

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA)

18 JUNE 2018

1. COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting held 18 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 2018/19.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2018/19 included 1 new Member from Blackpool Council, Councillor Simon Blackburn who had replaced Councillor Debbie Coleman.

3. COLLABORATION UPDATE

The Authority noted that on 4 May or 8 May 2018 the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and his office approved the development of a business case to bring Police and Fire governance together. A clear response was sent by the Chairman on 16 May 2018 pointing out that the detail presented in the options report fell well short and there were flaws in the report which made it difficult to comment. The PCC's response confirmed he would proceed with the formation of a draft business case. On 24 May 2018 the Chairman confirmed a willingness to inform the development of the business case however, he expressed concerns regarding the capacity of officers as the Service prepared itself for a visit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) particularly given it would be the same people required to contribute to the business case as were preparing for inspection. On 11 June 2018 the Chairman had written a further letter to the PCC expressing concerns in relation to the proposed timetable for officer involvement, confirming that the HMICFRS inspection took precedence. It was also made clear that a data sharing agreement and disclosure agreement would need to be in place before the sharing of any information.

The Authority's position throughout was that it remained confident that the current arrangements delivered the best for Lancashire and it believed that Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) was already effectively progressing collaborative opportunities within existing structures. The Service was also being proactive and a Statement of Intent for enhanced collaboration had been signed with 32 opportunities under consideration. Any new areas of collaboration were considered on a case-by-case basis before the commitment of any resources with any significant capacity requirements being referred to the Authority.

4. STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVING OUR RETAINED SERVICE: RETAINED SUPPORT OFFICERS – ONE YEAR ON

The Authority received a report on how the Authority's additional investment of £600k in 2016/17 had been used to support the ambition to improve pump availability, fire fighter safety and incentivise staff. £300k was for the Retained Duty Salary Review and the remaining £300k enabled the introduction of 7 Retained Support Officer (RSO) posts to support the current challenges associated with running an effective and sustainable RDS Unit and thereby improving recruitment, retention, appliance availability, training, gathering of operational risk information, liaison with administrative support and enhanced staff engagement. With the Authority's support, Lancashire had one of the finest retained services across the country with the RSO role recognised as best practice.

5. SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17

The Authority noted that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. During 2011/12 the Service was successful in gaining certification to International Health and Safety (OHSAS 18001:2007) and Environmental (ISO 14001:2004) standards and the Service had been recertified without any non-conformance. During 2017/18 there had been 79 accidents, 98 near misses and 14 RIDOR 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 20% by March 2018 which equated to 878 tonnes of CO₂; this delivered savings to date of £644k. Work would continue to improve this area. The report also detailed key safety, health and environmental priorities for 2018/19 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.

6. HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY, FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) - PROGRESS TOWARDS INSPECTION - UPDATE BRIEFING 2

Mr Dave Dryburgh, Service Liaison Lead (Cumbria, Lancashire & Merseyside) from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) was introduced by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and welcomed by the Authority.

Mr Dryburgh advised that the inspection would be a week of field work commencing on 9 July 2018. A strategic briefing would take place on 25 June 2018 which involved Executive Board members presenting to the HMICFRS followed by a meeting with the CFA Chairman. Leading up to that was a data analysis exercise that looked at strategic documents from the Service to get an understanding of how LFRS operated, delivered services and looked after staff; cross-checking the Service was doing what it said it was.

The inspection was under the 3 pillars of: i) Effectiveness: how effective is the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks? ii) Efficiency: how efficient is the FRS at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks? iii) People: how well does the FRS look after its people? The first 2 days would be spent with staff on every duty system. Then the inspection team would speak to Senior Managers in the Service. Taken all together the Service was then graded as either: Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate. A final report could be expected in the winter along with the other 14 Fire Services being inspected in the first tranche.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

LFRS
Fulwood