

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

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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 three occasions 18 February, 29 April and 17 June 2019. 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)  
18 FEBRUARY 2019**

**1. Collaboration**

The Authority noted that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had met with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) on 22 January 2019 where they received assurance of his intention not to proceed with any changes to the fire governance arrangements at this time. During the meeting, the potential for further collaboration was discussed which required further consideration and included: i) the delivery of Police Public Order Training from Service Training Centre – this work had in part already been initiated which had been observed by Home Office officials at a visit the previous week; ii) the potential for the relocation of Service Headquarters to Hutton and iii) the formation of a small Board of eight with four representatives from the Police (two from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and two from the Constabulary) and four from Fire (two Members and two Officers). However, as the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) was the decision-making body, the Chairman was in discussions with the Chief Fire Officer and the Clerk on how this might be constituted.

The Authority remained committed to deliver the best outcomes for the public in Lancashire and the Service continued to work collaboratively with the Police. The Chairman stated his gratitude to all Members of the CFA for their support in maintaining current governance arrangements. He confirmed that he would be thanking all Members of Lancashire County Council (LCC) on behalf of the Authority at the next Full Council meeting and he had already written to MPs and Lancashire Leaders. County Councillor O'Toole acknowledged the cross-party support received from Members of the CFA and LCC colleagues and commended the Chairman for his determination in opposition of the proposal.

**2. Pay Policy Statement For 2019/2020**

The Director of People and Development presented a report informing the Authority that in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 a pay policy statement for 2019/2020 had been prepared. The pay policy published data on senior salaries and the structure of the workforce and demonstrated the principles of transparency. The pay policy statement set out the Authority's policies for the financial year relating to: the remuneration of its chief

officers; the remuneration of its lowest paid employees; and the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and that of other employees who are not chief officers.

The Chairman announced that he had received the Chief Fire Officer's notice of intention to retire with effect from 30 April 2019 and that the appointment of a successor had begun.

### **3. Revenue Budget 2019/ 2020 - 2023/ 2024**

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2019/ 2020 of £56.5m. This allowed for the increase in pay costs arising from forecast pay awards and revised pension contributions all of which was partly offset by the identification of £1.2m of efficiency savings/ budget reductions.

The Authority considered council tax options for 2019/ 2020, which met the requirements to deliver a balanced budget and maintain an adequate level of reserves and determined a 2.99% increase (£2.02 per annum) resulting in a council tax of £69.48 for a Band D property.

## **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) 29 APRIL 2019**

### **1. Chairman's Welcome And Introduction**

The Chairman and Members of the Combined Fire Authority thanked Mr Kenny, Chief Fire Officer for his leadership and dedication to the Service and the communities of Lancashire, expressing sincere wishes for his retirement at the end of April 2019.

### **2. Proposed Governance Arrangements Of The Blue Light Collaboration Programme With The Police And Crime Commissioner**

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority presented a report that detailed the proposed governance arrangements of the Blue Light Collaboration Programme, which outlined the role of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) and the provision for dealing with input from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner whilst ensuring that the CFA retained ultimate decision-making responsibilities. It was agreed that a bi-annual Collaborative Working Group (CWG) with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner be held. This would be attended by the Chairman and the Clerk to the Authority on behalf of the CFA, together with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer as strategic lead from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and the Deputy Chief Constable on behalf of Lancashire Constabulary. The CWG meeting would provide oversight of the collaboration activity. It would also ensure the relevance to the business of the respective organisations and ensure alignment in the core roles of both organisations. A report of the discussions from the CWG would be made available to the Authority's Planning Committee.

### **3. Annual Service Plan**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented this year's Annual Service Plan (updated to be effective from 1 May 2019). The Annual Service Plan continued to provide Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) with the platform to highlight the priority activities that the Service intended to deliver over the coming year. LFRS was leading improvements and innovation in

the fire sector with some of the best firefighting equipment and training facilities in the country and a highly skilled and motivated workforce. The year ahead would build on achievements by staying focussed on continuous improvement that made the people of Lancashire safer, particularly the most vulnerable members of our communities. Many priorities were extensive, long-term initiatives that would transform the way we worked and bring lasting benefits. For the first time, this year's Annual Service Plan would be published alongside the Strategic Assessment of Risk. First published in 2016, this document had been refreshed for the 2019/ 2020 year and branded to mirror the 2019/ 2020 Annual Service Plan that it supported by capturing the dynamic picture of risk in Lancashire.

This year's Annual Service Plan was endorsed by the Planning Committee at its meeting held 18 March 2019. As part of an engaging communications strategy a short video had been commissioned, which would summarise the salient aspects of the Annual Service Plan in a succinct format. It was anticipated that the digital format would enable us to engage directly with a larger section of Lancashire's communities. The video was expected to be published on internal medial channels and the external website the following month.

## **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA) - 17 JUNE 2019**

### **1. Combined Fire Authority Annual Meeting**

The meeting held 17 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 2019/ 2020. The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Vice-Chairman, County Councillor Parkinson had been awarded Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his political service in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

### **2. Composition Of The Combined Fire Authority**

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2019/ 2020 included two new Members from Lancashire County Council; County Councillor Hasina Khan had replaced County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson and County Councillor John Fillis had replaced County Councillor Lorraine Beavers.

### **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 further period of two years until the CFA Annual Meeting in June 2021.

### **4. Executive Board Succession Arrangements**

The Authority had appointed Mr David Russel as Deputy Chief Fire Officer on 7 May 2019 and the post of Assistant Chief Officer was in the process of being recruited to. In the meantime, Area Manager, Mr Ben Norman would be acting in the post.

## **5. Annual Safety, Health And Environment Report 2018/ 2019**

The Authority noted that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. Since initial certification in November 2011, annual surveillance visits had been conducted with re-certification every three years to maintain external certification of the Health and Safety and Environment Management Systems. In February 2019, the auditor from British Assessment Bureau carried out a surveillance audit for ISO 14001:2015 and they carried out an audit against a new health and safety standard ISO 45001:2018. The scope for both standards was 'The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire'. Continued certification was granted without any non-conformance or opportunities for improvement identified. During the audit, process complimentary comments had been received. During 2018/ 2019, there had been 73 accidents, 109 near misses and 10 RIDDOR events. A comparison against previous performance showed the continued reduction of accidents and positive increase in near miss reporting.

The Carbon Management Plan agreed by the Resources Committee in March 2009 included a visionary target of 40% carbon emission reduction by March 2020. The Service had achieved an overall reduction of 23% by March 2019, which equated to 989 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>; this delivered savings to date of £672,000. Work would continue to improve this area. The report also detailed key safety, health and environmental priorities for 2019/ 2020, which included: the implementation of revised National Guidance, the maintenance of certification standards, reducing energy and waste and the continued review of Health and Wellbeing arrangements.