

COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS JACKSON, MATTHEWS 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, 16 February, 27 April and 22 June 2015. 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) 16 FEBRUARY 2015

1. NATIONAL RESILIENCE ASSURANCE TEAM – MULTI-CAPABILITY ASSURANCE PROCESS – REPORT OUTCOMES FOR LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The National Resilience Assurance Team visited Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) on 7 and 8 January 2015 as part of the multi-capability assurance programme. Assurance visits are part of a wider assurance process designed to provide evidence to the National Resilience Board and key stakeholders that National Resilience (NR) capabilities (which are: Urban Search and Rescue, High Volume Pump and the Incident Response Unit) remain ready to respond to major or catastrophic incidents requiring mutual aid.

The quality of evidence provided against seven key areas of assessment was of a high standard, which demonstrated LFRS ability to respond using all NR capability, hosted by the Service, with mechanisms for initiating and maintaining that response in place. Conversely, there were no non-conformities identified, with three opportunities for improvement aligned to areas of conformity in the following areas: i) welfare arrangements (out of County); ii) welfare arrangements (in County) and iii) the function of Tactical Advisors. A schedule of work has been put in place to ensure that the opportunities for improvement are incorporated into LFRS policies and procedures.

Given the very positive report, the Authority was reassured that the areas the assurance team were tasked to review meant that statutory duties outlined in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007 in relation to NR capability could be discharged to a high standard.

2. MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY

In December 2007, the Authority introduced the “Champion” role and allocated a £5,000 budget per Member in respect of the subject areas. These positions were currently filled by:

- Equality and Diversity - County Councillor Sylvia Taylor
- Older People - County Councillor Mark Perks
- Environment - County Councillor Ken Brown
- Road Safety – Councillor Fred Jackson

Equality and Diversity

It was noted that a Service level review was being undertaken which formed part of the Service's Workforce Development Programme Board and there were no developments of note to report during this last quarter.

Older People

It was noted that the Lancashire Fire and Rescue's Community Safety Strategy 2014/ 2017 had been published. This had been designed to provide a clear framework that contributed to making our communities safer.

Councillor Perks had supported the CFOA Ageing Safely Week during September and October. The aim along with other fire and rescue services and partners was to make a difference to the lives of older people where older people felt secure, valued and able to contribute to society. This event also acted as a platform to share resources and expertise, extend the reach of protection activity and deliver integrated, holistic services to support our community.

Councillor Perks had also supported the UK Older People's Day 2014 event, which was held at various locations across the county.

The Dying to Keep Warm Charity pilot in Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre was unable to continue into year three due to funding issues and LFRS had expressed its appreciation on behalf of County Councillor Perks personally to its founder and secretary for all of the invaluable partnership work that had been undertaken during the last two years.

Road Safety

It was noted that Councillor Jackson had attended the Road Safety Forum meeting on Wednesday, 14 January 2015. He supported the work to promote and deliver the ongoing Wasted Lives programme (soon to reach 50,000 young people) and the new Childsafe Plus Road Safety programme (currently being rolled out to year 6 pupils in all Primary Schools).

The importance of the Road Safety work that LFRS was involved in with key partners was very important in the current climate of reduced funding, reduced resources and reduced staffing.

Environment

The Member Champion for the Environment, County Councillor Ken Brown highlighted:

That following the successful re-accreditation to the International Standard ISO 14001 for the Environment, an improvement action plan has been developed to ensure that ongoing improvements in the Environmental Management System were made.

All new vehicles ranging from fire appliances to cars that are being replaced or introduced into the service were fitted with the latest Euro 6 engines. The Euro 6 engine was cleaner than ever before with permitted nitrogen oxides reduced by 75% compared to the Euro 5 engines and a reduction of 99% for particulate matter (basically soot particle). In addition, the waste contract for general and recycling waste ceased on the 31 March 2015 and preparations were under way to tender and appoint a new contractor from 1 April 2015.

3. REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15 - 2017/18

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer that presented a gross revenue budget requirement for 2015/ 2016 of £56.738m. After allowing for a council tax increase of 1.90% and allowing for the increase in council tax base and improved council tax collection rates, this resulted in a net budget requirement of £56.530m for 2015/16 and a council tax of £64.86 per Band D Property.

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
27TH APRIL 2015**

1. LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – FIRE CADET PROGRAMME

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service had been approached early 2014 by Youth United and the Chief Fire Officers Association to take part in an initiative to establish a small number of Fire Cadet Units in schools within Lancashire. The initiative was to run for a period of 12 months during the academic year 2014/ 2015. The project was commissioned by the Cabinet Office, as part of a wider piece of research, to establish whether having some form of uniformed cadet service operating in schools, improved pupil's progression and attainment of qualifications.

Lancashire was one of a several geographical areas identified by the Cabinet Office as part of the initiative alongside other service providers for example Sea Cadets. A total of 40 schools were involved across various counties, six were within Lancashire:

- Carnforth High School;
- Ormskirk School;
- Whitworth Community High School;
- Christ the King Catholic College (Preston);
- Corpus Christi Catholic High School (Preston); and
- St George's School (Blackpool).

The initiative, which was being evaluated by Durham University, had been set up to test the impact of youth social action activities on the engagement and attainment of pupils in Year 9 (13-14 year olds).

As a Fire Cadet the young people took part in a range of activities, including volunteering projects in the local community; learning new skills such as First Aid, learning about the role and responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Service, learning and developing operational type skills through practical training as well as developing as a person i.e. self-confidence, communication skills, leadership traits etc. The programme followed the Fire Services Youth Training Association Fire Cadets' syllabus. It ran for an academic year and could lead to a BTEC Level 2 Award qualification on successful completion.

Midway through the programme an evaluation process had begun with views being sought from all the interested parties the school, the cadets themselves, their parents/ carers and LFRS personnel involved in its delivery. Key findings received to date were:

- Head teachers had been very supportive of the programme and commented how much the Fire Cadets enjoyed it, feeling more confident and benefitting from being involved. They had also been impressed and spoken very highly about how LFRS staff worked with and engaged the young people this was a credit to all staff involved in the delivery.
- Teaching staff viewed it as a valuable programme in that it helped the young people build confidence and develop themselves. They reported having seen increased maturity and self-esteem, team skills being developed, new friendships formed and better relationships formed with teachers.
- The young people wanted to be a Fire Cadet due to the potential future opportunities it would open up and the BTEC qualification they could achieve. They also liked the identity the uniform gave and made them feel proud.

- The parent/ carers reported having noticed improved attitudes and maturity from their children and had developed greater interaction with their children as they now talked more freely about their role as a Fire Cadet with LFRS.

A final passing out parade would be held at each school shortly before they finished for the summer. The event would focus on celebrating the achievements of the Fire Cadets. A final evaluation report would be completed at the end of the programme to inform a decision on whether to continue the programme and, if so, how best to achieve this being cognisant of resources moving forward.

In attendance at the Authority meeting were staff involved in the Fire Cadet programme and 40 Fire Cadets. Members received personal accounts of experiences and achievements made so far from Julie Simpson, Community Fire Safety (LFRS), Mr Harrison, Teacher (St George's School, Blackpool) and Fire Cadets Harry Taylor, Molly Costello and Louis Burke.

2. FIRE RELATED PROSECUTIONS

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period February 2015 to March 2015 was endorsed by Members. There had been one fire safety conviction within the period and detailed information was also supplied in relation to eight arson convictions.

Members noted that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service had successfully prosecuted Mr Stuart De'Ath, the landlord of a number of premises in the Lytham St Annes area, for eighteen separate breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 relating to three of his premises. The case was heard at Blackpool Magistrates Court and the defendant pleaded guilty to eighteen charges.

Although work was undertaken with landlords to ensure public safety, it was also important to demonstrate that individuals would be held accountable for breaches of their statutory responsibility. Such prosecutions served as a warning to others to fulfil their obligations regarding the safety of people under their responsibility.

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA)

22 JUNE 2015

1. COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The meeting held 22 June was the Authority's AGM and Members appointed County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority respectively for 2015/ 2016.

2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chairman welcomed new Members, Councillor Allan Matthews and Councillor Tony Williams from Blackpool Council. He thanked the continuing Members for their contributions to the work of the Authority over the past year and looked forward to another excellent year working together for Lancashire residents.

3. RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

As required by the Localism Act 2011, the Authority has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of Members, which include 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 AGM in June 2017.

4. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REVIEW

The Authority considered the Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. As the body with ultimate responsibility for staff health, safety and environmental compliance, it is important that all CFA Members are aware of performance in this respect. The report therefore provided a summary of key actions, overall progress and outturn performance in respect of accidents and near misses and carbon emissions, together with a look forward.

The report summarised the arrangements in place to deliver the Service's Health and Safety Policy and provided a summary of health, safety and environment performance data. It included the reporting on occupational safety, health and environmental issues that had arisen during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that 2014/ 2015 had 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 64 events being reported of which only 21 resulted in lost time. Manual handling related activities accounted for the largest number of accidents within the Service, which would be focussed on through refresher training for operational personnel during 2015/ 2016. LFRS continued to deliver projects to reduce its carbon emissions. 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 the Service.

5. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY

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

As part of this report, Area Manager Ben Norman gave a presentation to Members on water safety. In 1997, the Service attended ten water related incidents per annum and since then there had been an increase in these types of incidents from young people swimming in reservoirs and from those who found themselves in fast flowing rivers. In 2007, the annual number of incidents had risen to 95 incidents and now the Service was looking at 150-170 water related incidents per annum. Water related deaths affected young males disproportionately and was the third most common cause of death amongst young people.

Sadly, on 22 June 2014, James Goodship lost his life in a reservoir in Foulridge, Nelson. James' family wanted to raise awareness and promote the importance of water safety and together with the Service's Corporate Communications Department had the courage to produced two videos, which can be accessed by following the links:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/lancsfrs/122651517>

<https://vimeo.com/channels/lancsfrs/122896724>

These videos were being shown in schools and had been circulated to other Fire and Rescue Services to use.