



## National Fire Chiefs Council – Achieving More Together

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All fire and rescue authorities have local priorities but by working together on the issues that affect us all, we can achieve solutions efficiently and effectively together.

Be part of the solution by supporting national work that drives improvement for all.

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The strength of the NFCC is its collective, unified professional voice supporting the improvement of fire authorities at a national level.

Membership of the NFCC brings considerable benefits to fire and rescue authorities through:

- **Advising and influencing** through a high level collective effort that means all fire and rescue authorities are represented with one voice
- **Developing** solutions and tools for helping fire and rescue authorities overcome the common challenges across all functions
- **Responding** to incidents, events and issues that go beyond county boundaries and where a joined-up approach makes more sense

For the first time, the NFCC is now part of the Fire and Rescue Services National Framework for England. This recognition of the central role of the NFCC reflects a change in the attitude of government towards the professional body and provides a valuable opportunity for influencing change in the fire and rescue service.

The structure of the NFCC allows authorities to share expertise and contribute to the work of specialist committees working on important areas of interest to all. For example, the NFCC - through its Business Safety Committee - is the only organisation represented on each of the Hackitt Review working groups.

Remember that a national co-ordinated approach worked for bringing operational guidance up to date, meaning that individual fire and rescue authorities could focus on implementing it rather than creating 50 versions of it and the costs that entails.

This approach continues with national programmes now focused on community risk, people and digital. All fire and rescue authorities benefit from the creation and use of the products that come out of national programmes.

The NFCC membership fee represents considerable value for money. With its new approach, new identity and the drive of a full time Chair, it is evolving into a real force for change that benefits all of us. Membership is essential for every fire and rescue authority.

## Briefing Information for Chiefs

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Since the inception of the NFCC.....

....the sector has seen considerable change and challenge:

- Government policy responsibility moving to the Home Office whilst funding is still provided through the MHCLG;
- Removal of the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisors Unit which provided fire specific advice to Ministers;
- The changing nature of threats and incidents the services respond to including terrorism and those driven by climate change such as mass flooding and wild fires;
- Changes to the Governance of fire and rescue services under and the duty to collaborate especially with other emergency services;
- A Government led review of the national fire framework;
- The introduction of an inspection regime after a 10-year absence and the introduction of fire professional standards for England; and,
- A once-in-a-generation fire at Grenfell Tower.

.....we have achieved a lot so far:

- Its network of professional officers share best practice, **collaborate** on joint projects and learn from each other to benefit all - irrespective of governance model.
- It harnesses the wealth of specialist knowledge and expertise **coordinating** activities to improve efficiency and drive a common and consistent approach.
- It is **developing solutions** and tools for helping fire and rescue authorities staff overcome the common challenges they all face across all functions.
- It has **responded when needed** to unprecedented demand and has provided strategic level, subject matter expertise and advice to Government.
- It has proactively contributed and spoken up to **represent the voices of all**.

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***As policy is developed for the sector, the NFCC is at the right tables at the right time to ensure policy is led by us and not done to us.***

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## Every voice counts

- Every fire authority that contributes to the NFCC has a seat and vote at the council for its Chief Officer or equivalent.
- This democratic approach has led to meaningful council meetings with professional and open debate.
- Members make decisions from informed positions and that they feel they have contributed to.
- In return authorities benefit from being within this unique network and the peer support it provides.
- Chiefs and senior officers lead our national portfolios and represent us all on the national stage.
- Our staff contribute to national work programmes through the multiple practitioner forums and communities of expertise to ensure what we produce works on the ground.
- Staff and services gain access to a wealth of knowledge, best practice, products and tools to help them and their service continually improve.
- The annual contribution of all authorities is essential to maintain this

## Investing in doing things well

- The NFCC is doing more and its role has evolved beyond that anticipated when the NFCC was established.
- The scope of what it does has broadened, the standard of papers and debate at council meetings is much higher – evidenced by the high level of attendance.
- To help it work more effectively and efficiently, its support hubs provide the support it needs.
- The offices that previously hosted CFOA are being sold and the money re-invested. The council support function has been brought within the West Midlands Fire Service HQ.
- The team that successfully delivered the National Operational Guidance (NOG) has been enhanced.
- The NFCC Central Programme Office (CPO) provides an essential programme and project management capability to coordinate and deliver our change programmes well. This ability to see the breadth and scope of NFCC work, allows us to plan better, appropriately budget and ensure work is well resourced.
- Our programmes and projects are aligned to our priorities as a sector and will drive positive change by developing guidance and tools for authorities to use locally - saving time and money.

## How is the NFCC helping your fire authority?

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- Every time the NFCC coordinates and develops work centrally - it is saving local services time and money
- By using what is produced centrally, we can achieve consistency across the country and services are more likely to achieve good or outstanding outcomes at inspection
- With a unified voice, it can influence national policy and advise Government to ensure the impacts on services is understood and accounted for.
- With the contribution of its members, it coordinates work developing solutions for all and can respond from a position of strength to the demands placed upon it.

Our role:

Advising & Influencing	Developing	Responding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Framework</li><li>• Government</li><li>• HMICFRS (pre and post inspection)</li><li>• LGA</li><li>• NPCC</li><li>• APCC</li><li>• JESIP</li><li>• ESCMP</li><li>• ESCWG</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leadership</li><li>• Apprenticeships</li><li>• Research</li><li>• Collaborative procurement</li><li>• National co-ordination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major incidents</li><li>• With resilience assets</li><li>• A single voice</li><li>• To consultations</li><li>• To the press for all</li></ul>

## Here are some examples of our achievements so far:

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### **Advising and Influencing – The high level collective effort that means all authorities are represented with one voice**

We worked to minimise the impact of the Policing and Crime Act on fire authorities by contributing at an early stage and setting realistic expectations with Government.

We informed and shaped Government thinking about professional standards and inspection arrangements.

We have raised the profile of fire and rescue by developing a more regular dialogue with Government to ensure the issues we face are understood and considered and has presented a coherent argument to the Treasury supporting the position of all services on funding settlements.

We have provided strategic peer-to-peer support to chiefs and chairs in counties where Police and Crime Commissioners are taking on or considering the Governance of fire and rescue.

We continue to support multi-agency national projects and programmes to ensure all fire authorities benefit from the end products; examples include Emergency Services Network project, JESIP, Emergency Services Collaboration Working Group

## Developing –

**is a proactive state that says we are forward looking, we are looking at the challenges ahead and we are preparing for them.**

We drive continuous improvement by maintaining the first ever nationwide operational and organisational learning tool allowing us to collate learning from all sources including the inspectorates, identify common issues and spot trends then respond to them proactively helping fire authorities meet the expectations placed upon them.

We are carrying out research to inform development of a toolkit and guidance to help us develop robust and accurate integrated community risk management plans (IRMP).

We are developing a leadership framework, competency frameworks, training programmes and new trailblazer apprenticeships - maximising the training levy available from Government - to help us attract new staff to our organisations; train our existing staff against nationally accredited programmes; and offer the career progression associated with an employer of choice.

Examples include

- the operational firefighter trailblazer apprenticeship
- the fire safety competency framework
- a train-the-trainer package for junior fire setter intervention programmes
- a national brand for our fire cadets, national syllabus of learning materials plus a recommended supplier catalogue making the procurement of fire cadet uniform and equipment easier and cheaper.

We are leading a digital programme to future proof the sector, help us collate and use data better to help evidence decisions and allow us all to connect better to each other

We established a collective approach to research and development to ensure we horizon scan for new technology and initiatives that could lead to improved community outcomes, focus research efforts where they are most needed and share results saving fire authorities time and money.

We developed collaborative procurement frameworks working with both end users and suppliers leading to fewer specifications, driving down prices and seeing savings for authorities soar from £2M in 2016/17 to nearly £4M in 2017/18.

We are leading coordinated campaigns to reinforce the brand of the fire and rescue, build the confidence of the public and ensure wherever you live in the country you are getting the same message about keeping safe, preventing fires and more. Examples include Fire Kills, On-Call Recruitment and Fire Cadets.

We are leading a collaboration with police, ambulance, HM Coastguard and RNLI to create the StayWise digital platform hosting the education resources of all agencies aimed at children and young people. Removing duplication, helping to reduce risk of incorrect messages given by staff from all agencies and giving them all a broader range of tools far beyond what any single service could achieve for the same investment.

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**is a proactive state that says we are forward looking, we are looking at the challenges ahead and we are preparing for them.**

We are coordinating development of training and support tools for staff working on interventions aimed at improving outcomes for children and young people and affecting positive behavioural change. This includes Fire Cadets, Princes Trust and FireSetters underpinned by centrally led work to improve Safeguarding procedures.

**Responding –**  
**is the inevitable, when things do go wrong, this is what we do for everyone.**

We represent fire and rescue at COBRA meetings to ensure our contribution is understood and our connections with other agencies is made – providing support to Chief Officers whose staff are responding and coordinating that communication.

We act as a conduit to manage media interest in national emergencies and incidents helping to alleviate pressure on the responding services and their officers.

We supported the Grenfell incident response from day one by providing peer support as well as coordinating assets from across the country to support the response.

We are the only organisation providing subject matter expertise on all of the MHCLG workstreams providing arising from the Hackitt review – Expert Panel, Industry Working Group, Competence, Joint Competent Authority, Ministerial Building Remediation Taskforce and Joint Inspection Team.

We secured Government funding so that we can update the national fire safety competence framework, enabling us to ensure our fire safety staff have the appropriate training and are competent to act on behalf of their authority.

We provide seamless access and assurance of our national resilience capabilities and coordinates response for authorities wherever those capabilities assets are needed saving fire authorities from maintaining specialist equipment and capabilities themselves and providing confidence that support is available when needed.