



March 2022

Dear Stuart

LGA Subscriptions 2022/23

The last twelve months have once again demonstrated the critical importance of local government coming together and speaking with one voice. I hope that your fire and rescue authority has valued the LGA's role in this.

We continue to lobby Government on the importance of local decision making and local determination of governance. To support the sector in its governance role we have also provided 3 free training sessions for members on governance and leadership. This has complimented other sector support offers through the Fire Leadership Essentials Programme and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Champions Network. We also responded on behalf of the sector to Part 1 and 2 of the PCC Review.

The Fire Services Management Committee and Fire Commission continue to set our direction and establish our key priorities and work areas for the year. One of our key priorities has been maintaining our close partnerships with other organisations to drive our work forwards. We have continued to work closely with partners like the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), the Home Office, Fire Standards Board, the Fire Protection Board, the Health and Safety Executive, HMICFRS, the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) and National Employers on a range of topics to ensure that the voice of our members continues to be heard.

The LGA worked with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) to draft the Core Code of Ethics. It was developed in consultation with the sector following the recommendation from HMICFRS's first State of Fire report. It was published in May 2021 alongside the accompanying standard from the Fire Standards Board which we also contributed to. The LGA has also been involved in the wider work of the Fire Standards Board and sits on it alongside the NFCC, the APCC and the Home Office.

We are working with the NFCC and National Employers (England) on updating Fit for the Future. Fit for the Future sets out a joint ambition for how fire and rescue services should operate in the years to come.

Finance has continued to be a key theme for the sector and this year we again worked with the NFCC to put together a joint submission into the Home Office to inform their work on the Spending Review. Following this work the provisional Local Government Settlement included a provision for the 8 FRAs with the lowest council tax level to be able to increase Band D council tax by up to £5. FRAs will also receive an increase in their revenue support grant. We continue to work closely with both the NFCC and the Home Office following the creation of an Efficiency and Productivity Board for fire services.

Building safety has continued to be a key priority for the LGA over the last year. As members of the Fire Protection Board the LGA has supported the successful Building Risk Review

which has seen fire services assess or inspect all high-rise residential buildings; we have worked closely with the Home Office to develop the Fire Safety Act and with DLUHC on the Building Safety Bill. We are involved in work with DLUHC and the NFCC to support the remediation of building with fire safety defects. We played a central role in ensuring Gateway One, of the new building safety regime, was introduced this year, laying the foundation for fire services to exert influence on the design of new buildings.

We are in the midst of gearing up to our next Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition, taking place on 15-16 March in person in Gateshead. Last year we were able to offer an online conference of our members for free and this year we are delighted to be back to an in-person conference, offering a discount for members of the LGA to attend.

Our workforce team have continued to support Fire and Rescue Authorities and Services, including support to the employers' side of the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services (National Employers). This support has included agreements on pay, assistance in wider industrial relations matters, advice and interpretation on employment issues, acting on behalf of FRAs in relation to the Sargeant/McCloud and Matthews pension scheme related legal cases, ongoing COVID response work and workforce transformation projects.

I am very grateful for your continued support and membership of the LGA and we remain committed to keeping our costs as low as possible. Despite a significant drop in income from our conferences and 18 Smith Square conference centre, the LGA Board has agreed a modest 2 per cent increase in subscriptions for 2022/23. Once again, we will offset this with a 2.5 per cent loyalty discount and a further 2.5 per cent for those on the direct debit scheme.

Your subscription for 2022/23 will be **£7,194** (plus VAT), including the loyalty and direct debit discounts – and as you have joined the direct debit scheme there is nothing further to do.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues over the coming year.

With very best wishes



Mark Lloyd

