

**COUNCIL APPOINTED COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE - REPORT TO THE COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS HUGO, JACKSON 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 with Darwen Council and three from Blackpool Council).

Since the last report to Council, the Combined Fire Authority has met twice on 03 October and 19 December 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  
3 OCTOBER 2022**

**1. His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services – inspection report**

The Authority received a report that detailed the inspection of the Service which concluded on 24 January 2022 by His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (formerly Her Late Majesty’s Inspectorate).

It was noted that while some Fire and Rescue Services had improved in some areas, most services had lost gradings due to the inspection being more detailed. Furthermore, where gradings had remained the same this demonstrated that an improvement had been made.

The Chairman drew Members’ attention to a statement from Matt Parr, His Majesty’s Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services who said:

“I congratulate Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on its excellent performance across all three areas of our assessment. Since its last inspection in 2018, it has improved in almost all areas.”

**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. This report related to activity for the period June – August 2022. During this period all Champions had undertaken their respective role in accordance with defined terms of reference.

### **3. Fire Protection reports**

The Authority discussed a report that summarised Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service prosecutions pertaining to fire safety offences and convictions resulting from 8 arson incidents which had progressed via the criminal justice process.

Fire Protection and Business Support information was also included in the report to provide Members with an update on the continually evolving regulatory position and how the Service was developing and adapting both its services and workforce to ensure it kept pace with the changes to keep public and firefighters safe in the built environment.

### **4. Business continuity**

The Chief Fire Officer provided Members with a brief summary of the responsibilities of the Combined Fire Authority with regards to business continuity and gave a broad overview of the background and current approach to business continuity in times of industrial action.

### **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 2023.

## **REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY 19 DECEMBER 2022**

### **1. Emergency cover review**

The Authority considered in full the outcomes from a recent 12-week public consultation on proposed changes to response arrangements within Lancashire as part of an Emergency Cover Review which would span 2023 to 2026. The key proposals for consultation had a clear link to, and underpinned the values set out in, the Community Risk Management Plan.

The consultation yielded a really positive response with a total 1,224 responses received from local residents, staff and other stakeholders. Following the analysis of consultation responses and taking into consideration the shifting financial uncertainty, refinements to some of the proposals were put forward for consideration.

The Authority approved the refined proposals, as these options for change provided the best package of measures with the least impact on the Service's ability to provide an effective county-level emergency response (overall county impact 0.1% on response performance). These were to:

- Maintain 6 Day Crewing Plus stations – best fit and pending future response area reviews;
- Change 5 Day Crewing Plus stations and replace with:
  - o 3 Flexible Wholetime or 2/2/4 with 24 staff;
  - o 2 Flexible Day Crewed or Day Crewed only with On Call cover at night;
- Change 3 existing 2-2-4 stations to Flexible Wholetime or keep 2-2-4 but with 24 staff;
- Realign establishment levels on Flexible Day Crewed stations to 13, the same as Day Crewing Plus;
- Introduce Dynamic Cover Software;
- Invest in 4 new all-wheel-drive fire appliances, replacing 4 standard type B fire appliances;
- Introduce Flood Water Incident Managers;
- Introduce a 45m Aerial Ladder Platform;
- Invest in 2 additional Water Tower appliances;
- Broaden the capabilities of On-Call Firefighters.

This ensured that the Service would:

- i) maintain all 39 fire stations;
- ii) maintain outstanding response standards and all 58 fire appliances;
- iii) provide efficiency savings of c.£400k;
- iv) increase the overall fire-fighter establishment by 8; and
- v) provide more flexible crewing arrangements.

## **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 the Authority. It provided the required accountability and transparency to our communities and the Government that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service continued to deliver efficient and effective value for money services.

This statement sat alongside the Community Risk Management Plan, 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 the Service continued to deliver under the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and its own Risk Management Plan.

## **3. Member Champion Activity**

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- 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.

#### **4. Fire protection reports**

The Authority discussed a report detailing prosecutions pertaining to fire safety offences, in addition to five convictions resulting from arson incidents which had progressed via the criminal justice process. An update on Fire Protection and Business Support was also provided, detailing how the Service adapted delivery whilst developing the workforce, to ensure it kept pace with changes and improved public and firefighter safety within the built environment.