



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Fire Authority
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	17 December 2014
<b>OFFICER</b>	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Delivery
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Adrian Busby
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Challenge Report</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>The LGA Fire Peer Challenge took place from 10-12 June 2014.</p> <p>Following their visit the Peer Team produced a report. The report provides comment and areas for consideration on three core questions under the theme of Leadership and Corporate Capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effective is Leadership and Governance?</li> <li>• How well are outcomes for citizens being achieved?</li> <li>• How effective is the organisational capacity to meet current requirements and future needs?</li> </ul> <p>The peer team were also asked to focus on three key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Risk Management</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Response</li> </ul> <p>The Strategic Management Board (SMB) received the final report from the Peer Review team and subsequently analysed the areas for consideration raised. The report did not identify any aspects that the Service was not already well aware of. All areas for consideration were either captured in the existing Corporate Plan, departmental work plans or the Public Safety Plan which has recently completed its consultation phase.</p> <p>Members can be assured that there is nothing noted in the report that is not already being addressed by the Service.</p> <p>SMB were disappointed that the Peer Review team did not mention any of the notable practices within the Service that have been recognised nationally and internationally.</p>

<b>ACTION</b>	Information.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the LGA Fire Peer Challenge final report be noted.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	The LGA report identifies various areas 'for consideration'. This report is presented to enable SMB to agree the subsequent work streams where any areas for consideration are captured. The risks associated with each work stream will be considered individually.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	The Peer Challenge was an offer from the LGA which was delivered at no cost to the receiving fire and rescue service. The outcomes and report from the process have assisted in shaping further organisational improvements and efficiencies for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority (BMKFA).
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	None directly from the Peer Challenge.
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	None directly from the Peer Challenge.
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b>	None directly from the Peer Challenge.
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	The outcomes from the Peer Challenge final report will be communicated utilising our internal communications team.
<b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The LGA Fire Peer Challenge took place from 10-12 June 2014. The peer challenge consisted of a range of on-site activities that included interviews, observations and focus groups. The Peer Team met with a broad cross-section of elected members, our staff, stakeholders and partners. Due to the reduced team and the industrial action (one day of the peer challenge coincided with a 24 hour FBU strike) the visit was truncated by one day.</p> <p>Following their visit the Peer Team produced a report. The report provides detailed information on three core questions under the theme of Leadership and Corporate Capacity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How effective is Leadership and Governance?</li> <li>• How well are outcomes for citizens being achieved?</li> <li>• How effective is the organisational capacity to meet current requirements and future needs?</li> </ul> <p>The peer team were also asked to focus on three key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Risk Management – with particular reference to the Service's gathering</li> </ul>

	<p>of data; how data is turned into intelligence and how effectively this inter-relates with Prevention, Protection and Response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention – How a smaller streamlined central community safety team can support the needs of local stations to drive forward Prevention initiatives. Given that partnerships had been reduced over the past two years, how the Service could make best use of its partners particularly around evaluating local initiatives</li> <li>• Response – The Service is facing significant change and asked the team to provide some scrutiny of its response model going forward; opportunities for further innovative ideas to enhance efficiencies and the effectiveness and communication of its risk information particularly in operational assurance.</li> </ul> <p>The areas of Protection, Health and Safety, Call Management and Training and Development received a lighter consideration by the peers.</p> <p>The LGA Peer Challenge has been a standing item on the SMB agenda throughout 2013-14. A paper detailing the confirmation of the focus and brief for the Peer Challenge Team within the three focused Key Assessment Areas was presented at SMB on 30 July 2013.</p> <p>The LGA Peer Challenge final report has been compiled to demonstrate BMKFA strengths as well as areas for consideration, enabling an opportunity to build on those already identified by the Service.</p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Appendix A - LGA Peer Challenge Final Report.
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	15 minutes.
<b>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</b>	<p>GM Neil Boustred  <a href="mailto:nboustred@bucksfire.gov.uk">nboustred@bucksfire.gov.uk</a>                      07768 367484</p>