

GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE
AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

4 SEPTEMBER 2014

Subject: LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 8TH-10TH JULY
2014 - FEEDBACK

Report of the County Fire Officer & Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide feedback to Members from the LGA Annual Conference & Exhibition 2014 which took place from 8th to 10th July 2014 at the Bournemouth International Conference Centre.

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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
Geoff Harris - Area Manager, Head of Transformation
2. The Local Government Association Group annual conference and exhibition brought together approximately 1,500 delegates and over 240 speakers including the leading players in councils, central government, partners and business.
3. This year's conference focused on the future of public services. The LGA also took the opportunity at the conference to launch its new campaign, '*Investing in our Nation's Future: The First 100 Days of the Next Government*'. It lays out the 'must do' tasks that the new government will have to tackle in May 2015 and details the LGA's offer to whoever forms that government to help them to deal with the issues.
5. Each day focused on a specific theme and plenary sessions and workshops were held on the following subject topics:

Day 1

- Political Leadership, what matters?
- How do we build the homes we need?

Break Out Sessions

- Deals and decentralisation for councils, lessons from the Netherlands and the UK;
- The high street is dead – long live the high street;
- Emerging growth – Impact of the employment and skills on a local area;
- The Future of Local Government Finance ‘Meet the Commission’
- Handling emergency situations;
- Future libraries;
- Housing roundtable.

Day 2

- Finding our place: what would devolution mean for local identity?
- The future of health and social care;
- Making the balance sheet work for the community (LGA/CCLA);
- Fair deal for England and Wales;
- A vision for children and young people in the 21st century;
- Clash of the think tanks;
- Using the workforce to transform your council;
- NHS England.

Day 3

- Electoral Reviews: A masterclass (Local Government Boundary Commission for England)
- National resilience;
- Low interest rates: you don't have to stay a victim (CCLA);
- Cutting carbs: Managing the green economy in times of austerity;
- The case for deeper devolution.

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 2015 will take place on 30th June to 2nd July 2015 in Harrogate. 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)
05.08.14

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