

Report of the Vice-Chair's attendance at the CFOA /LGA Seminar on Contingency Planning For Safer Communities

Members will be aware that the Vice-Chair, Councillor Crowley represented the Fire Authority at the CFOA /LGA Seminar on *Contingency Planning For Safer Communities* in London on the 23rd November 2006. Assistant Chief Fire Officer Bailey and Area Manager Edwards accompanied Councillor Crowley.

The seminar was held to reinforce the need for contingency planning to ensure our communities are kept safe. This seminar was designed to support elected members and principal officers in developing plans for fire and rescue authorities, looking at key issues including:

- lessons learned by fire and rescue authorities who have recently experienced industrial action;
- the support that can be offered centrally; and
- options for developing robust contingency arrangements in the future.

Officers are now considering the most appropriate actions to prepare for a major staff absence brought about by industrial action. A report with suggested actions will be made to Members in the near future.