

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS JACKSON, D COLEMAN AND T WILLIAMS

This report updates the Council on the work of the Combined Fire Authority. The Fire Authority is made up of 25 Councillors (19 representatives from Lancashire County Council three from Blackburn and Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met on two occasions 24 April and 19 June 2017. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of those meetings and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 24 APRIL 2017

1. RETIRING MEMBERS

The Authority expressed gratitude and sent best wishes to retiring Members who were not standing for re-election as Lancashire County Councillors namely, County Councillors Ken Brown, Niki Penney and Ron Shewan.

2. UK INTERNATIONAL SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

The Authority received a report detailing the existing commitments to the UK International Search and Rescue Team and approved the continued involvement and additional responsibilities, which had been introduced following the introduction of a new logistics role that supports the UK Emergency Medical Team.

3. FIRE RELATED PROSECUTIONS

Members endorsed a report, detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 February 2017 to 1 April 2017.

There was one successfully completed prosecution case reported. Fire protection and business support information provided included how the primary authority scheme had progressed to include new areas of regulation and to businesses that shared a common approach to compliance.

In addition, three arson convictions were reported.

4. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

This report included information for the two Unitary and 12 District Authorities relating to Fire Safety initiatives and Fires and Incidents of particular interest.

As part of this report, Members received a presentation by Group Manager Neil Taylor who was the incident commander at a large fire at Alston Hall, a Grade 2 heritage building in Longridge on 15 March 2017.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA)

19 JUNE 2017

1. COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting held 19 June was the Authority's Annual Meeting and Members appointed County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively for 2017/ 2018. On taking the Chair, County Councillor De Molfetta thanked past and continuing Members for their considerable contributions to the work of the Authority.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2017/ 2018 included 11 new Members; namely, County Councillors: Beavers, Brown, Clarke, Eaton, Hennessy, Howarth, Kay, Martin, Tomlinson and Wilkins, appointed by Lancashire County Council and Councillor Coleman appointed by Blackpool Council.

3. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

As required by the Localism Act 2011, the Authority had a duty to promote and maintain high standards of Members, which included the appointment of one or more Independent Persons. Following consideration, the Authority re-appointed Mrs Hilary Banks as its Independent Person for a period of two years until the CFA Annual Meeting in June 2019.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION 2016/ 2017 AND ANNUAL ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES UPDATE

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer informed Members that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) had strongly sustained its performance results, highlighting that:

- There had been a 10% reduction in accidental fires in people's homes over the previous year, equating to almost 100 fewer fires, and a 24% reduction than there was five years ago;
- The number of people killed within dwelling fires had fallen by half of that recorded five years ago, and these were at their lowest since 2005/ 2006;
- Fire within buildings (other than dwellings) were at an all-time low and had reduced by 25% over the last 5 years;
- Similarly, deliberate secondary fires, which were fires related to anti-social behaviour, were at a ten year low, and had reduced by 72% over that time; and
- Accidents to staff continue to decrease with 2016/ 2017 recording one of the lowest counts over the last ten years.

LFRS continued to work with partners in reducing the numbers of road traffic collisions and improving outcomes. Through a partnership approach, LFRS had been working to improve road safety outcomes and to work with partners to deliver various initiatives, including:

- LFRS had a representative on the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. The partners worked very closely with each other and utilised the partnership strategy, 'Towards

Zero Lancashire: Road Safety Strategy For Lancashire 2016 – 2026’ in an attempt to reduce those killed or seriously injured on our roads in Lancashire;

- The Road Safety Thematic Group (attended by Road Safety Champion, Councillor Jackson) had developed a new road safe primary school package for Year Six pupils;
- LFRS had developed and promoted a young driver road safety education programme entitled ‘Wasted Lives’ which was aimed at young and pre-drivers and aimed to influence behaviour and change attitudes either as a driver or a passenger, thereby reducing risk to this specific group and other road users. To date this programme had been delivered to over 80,000 young people throughout Lancashire; and
- LFRS worked in partnership with emergency services and families affected by road collisions to present real life stories and share emotional experiences to support the reduction of young people killed or seriously injured on Lancashire’s roads. Members were actively encouraged to attend to observe a ‘Safe Drive Stay Alive’ session. To date 13,413 students had seen this hard hitting educational programme.

5. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/ 2017

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that LFRS had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. The number of accidents to LFRS staff was the second lowest on record with 58 events being reported of which only 25 resulted in lost time accidents. The Health and Safety Executive was notified under RIDDOR regarding 16 events, one major specified injury, 14 for over seven day absences following accidents and one for a dangerous occurrence for a breathing apparatus set failure. LFRS continued to deliver projects to manage health and wellbeing, learn from accidents and provide operational assurance, reduce its carbon emissions, review National Operational Guidance, research and develop equipment and firefighting techniques to ensure firefighter safety etc. The health and safety and environment management systems would continue to be developed and this was supported by external reviews that advocated robust policies, systems and a positive culture were in place within LFRS.

6. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

As part of this report, Members received a presentation by Jane Williams, Prevention Support Manager on what LFRS was doing to support people living in Lancashire with dementia. This included dementia prompt stickers, dementia buddies, dementia action alliances, dementia friends and dementia cafes and events.

7. URGENT BUSINESS – GRENFELL TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY IN LONDON – HIGH RISE BUILDINGS IN LANCASHIRE

Members received a presentation by Tony Crook, Group Manager that informed Members on the Grenfell Tower Fire investigation process and the actions being undertaken to reassure the public in Lancashire.

Across Lancashire there were 73 High Rise premises (residential and non-residential) listed as high-rise (six floors and above). Sixty-nine of those were residential, either students’ halls of residence or occupied by the public. All have had a fire safety audit between 2010 and 2017.

In Lancashire there were three Local Authority owned high-rise premises all of which had been re-inspected the previous week.

Since 1 January 2017, there had been 18 primary fires in dwellings of five storeys or above. All fire spread had remained within the room of origin. The total number of casualties was two at one fire. Fire crews were last trained in operational procedures in May 2017 as part of a scheduled two-year frequency. Training was updated to incorporate lessons learnt from recent high-rise fires of Harrow Court and Lakanal House. Investment had been made in telemetry and facilities to prevent entanglement as a direct result of learning from previous national incidents in high-rise premises.

Firefighters and community fire safety staff were out and about in all areas, reassuring the public, providing face-to-face guidance on key messages in respect of fire plans, the use of lifts, evacuation, smoke alarms and dialling 999. Additionally, LFRS had begun an immediate review of the high-rise accommodation fire safety provision in Lancashire, regardless of how recently they were last audited. In addition, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer would be arranging a Lancashire Resilience Forum meeting to agree the Lancashire county activities undertaken by partners and how these should be coordinated/ captured.

What we tell anyone reporting a fire in high rise premises

If the Fire Plan for the building is not 'Stay Put'

- Get Out Stay Out;
- Follow Evacuation Policy;
- Do not use the lift; and
- If you find that you cannot get to a safe place, ring the fire service again on 999.

Or for 'Stay Put'

- If there is a 'Stay Put' policy and the caller is safe and is not in the flat where the fire is, then stay put;
- If the situation changes, then inform the fire service immediately, dialling 999;
- If the caller wants to evacuate then we ask them to follow the building's evacuation route; and
- If they cannot get to a safe place, ring the fire service again on 999.

Support is available to assist businesses to comply with fire safety regulations; information is available from www.lancsbusinessplus.org.uk / www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk