

**Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority  
7 December 2015**

**1. Welcome to the new Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Combined Fire Authority**

At the Authority meeting, Members welcomed Mr Mark Nolan as the new Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Combined Fire Authority.

**2. Statement of Assurance – 2014/15**

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2012) provides overall strategic direction to English Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs). It sets out the Government's priorities and objectives and places a requirement on all FRA's to provide assurance to their communities and to the Government on financial, governance and operational matters.

The Statement of Assurance was considered and approved by Members. It provides the necessary accountability and transparency to the people of Lancashire and evidences that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service continues to deliver the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

The Statement sits alongside the Service's IRMP, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and recently redesigned Annual Service Plan and Annual Progress Report. It details what measures are in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance remains efficient, economic and effective.

**3. Capital Budget 2016/17 – 2020/21 and Revenue Budget 2016/17 – 2019/20**

The Authority noted and endorsed the draft Capital Programme for 2016/17 - 2020/21 and Revenue Budget for 2016/17 - 2019/20.

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 2016.

**4. Urgent Business – Flooding in Lancashire**

The Chief Fire Officer advised Members of the Service's response to flooding-related incidents over the weekend.

Initially calls in Lancashire were to support stranded motorists and vulnerable people. North of Lancaster city centre an electrical sub-station, on Caton Road became surrounded by rising water. To prevent an outage in the Lancaster area, Electricity North West decided to isolate the supply which serves over 50,000 properties. The Service brought in a high volume pump from Burnley to assist pumping operations into the canal. The water rescue teams were also brought in to assist. As the rain continued to fall the River Lune burst its banks flooding the centre of Lancaster which necessitated the evacuation of buildings including the Fire Station on Cable Street.

Gold command was set up at the Police Headquarters in Hutton with a co-ordinating room set up at Service HQ to match capacity to the volume of calls being received through North West Fire Control. Overall over 400 emergency calls were received of which 278 were within the Lancaster area.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that he had attended the multi-agency Gold command meetings which continued currently in the emergency phase although it was expected to move into the recovery phase within 24 hours. This had been relayed to Peter Holland, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser who attended the Government's contingencies committee Cobra, to discuss the current situation.

Members praised the efforts of staff who had worked exceptionally hard to protect the people of Lancashire. The Authority asked that their appreciation be put on record and communicated to all staff.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA  
Chairman

LFRS  
Fulwood