

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 2015/16.

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 2 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 & 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 – 31 March 2015.

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that 2014/15 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 2015/16. 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 2 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 10 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 produce 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.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

LFRS
Fulwood