

From the Chief Executive
Carolyn Downs

Tony McGuirk
Chief Fire Officer
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority
Merseyside Fire Service Headquarters
Bridle Road
BOOTLE, L30 4YD

14 December 2012

Dear Tony

LGA Subscription 2013/14

The LGA remains committed to keeping the cost of membership as low as possible. This year we have introduced a new 2.5% loyalty discount for all members who are not on notice, alongside the existing 2.5% prompt payment discount for those members who pay in full by 30 June 2013.

The 2013/14 subscription will be £10,460 (plus VAT). This is net of the 2.5% prompt payment discount and a further 2.5% loyalty discount. It compares with £10,735 in 2012/13, £29,338 in 2011/12, £34,139 in 2010/11 and £38,574 in 2009/10.

The financial challenges facing the public sector have had a major impact on local services and the funding outlook continues to look bleak. Despite this, the LGA has worked closely with the sector to secure some substantial wins, including:

- delivered a Fire pay settlement within the parameters set by stakeholders while avoiding significant employee relations difficulties
- successful lobbying to secure the future of the Fire Services College, with an announcement expected shortly
- securing £74 million from Government for Firecontrol centre projects, and involvement in the Firecontrol Project Support team
- a new service-led model for the production of national operational guidance for the UK Fire and Rescue Service developed with CFOA, CFRA and the LFEPA
- achieving a more gradual increase in employee contributions to the Fire Pension Schemes, which will substantially reduce the risk of a mass exodus from the scheme
- supporting the negotiation of the new Fire Pensions Scheme which will come into effect in 2015; this includes getting agreement by government to undertake a review of the normal pension age for firefighters
- the development of a toolkit and other resources to support a sector wide campaign to raise awareness of the importance to life and the economy of the installation of sprinklers
- supported 10 Fire Authorities to resolve local employee relations difficulties through the national dispute resolution processes
- engaged all Fire and Rescue Authorities in the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge programme with 11 delivered since 2011 and a further 27 confirmed in the forward programme

- supported all Fire Authorities with retained duty system staff in managing the resolution of the 12,000 plus Employment Tribunal cases linked to the part-time workers regulations
- 43 of the 46 Fire Authorities attended the LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition in Bournemouth on 20-21 March 2012 – with a total of 259 attendees. The Fire Conference and Exhibition next year will be held in Brighton on 12-13 March 2013, with delegate fees held at 2008 prices

More widely the LGA has secured:

- £448 million to support councils' work with troubled families
- £100 million capital funding for early years provision
- £112 million repaid to councils by the failed Icelandic banks since April, bringing total recoveries so far to over £700 million
- £8 billion of EU spend to be delivered locally from 2014
- a second wave of City Deals. The first wave of deals will create 175,000 jobs over the next 20 years and 37,000 new apprenticeships
- an increase in Bellwin emergency funding from 85% to 100%

To ensure that the Fire Services Management Committee continues to effectively represent all Fire and Rescue Authorities, the new Chairman, Councillor Kay Hammond wrote out to all FRAs in September asking for input about issues which are important to you. Those responses have determined the main priorities going forward and will feed into the LGA's wider business plan. Along with the challenging financial position and the next Comprehensive Spending Review, we will be working hard on your behalf on issues such as pensions, strategic resilience arrangements and providing help and support on a number of other issues such as working with Police and Crime Commissioners, examining the implications of the Atherstone-on-Stour judgment, the extension of the primary authority scheme and assurance and intervention arrangements.

Your subscription invoice will be sent out in April. To streamline the process could you ask your office to arrange for a purchase order number to be sent to andrea.patrick@local.gov.uk

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

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Downs
Chief Executive