



From the Chief Executive  
Carolyn Downs

8 December 2011

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

Dear Tony

### LGA Subscription 2012/13

One of my first tasks as the new Chief Executive of the LGA is to write to you to let you know your fire authority's LGA subscription for 2012/13.

**The 2012/13 subscription will be £10,735. This includes a 2.5% prompt payment discount for councils and fire authorities who pay in full by 30 June 2012 and compares with £29,338 in 2011/12, £34,139 in 2010/11 and £38,574 in 2009/10.**

Subscriptions are calculated according to type of fire authority and its population. In line with members' commitment to continue to reduce the cost of LGA membership, levels have once again been reduced to reflect reductions in formula grant to local authorities – around 6.4% in 2012/13.

In common with our member councils and member fire authorities, the LGA faces financial challenges. Over the past 12 months, in response to a 38% reduction in government funding and reductions in subscription income, we have amalgamated the former LG Group into a single integrated LGA, reduced our staffing costs by around 45% and moved our operations into a single building at Local Government House.

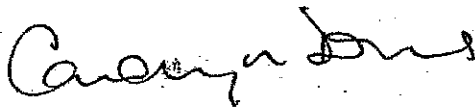
At the same time we have continued to argue the case for local government, including the fire sector, and to secure some substantial financial and policy wins, as well as working closely with councils to develop new approaches to improvement and innovation. Some recent wins include:

- £470 million on behalf of those councils who had invested in the failed Icelandic banks
- £11.2 million to cover new burdens arising from the revocation of fees for personal searches of the local land charges register

- Successfully securing a General Power for FRAs in the Localism Act
- £100 million boost to capitalisation available to local authorities in 2011/12
- £200 million funding to help with winter weather
- Residual FiReControl funding of £1.8 million being made available to each FRA
- £10 million to help with the costs of concessionary fares
- £42 million for additional housing and council tax benefits
- Delivery of a targeted Fire and Rescue leadership academy
- Every FRA to receive one free corporate peer challenge every 3 years
- Developing a sector-led proposal for the future of the Fire Service College
- Halted plans to force councils to pay EU fines and undertake costly referendums, saving taxpayers £1.3 billion

I look forward to working with you and your council over the coming year.

Yours sincerely



**Carolyn Downs**  
Chief Executive