

## **Report of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority (CFA) 23 June 2014**

### **1. Combined Fire Authority Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The meeting held 23 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 2014/15.

### **2. Welcome to New Members**

The Chairman thanked past and continuing Members for their help during the past year and for their considerable contributions to the work of the Authority. He welcomed County Councillors Michael Green and Richard Newman-Thompson and Councillor Zamir Khan to the Authority and looked forward to another excellent year of Members working together for the safety and wellbeing of the people of Lancashire.

### **3. North West Fire Control Update**

The Chief Fire Officer advised that the move of call handling from the existing Control Room at Service Headquarters to a joint Fire Control at Warrington took place at the end of May 2014. The North West Fire Control Centre incorporated not just Lancashire but also Cumbria, Cheshire and Manchester Fire and Rescue Services. The arrangements used the most up-to-date technology that had the ability to identify and despatch the nearest appliance for all critical fires. It also had enhanced features such as identifying the location when mobile phones are used and the new arrangements would provide a saving to Lancashire of £800k. As with any project of this scale and magnitude there were always teething problems which had now been largely overcome. Over the course of the next 6 months the systems would be reviewed and any refinements made as necessary. The next Strategy Day would present an opportunity for Members to tour the North West Fire Control and view the Control Room in operation.

### **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 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014. As the body with ultimate responsibility for staff health, safety and environmental compliance it was important that all CFA Members were 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 2013 – 31 March 2014.

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that 2013/14 had seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. The number of accidents where injuries were sustained by LFRS employees was the lowest recorded. 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. Fire Related Prosecutions**

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 April 2014 to 31 May 2014 was endorsed by Members. There had been two fire safety convictions with a potential 5 cases pending. Detailed information was also supplied in relation to 3 Arson Convictions and 4 other convictions during the period.

Members noted that in the case of Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service V Peter Metcalf, Mr Metcalf was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment. This was the most severe sentence imposed nationally by a court since this offence was introduced under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA  
Chairman

LFRS  
Fulwood