

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

09 FEBRUARY 2017

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) SUBSCRIPTION

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide details of the LGA subscription for 2017/18 and to seek a decision about continued membership.

Background

2. A letter from Mark Lloyd, Chief Executive of the LGA, setting out the services provided by the LGA and associated subscription rate for 2017/18 was received on the 23 December 2016. 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. For 2017/18 financial year, the LGA subscription has again been held at the 2015/16 rate and is £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 2017.

Role of the LGA with fire and rescue going forward

5. On Tuesday 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 Bill has made its way through the legislative process. It is likely that the Bill will receive Royal Assent in February of 2017. The Policing and Crime Act will enable Police and Crime Commissioners to take on responsibility for fire (where a strong local case is made) adding further complexity the governance arrangements for the sector.
6. Whilst further significant changes are likely over the next few years the LGA are still a significant stakeholder and have a key lobbying role on behalf of fire authorities. For this reason the general consensus from other fire and rescue services is that it is important to continue to be a member of the LGA at this moment in time.

Recommendations

7. Members are requested to **agree** the LGA subscription for 2017/18.