

Appendix 2 - Government reform agenda and its impacts on the fire and rescue sector

Apprenticeships; National Developments Government Reform Agenda:

The Governments reform agenda has significant impacts on the fire and rescue sector. These are:

- Apprenticeship levy equates to a cost of £5.5 million per annum total for 45 English FRSs.
- The 2.3 per cent public sector target equates to 1043* new fire service apprenticeships starts annually.
- Over the four year period this aggregates to a total levy of up to £20 million and 4000 new apprenticeship starts.
- Public Sector services that meet the set criteria operate a Digital Apprenticeships Services Account to pay the levy monthly at 0.5 per cent of payroll and also to draw down the levy.
- The levy applies to the 23 Combined Fire Authorities (CFAs), 6 Metropolitan Authorities, London and 15 County FRSs.
- The 15 County FRSs will set up digital accounts as part of their Local Authority.
- Department of Education require annual progress reports from 30 September 2018 as set out in the attached link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-sector-apprenticeship-target>.
- Home Office and Cabinet office also require regular stats and progress updates, likely to be quarterly following initial meetings in August 2017.

* 1043 estimated based on the most recent published Home Office FRS statistics (2016). This 2.3 per cent target number includes 512 for CFAs, 325 Mets and London and 206 for County FRSs.