house Member Development Calendar 2023/24	

Implications

This table provides a short statement of the impact of the recommendations in this report and/or a reference to the relevant paragraph/s in the report.

Will this report affect any of the following?

	Yes / No	Impact / Reference
Financial Implications	No	
Risk Management	No	
Legal Implications	No	
Privacy and Security Implications	No	
Duty to Collaborate	No	

Health and Safety Implications	No	
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	No	
Environmental Sustainability	No	
Consultation and Communication	Yes	Members will be consulted on the topics discussed and are invited to present any additional training requirements that they feel are necessary to the role.

PURPOSE:

To consider arrangements for Fire and Rescue Authority Member development in 2023/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. the proposed arrangements for Member development in 2023/24 be noted

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 2023/24; 4 July, 5 October, 30 November (combined with Budget Workshop No 1) and 29 February 2024. These are to cover items such as Community Risk Management, Data Literacy 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 30 November 2023 and 25 January 2024 to review and consider the Budget for 2024/25 onwards. The workshops will also review and input into the development of the Fire and Rescue Authority's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).
- 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 4 visits a year and will be held during the evening of the Member Development days.
- 1.5 The LGA hosts a Fire Conference annually in March; the 2024 Conference date is yet to be confirmed.

2. Members' Development Day: 4 July 2023

- 2.1 It is currently planned for the first Members' Development Day to include detail regarding the current Community Risk Management Plan provided by the Head of Strategic Support and Assurance and the Head of Prevention and Protection.
- 1.2 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.

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, a programme of visits to fire stations will commence over the year. 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 4 visits a year and will be held during the evening following the Member Development days.

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. 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 2023/24

DATE	SUBJECT	CONTENTS	COMMENT
4 July 2023	Members' Development Day No 1	Community Risk Management & Community Outreach.	As discussed and agreed with the Executive Committee at their meeting on 10 th January 2023.
5 October 2023	Members' Development Day No 2	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.	As discussed and agreed with the Executive Committee at their meeting on 10 th January 2023.
30 November 2023	Combined Members' Development Day (3) / Budget Workshop (1)	Data Literacy and Budget Workshop Preparation	As discussed and agreed with the Executive Committee at their meeting on 10 th January 2023.
25 January 2024	Budget Workshop No 2		To review the budget position and work towards the February 2024 Fire Authority meeting which sets the Budget and Precept for 2024/25.
29 February 2024	Member's Development Day No 4	Community Risk Management Planning	Review and input for 2024/25 CRMP planning