

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
19 DECEMBER 2016**

1. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE – 2015/16

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.

2. CAPITAL BUDGET 2017/18 – 2021/22 AND REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 – 2021/22

The Authority noted the draft Capital Programme for 2017/18 - 2021/22 and Revenue Budget for 2017/18 - 2021/22.

The Authority authorised consultation with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers and Trade Unions on the budget proposals and agreed to give further consideration to both at the Budget Fixing Meeting scheduled for 20th February 2017.

**3. ADRIAN THOMAS' INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR
FIRE AND RESCUE STAFF IN ENGLAND**

Members considered the Adrian Thomas Review on Conditions of Service which had been published by the Home Office on 3 November 2016. The report contained 45 key findings which needed to be reflected on by the various elements of the Fire Sector (Government, Local Government Association, Chief Fire Officers Association, Unions as well as individual authorities and services). The Review was confined to Fire & Rescue Authorities in England (46) but had a wider impact. The findings were grouped into five areas: i) The working environment; ii) Documented Conditions of Service; iii) Industrial Relations; iv) Retained Duty System; and v) Management of the Fire & Rescue Service.

The publication of the report in November 2016 was two years after the Report was commissioned and a number of comments made had now become historical in context, or overtaken. Similarly, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) could demonstrate its position in a favourable light in respect of many of the findings, as was done in respect of the Sir Ken Knight Review. In effect, many of the issues directly in LFRS' control were being progressed within existing activity. A detailed assessment of the Service's position against the findings of the Report would be presented to the CFA meeting to be held on 20 February 2017.

4. RETAINED DUTY SYSTEM PAY REVIEW

Members considered a report that highlighted the outcome of the RDS Pay Review which had included a comprehensive consultation exercise with staff and representative bodies. The report recommended moving away from the current salary scheme to a hybrid model based on a set reward for commitment and paying separately for actual activity. The proposed changes would result in an additional cost of approximately £300k, which was included in the draft budget. Approximately 80% of personnel would be better off under the proposal and the 20% worse off would receive three years' pay protection.

The Authority approved the revised scheme for implementation on 1 April 2017, subject to a favourable vote from the Fire Brigade Union membership. If the vote was not in favour of the proposal the current standard rebanding exercise would take place for implementation on 1 April 2017.

5. EARLY DAY MOTION – SCRAPPING OF SCHOOL SPRINKLERS

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that notification had been received of an Early Day Motion currently seeking support in the House of Commons with regards to Building Bulletin 100: design for fire safety in schools and the removal of the expectation that automatic fire suppression systems (sprinklers) would be fitted to all but the lowest risk new schools. It was considered that such a move could compromise the safety of children, staff, local communities and firefighters. The Chairman of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer had therefore written to local MPs on behalf of the Authority.

The Authority noted the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer's letter and agreed to add support where appropriate.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

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