

**Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority  
15 December 2014 and 16 February 2015**

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**1. Performance Report and Action Plan – Outcomes 2014**

At the CFA Planning Committee meeting on 17 November 2014, Members considered the outcomes of the Performance Report and Action Plan 2014 consultation.

The Planning Committee considered the adequacy of the consultation exercise surrounding the proposals and the conclusions post-consultation and Members duly determined that the consultation had been adequate in scale and scope and endorsed the adoption of the revised Public Consultation Strategy. Members did however have opposing views regarding the proposal to vary the scale and structure of the Home Fire Safety Check Service according to an individual's fire risk and resolved to defer for final decision to the full Authority.

Preventing fires and casualties is an Authority priority and Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) has provided a home fire safety check service to any resident in Lancashire, irrespective of the fire risk at the property. A comprehensive review of the service showed that although Lancashire was delivering 1 in 8 of all Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC's) in England, the casualty rates (the number of people killed or injured in fires) although they demonstrated significant reductions, was no better than many other Services who delivered far fewer HFSCs. The proposal was to vary the scale and structure of the HFSC service according to an individual's fire risk; targeting the most effort and resource toward those who were most vulnerable to fire risk (such as the elderly and homes of multiple occupancy). While those with lower risk would still receive a Home Fire Safety Check service, this would in some cases be delivered in a different way to the traditional visit, for example digitally on the website and by signposting people to product providers. The review also recommended the further development of partnerships with other agencies which had a direct responsibility or contact with vulnerable people, and in particular that LFRS should explore the potential for a much greater increase in the numbers of HFSC's that are delivered by other agencies. In addition, to streamline the processes, a Contact Centre would be adopted to provide a more efficient referral service and prioritisation of risk and administration of any arising visits.

The Authority considered the proposal in full and following a vote, the proposal to vary the scale and structure of the HFSC service was agreed.

**2. Capital Budget 2015/16 – 2019/20 and Revenue Budget 2015/16 – 2018/19**

The Authority noted and endorsed the draft Capital Programme for 2015/16 - 2019/20 and Revenue Budget for 2015/16 - 2018/19.

The Authority also authorised consultation with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers and Trade Unions on the budget proposals and agreed to give further consideration to both at their Budget Fixing Meeting scheduled for 16th February 2015.

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 7 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<sup>st</sup> 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 2015/16 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.