

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS BLACKBURN, HUGO 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 one occasion, 14 December 2020. The Combined Fire Authority has produced a summary of that meeting and the appointed representatives will update the Council on any issues.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 14 DECEMBER 2020

1. AERIAL APPLIANCE STRATEGY

Members considered an overview of aerial appliance provision and the key drivers for change based on the ability to manage risk in Lancashire, cognisant of learning emerging from the Grenfell Tower inquiry and other incidents of national significance. Detailed proposals for changes to the current aerial fleet were considered and investment approved to strengthen response arrangements while providing an effective and efficient distribution of the assets across the county.

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.

The Statement of Assurance was considered and approved by Members. It provided the required accountability and transparency to our communities and the Government that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) continued to deliver efficient and 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. 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. The adaptability of the community safety team was highlighted particularly their ability to:

- continue to deliver safe and well visits to vulnerable people in Lancashire in addition to other visits to vulnerable people as part of working within the resilience forum;
- continue to develop partnership work with Lancashire Constabulary;
- focus on the delivery of the Bright Sparx education campaign to schools via digital engagement across the county which culminated in a virtual bonfire evening. This was viewed 103,000 times predominantly by families with young children, there were 3,500 comments and the event was considered to be very positive;
- continue to deliver campaigns primarily for winter safety which was aimed at vulnerable people. Within that there was a focus on cooking safely and the Diwali celebrations which took place in the period; and
- continue to work closely with the local authorities to provide support to people who are hoarding.