

REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY - 26 JUNE 2023

Combined Fire Authority Annual Meeting

The meeting held 26 June was the Authority's Annual Meeting and Members appointed County Councillors D O'Toole and J Shedwick as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority respectively for 2023/24.

Composition Of The Combined Fire Authority

The Composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2023/24 included 2 new Members, Loraine Cox from Lancashire County Council and Graham Baker from Blackpool Council.

Safety During Hajj Campaign

The Authority was advised that the Service expected thousands of Lancashire residents to travel for Hajj (an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia). Therefore, a unique safety-focused UK initiative had been developed with partners (Lancashire Constabulary, Public Health Blackburn with Darwen Council, Lancashire County Council Public Health and The Lancashire Council of Mosques) to produce information that supported people to enjoy the experience and remain safe during and after their journey back home to Lancashire.

An overview of the 'Safety During Hajj Campaign' was presented for information. It was noted that the campaign included a 45-minute presentation which added to religious and cultural information developed by scholars to integrate fire safety information and broader safety information such as what to prepare beforehand, health information and how to keep safe in unfamiliar surroundings amongst a huge volume of people in the locality. The presentation had been delivered to 12 places within Lancashire and 58 organisations across the western world with positive feedback received.

CC Shedwick had attended a Hajj Safety launch event on 2 June 2023 at the Jamia Masjid Ibrahim UK Islamic Mission in Burnley which was opened by Lord Wajid Khan (Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Hajj and Umrah). He commended ACFO Charters, and Mr Patel, Community Safety Advisor for leading this initiative. The presentation delivered at the event was very informative and well received.

ACFO Charters and Mr Patel later attended a live show on Pendle Radio where people were able to dial in. There had been a lot of interest including from organisations with callers from across Europe (France, Belgium and Spain) and from people who had arrived in Mecca.

Annual Safety, Health And Environment Report 2022/23

The Authority noted that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance.

In March 2023 the auditor from British Assessment Bureau carried out a surveillance audit against health and safety standard ISO 45001:2018 and environment ISO 14001: 2015. The scope for both standards was 'The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire'. This broad scope encompassed all Service activities with audit visits to Service HQ site, Service Training Centre, four fire stations that operated different duty systems and to a number of supporting departments. Continued certification was granted without any (minor or major) non-conformance.

DAVID O'TOOLE
Chair

LFRS
Fulwood