

**Safest People, Safest Places**

County Durham and Darlington  
**Fire and Rescue Authority**



## **COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

**21 MARCH 2018**

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) SUBSCRIPTION**

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### **REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

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#### **Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of the LGA subscription for 2018/19 and to seek a decision about continued membership.

#### **Background**

2. A letter from Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LGA, setting out the role provided by the LGA and associated subscription rate for 2018/19 was received on the 21 February 2018. A copy of the letter is attached at Appendix A.

#### **LGA services provided and subscription rate**

3. The LGA lobbies on behalf of local authorities on many issues that affect the sector as a whole and works with councils and fire authorities to develop new approaches to improvement and innovation. The attached letter sets out the recent work of the LGA.
4. A further example of the benefits the Authority receive from membership is collective action against the manufacturers of fire appliances to secure compensation for losses caused by Truck Manufacturers Truck Cartel on a 'no win, no fee' style basis. This collective action has the potential to secure a substantial average compensation award for every vehicle purchased from specific manufacturers between 1997 and 2011.
5. For 2018/19 financial year, the LGA subscription has again been held at the 2015/16 rate of £6,778. This includes a 2.5% loyalty discount and a 2.5% prompt payment discount if payment is made in full by 30 June 2018.

#### **Role of the LGA with fire and rescue going forward**

6. On 05 January 2016 responsibility for Fire and Rescue policy moved from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to the Home Office (HO). This raised questions relating to the role of the LGA in relation to the fire and rescue service (FRS). Further uncertainty has existed as the Policing and Crime Act made its way through the legislative process and received Royal Assent in February of 2017. The Policing and Crime Act enables Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility for fire (where a local case is made) adding further complexity to the governance arrangements for the sector.

7. Over and above the changes to governance arrangements that are impacting on some fire and rescue authorities we are also in a time of unprecedented change for the fire and rescue sector. The introduction and development of the Home Office's Fire Reform Programme and the reintroduction of an inspection regime for fire and rescue services will see significant changes to the way fire and rescue authorities operate.
8. The draft Fire and Rescue National Framework for England will introduce further change; also we have yet to see the full implications from the Grenfell Tower fire and the subsequent review of building and fire safety regulations or the outcomes from the public enquiry.
9. Given this level of change it is vital that the Authority continues to monitor and influence, where possible the national agenda for fire and rescue services. It is clear that the LGA are still a significant stakeholder and have a key lobbying role on behalf of fire authorities. For this reason it is important that the Authority continues to be a member of the LGA.

## **Recommendations**

10. Members are requested to **agree** the LGA subscription for 2018/19.

CFO Stuart Errington

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