

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS JACKSON, BLACKBURN 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 meet on two occasions 17 September and 17 December 2018. 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) 17 SEPTEMBER 2018

1. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Progress Towards Inspection - Update Briefing 3

Members received an update following the recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The inspection took place during the week 9 to 13 July 2018 with the HMICFRS team speaking to staff, selected partner agencies, representative bodies, the Executive Board and the Chairman. This was facilitated during the Winter Hill deployment and was managed through staff flexibility. A strategic brief took place at the end of the inspection week and feedback was received on the very positive culture that was found within Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS), the 'can do attitude' of staff and that the Service's values were committed to 'making Lancashire safer'. A second data request was received and returned to HMICFRS on 14 July 2018. A HMICFRS staff survey had been received, which asked staff their opinion on working for LFRS. This had been circulated for staff for completion by 30 September 2018.

Information had recently been received from HMICFRS advising that fieldwork for services in tranche one had now been completed and HMICFRS was currently analysing the evidence and drafting service reports. These would be shared on a confidential basis with each Service in late October to check for factual accuracies before publication in early December 2018. The findings of which would be discussed at the next Authority meeting.

2. Collaboration Update

Members received a report, which gave an overview of the collaboration since the last meeting in June 2018. Only one Fire Authority (Essex) had adopted a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) governance model, but there had been a further six business cases going forward, which were the subject of three Judicial Review applications. Hertfordshire had discontinued their change to a PCC governance model in favour of collaboration between the PCC and the Local Authority and potentially co-location of premises.

With regard to Lancashire, the sequence of events had been that on 25 July 2018 at Service Headquarters the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, the Leader of the Opposition and Clerk had met with the PCC and his consultant and had been well prepared to challenge the proposal. Shortly after commencing a presentation it became clear that the PCC no longer wanted to pursue taking over the Combined Fire Authority's governance responsibilities, but hoped that closer collaboration could be used to achieve common goals for both services.

Having received a letter from the PCC dated 27 July there was growing concern that the proposal made was done so with more conditions than first apparent. The Authority responded on 30 July 2018 and subsequently to seek clarification on a) whether the Commissioner was withdrawing plans to continue with the Business Case and b) what the new collaboration regime would look like. In one subsequent response the Commissioner stated that 'collaboration was not enough' which led to some further concern. The latest response was sent from the Authority on 30 August 2018 and a further response was awaited. Until a response was received LFRS would continue with its well established collaboration activities and would continue to look for further areas of development.

3. ANNUAL SERVICE REPORT

Members viewed the Annual Service Report, which had been prepared as a video. Alongside the video was a supporting document which had also been produced and in order to encourage a wider audience and engagement this was accessible to all members of staff on the intranet and would be available to the public on the LFRS website.

<https://www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Annual-Service-Report-2017-18.pdf>

4. Community Fire Safety Reports

As part of the report, members received a presentation by Assistant Chief Fire Officer, David Russel on the Service's response to Winter Hill.

Following the presentation, Members asked that the Authority's thanks be passed onto all those involved during the Winter Hill major incident, including our partner agencies. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Service had organised a Winter Hill 'Thank-You' event for all the partner agencies involved on 25 September 2018 to recognise their contribution and the assistance they provided during the incident. The Fire Minister and others from central government had also been complimentary about the level of hard work involved in the incident. Members expressed that they had been encouraged by the hard work and resilience of the Service and would welcome the opportunity for the video to be circulated to a wider audience which would include organisations and schools.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUoDFo_puXE&feature=youtu.be

5. Re-Appointment of Clerk to the Authority

The Authority approved the re-appointment of Mr Mark Nolan as Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority for a period of twelve months, to the September meeting of the Authority in 2019.

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
17TH DECEMBER 2018**

**1. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES
(HMICFRS)**

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 sets out that HMICFRS will inspect and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. In July 2017, HMICFRS extended this remit to include inspections of England's Fire and Rescue Services to assess and report on the efficiency, effectiveness and people of the 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was in the first of three tranches of inspections which took place during 9 to 13 July 2018 and involved the HMICFRS team of inspectors speaking to: staff across the organisation, selected partner agencies, the Representative Bodies, the Executive Board and the Chairman. This was facilitated during the Winter Hill deployment and was managed with the commitment of staff flexibility to ensure a suitable and sufficient inspection week. A strategic debrief took place on the 13 July at the end of the inspection week and was delivered to Executive Board members and the Chairman. Further data was requested and returned to HMICFRS on 14 July 2018.

The final outcome report was given a revised embargo of 20 December 2018, therefore the Authority was updated on the results of the Inspection results under Part 2 of the agenda.

Subsequent to the meeting, the published report is now available on the HMICFRS website:

<https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/lancashire-fire-and-rescue-service-report-2018-19.pdf>

The Authority is delighted with the outcome of the report. This independently rates Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service as the best fire and rescue service that has been inspected in the country to date; being the only Service to be given an 'outstanding' in any category with all other areas rated as 'good'. We are particularly proud that the Service is 'outstanding' in the area of 'promoting the right values and culture', which is a reflection of the standards of our staff and leadership. Our professionalism is what sets us apart from other organisations and the reason the Service is held in such high regard by our communities and partners.

2. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) sets out the Government's high-level expectations, priorities and objectives for Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA's) in England. Included within the framework is the requirement on all FRA's to provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters.

Members considered and approved the Statement of Assurance. It provided the required accountability and transparency to our communities and the Government that LFRS continued to deliver efficient, effective value for money services.

This statement sat alongside the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), Statement of Accounts, the Annual Governance Statement, the Annual Service Plan and Annual Progress Report. It detailed what measures were in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance was efficient, economic, and effective and provided further evidence that LFRS continued to deliver under the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and its own IRMP.

3. FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 September 2018 to 30 November 2018 was provided.

There were three current prosecutions awaiting trial and three prosecution cases being prepared. Fire protection and business support information included that LFRS now had 11 registered Primary Authority Scheme partners and Members noted that there were four arson convictions during the period, which included details of a conviction that involved a serving prisoner. This incident was worthy of special note as it was highly unusual for a prisoner serving a current sentence to be charged and committed to Court for trial for starting a fire within a prison unless it was a major incident. This was not just a Lancashire problem, but also a National problem.

This conviction sent a clear message that cell fires would not be tolerated and could result in an additional prison sentence. Since this conviction, fires at HMP Lancaster Farms have reduced dramatically as have incidents at other prisons across Lancashire and work continues with other prisons and Police departments to encourage any further cases be progressed to court.

4. URGENT BUSINESS - COLLABORATION

The Chief Fire Officer advised that a letter addressed to the Chairman had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner on 14 December 2018 requesting a meeting. The letter was in response to a letter sent to him on 30 August 2018 (which had been confirmed as received on 31 August 2018 and) which had been resent on 26 November 2018.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Service continued to work in collaboration with partners including other Blue Light organisations in order to deliver the most effective and efficient services. The work streams identified by the Blue Light Collaboration Project with Lancashire Constabulary continued, with significant projects reported to the Planning Committee for a decision.