

GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE
AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

6 SEPTEMBER 2012

Subject: LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 26-28TH JUNE
2012 - FEEDBACK

Report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive

Report Author: Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager, 0161 608
4087, parkerd@manchesterfire.gov.uk)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide feedback to Members from the LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2012 which took place from 26 to 28 June 2012 at the ICC, Birmingham

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1. The LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition was attended by the following Members and Officer:
 - Councillor David Acton - Chairman of the Authority;
 - Councillor Tommy Judge - Vice-Chairman of the Authority
 - Councillor John Bell - Deputy Chairman of the Authority/
Leader of the Opposition;
 - Steve McGuirk - County Fire Officer and Chief Executive
2. The Local Government Association Group annual conference and exhibition brought together approximately 1,100 of the leading players in councils, central government, partners and business.
3. This year's conference focused on economic growth, local leadership, new models of innovation in service delivery, reforms in planning, local government finance, welfare and benefits and a general discussion on the role of local authorities in education, social care and self-improvement.
4. In addition, the conference addressed the '2012 London Olympics and Paralympic Games' and how this could generate economic growth across the country. Also, the introduction of policing and crime commissioners and health and well-being boards and how authorities would need to demonstrate leadership at the heart of a new set of relationships between the citizen and the state.
5. Each day focused on a specific theme and plenary sessions and workshops were held on the following subject topics:

Day 1

- Housing the Nation: How to deliver development that communities support;
- Creative Councils – The Discipline of Innovation;
- Members and Officers: Rethinking the relationship;
- Transforming the delivery of sport in local communities;
- Local leadership, better health: The new version of public health;
- New perspectives on local governance.

Day 2

- Councils and better health: how leaders can seize the opportunities of the NHS reforms;
- Local Government Challenge;
- Community Budgets;
- Civil disturbances 10 months on – are we doing enough to prevent disorder in the future;
- Surviving the squeeze: getting to a sustainable settlement for local government;
- What can we learn from the private sector? How do we reduce workforce costs and still drive innovation;
- Driving local growth.

Day 3

- Police crime commissioners: Preparing for police and crime commissioners;
- Sector led improvement: The evolved role of ‘corporate’ peer challenge in improving councils;
- Olympic and Paralympic Games: Creating new opportunities for the future;
- Transforming your community.

6. A prestigious exhibition with over 100 organisations ran alongside the conference. Exhibitors from the public, private and third sector were on hand during the three days to showcase and promote new ways of working with local authorities.
7. The presentations, speeches and handouts from the conference are available on the LGA website on www.lga.gov.uk which Members are encouraged to view.
8. Next year’s LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition ‘Localism Works’ will take place on 2nd to 4th July 2013 in Manchester. Details will be confirmed nearer the time.
9. Members who attended the conferences are welcome to feedback their own experiences to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

10. Members are requested to note the contents of the report.

STEVE McGUIRK
COUNTY FIRE OFFICER
& CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D
OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

DOCUMENT	DATE	FILE OR OTHER REFERENCE	PLACE OF INSPECTION
Conference & Seminar File L.4 (3)	Various	Democratic Services Department	Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters 146 Bolton Road Swinton Manchester M27 8US

S. McGuirk
(Proper Officer)
02.07.12

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