

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS HUGO, JACKSON 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 three occasions, 13 December 2021, 21 February 2022 and 25 April 2022. 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 13 DECEMBER 2021

1. Automatic fire alarm attendance policy

Following a consultation exercise, the Planning committee at its meeting held 15 November 2021 made a recommendation to the Authority to adopt a false alarm reduction and emergency call management policy which would bring Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service into line with other Fire and Rescue Services in the North West and nationally.

The Authority endorsed the recommendation to adopt the policy which includes the exemption of certain premises: Grade 1 and 2* heritage premises (* subject to meeting specific criteria), Primary and Secondary Education premises and premises with 'Enhanced Reliability Alarm Systems'. A three-month implementation phase to engage stakeholders would be undertaken. Fire Alarm Monitoring Organisations would be required to sign up to refreshed 'call back' agreements. The new policy would be launched from 1 April 2022 with changes implemented by day in year 1 (08:00hrs to 19:00hrs) and during the night from year 2 with a review to Planning committee after the first 12 months.

2. Member champion activity

The Authority appointed its Member Champions at its Annual meeting in June and current Member Champions are:

- Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay
- Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Reports relating to the activity of the Member Champions are provided on a regular basis to the Authority. Since the last meeting, all Champions had undertaken their respective role in accordance with defined terms of reference.

3. Fire protection reports

The Authority discussed a report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents. Fire protection and business support information was provided, and Members noted that there were 7 arson convictions during the period which amounted to circa 28 years' custodial sentences.

4. Operational incidents of interest

The Authority received information relating to operational incidents of note since the last Authority meeting. As part of the report members received a presentation by Lyndsay Sielski, Crew Manager, Response and Emergency Planning and Bekki Ford, Safety, Health and Environment Advisor on the activities and benefits of the Service's search dogs and wellbeing / trauma support dogs.

5. Collaboration

The Chief Fire Officer advised that, following the announcement from the Prime Minister the previous evening regarding the implementation of Plan B measures in response to the Covid-19 Omicron variant, Health colleagues had contacted partners to assist with the expansion of the vaccination programme. The Service had been involved with the vaccination programme since December 2020 and continued to be involved however, support would be increased over the coming weeks.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 21 FEBRUARY 2022

1. Pay policy statement for 2022/2023

In accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 a pay policy statement for 2022/23 was considered. 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 were not chief officers.

2. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services update

Following the recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services the Service received a debrief 9 February 2022 however, Inspection reports were expected to be published in the late spring 2022 although no specific dates had yet been confirmed. When the final report was received in summer it would provide clarity and direction, enabling focusing of resources on the areas requiring strengthening to ensure the Service continued towards its aim of being graded as outstanding.

Members were updated on the national state of fire report produced by Sir Thomas Windsor which was released in January 2022. The report highlighted that overall, nationally there had been progress from round 1 inspections with improvements in culture and people and investment in fire protection. However, an area identified as being problematic was the resourcing and prioritising of prevention work. Other areas identified as requiring further improvement included the diversity of recruitment and challenges around the on-call duty system.

3. Financial strategy including revenue budget 2022/23 - 2026/27

The Financial Strategy encompassed: the Treasury Management Strategy, Reserves and Balances Policy, the Capital Strategy and Budget and the Revenue Budget.

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2022/23 of £63.0m. The Authority considered council tax options for 2022/23 which met the requirements to deliver a balanced budget and maintain an adequate level of reserves and determined a £5.00 increase (6.9%) resulting in a council tax of £77.27 for a Band D property.

4. Community risk management plan 2022 - 2027

In July 2021 the Planning Committee approved a draft Integrated Risk Management Plan along with the revised name '*Community Risk Management Plan*' for public consultation. The Plan outlined the approach to be taken to identify and mitigate risk within Lancashire for the next 5 years. After a 10-week consultation period at its meeting in November 2021, the Planning Committee agreed amendments and that the consultation was adequate in respect of scale and scope. The Authority considered and endorsed the refreshed Community Risk Management Plan which would be published in April 2022.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
25 APRIL 2022

1. Annual Service Plan

Members received a video presentation that accompanied the approved Annual Service Plan which set out the activities intended to be delivered during the next 12 months. The Plan was built around the Service's four corporate priorities of:

- i) valuing people;
- ii) preventing fire and other emergencies from happening and protecting people and property when fires happened;
- iii) responding to fire and other emergencies quickly and competently and
- iv) delivering value for money in how we use our resources.

The Plan can be viewed on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/yKGcJtTCRnY>

2. Operational incidents of interest

Members considered a report that provided information relating to operational incidents of note over the period 1 February 2022 – 31 March 2022.

As part of the report Members received a presentation on a wildfire incident in Rossendale. The incident response demonstrated why the Authority's support for, and investment in, climate change response was important to the ongoing organisational evolution and success in dealing with some of the emerging risks around flooding and wildfire response. The presentation provided an overview of the launch of the Climate Change Operational Response Plan which can be viewed on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r6BMc1CediA>