

**REPORT OF THE LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (CFA)
19 SEPTEMBER 2016**

1. FLOODING DEBRIEF OUTCOMES AND INVESTMENT

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that the Service had actively taken the opportunity to learn from significant events through multi-agency debriefing sessions with partners and hot debriefing sessions on fire stations. He introduced Area Manager Mark Hutton who presented Members with an overview of the learning from Storms Desmond and Eva which occurred in December 2015 and advised how the Authority's investment would support future improvements.

AM Hutton reminded Members of the impact on Lancashire of the storms which had had the greatest impact in the North of the county. He gave an overview of the Service contribution to the response phase, the debrief processes and lessons learned, including how these had influenced the next Integrated Risk Management Plan, future training, equipment and the provision of flexible swift water rescue capability. It was noted that AM Hutton would be attending a national, multi-agency event the following week to share accumulated learning from the past 12-months where he would be giving an insight into the types and speed of events.

On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman gave thanks to all staff for their flexibility and commitment during that difficult time.

2. FOUR-YEAR SETTLEMENTS

As part of the Local Government Finance Settlement the Secretary of State had announced an offer of four year funding settlements for local authorities in return for publishing an efficiency plan.

The draft four year settlement included in the Local Government Finance Settlement identified a reduction of £1.8m for the current year, with a further reduction of £3.7m over the next three years. As part of the Settlement the Secretary of State announced an offer of four year funding settlements for local authorities, in order to help authorities plan ahead, subject to the Authority wishing to pursue this and the submission of a suitable efficiency plan. Subsequent to this the Secretary of state had re-affirmed that the offer of four year settlements was unaffected by the budget cuts announced earlier in the year. However, it was possible that other changes might arise in the future which could impact upon it. Furthermore, whilst it was not clear what the impact would be of not accepting this offer the Secretary of State had re-iterated that he 'could not guarantee future levels of funding' for councils which declined to submit an efficiency plan, thereby rejecting the four-year settlement. Based on this it was hard to see any scenario whereby those authorities who did not accept the offer subsequently recovered an enhanced settlement.

The Authority approved the recommendation to accept this offer and approved the efficiency plan as presented, thereby giving greater certainty to future funding levels and enhancing financial and service planning.

3. CORPORATE SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Under Section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, employers must prepare, and where necessary revise, a written statement of health and safety policy. The existing safety, health and environment policy document, which was last considered by the Authority in September 2013, had been recently reviewed, amended as required, and was now presented to Members for consideration.

As the health and safety and environment functions were managed in a similar way it was considered appropriate for the Authority to declare its intent for both health and safety and the environment in the same document. Members considered the aims and objectives which were:

- Understand and ensure compliance with safety, health and environmental regulatory and other requirements that apply to our activities;
- Be fully committed to the prevention of injury and ill health to staff and visitors;
- Provide and maintain high facility, workplace and housekeeping standards;
- Continually develop and maintain systems and procedures to ensure that all equipment, plant and premises are safe and do not have an adverse effect on health and wellbeing;
- Consult and communicate with staff and representative bodies promoting Safety, Health, Wellbeing and Environmental expectations and standards;
- Identify hazards, aspects and reduce risks to as low as is reasonably practical whilst being risk aware rather than risk adverse;
- Raise awareness, train staff in safety, health, wellbeing and environmental matters and encourage our staff to play an active role in reducing impacts and risks and contributing to policy and procedural implementation;
- Support staff fitness and wellbeing;
- To plan and set objectives, targets and programmes and monitor and review our systems using proactive and reactive methods to continually improve our safety, health, wellbeing and environmental performance reporting progress each year;
- To implement and adhere to a framework of policies, procedures and processes that comply with the requirements of British and International Standards such as ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001: 2007;
- Have appropriate plans/arrangements to deal with emergency situations;
- Recycle and reduce waste wherever possible and make efficient and environmentally responsible use of energy, water and other natural resources;
- Periodically review our systems especially following safety or environmental events.

The Authority approved the policy which formed an integral part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning and Corporate Planning processes and Business Continuity Arrangements.

FRANK DE MOLFETTA
Chairman

LFRS
Fulwood