

Public Document Pack

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 18 September 2017 in Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton commencing at 10.00 am.

Car parking is available on the Main Drill Ground.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THE AGENDA PAPERS OR REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE INITIALLY CONTACT DIANE BROOKS ON TELEPHONE NUMBER PRESTON (01772) 866720 AND SHE WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST.

Rooms have been made available for Political Group meetings from 0900am onwards, and tea/coffee will be available in the Canteen from 0845am.

Labour Group – Pendle Room

Conservative Group – Lancaster House 3

AGENDA

PART 1 (open to press and public)

Chairman's Announcement – Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Any persons present at the meeting may photograph, film or record the proceedings, during the public part of the agenda. Any member of the press and public who objects to being photographed, filmed or recorded should let it be known to the Chairman who will then instruct that those persons are not photographed, filmed or recorded.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Standing item.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are asked to consider any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 14)

5. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 22 JUNE 2017 OF AUDIT COMMITTEE (Pages 15 - 18)

6. MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY, 26 JUNE 2017 OF STRATEGY GROUP (Pages 19 - 22)

7. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 28 JUNE 2017 OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE (Pages 23 - 36)
8. MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY, 17 JULY 2017 OF PLANNING COMMITTEE (Pages 37 - 46)
9. MINUTES OF MEETING, WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017 OF NORTH WEST FIRE AND RESCUE FORUM (Pages 47 - 54)
10. GRENFELL TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY IN LONDON - HIGH RISE BUILDINGS IN LANCASHIRE - UPDATE

Oral report.

11. FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS (Pages 55 - 60)
12. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS (Pages 61 - 86)
13. MEMBER COMPLAINTS (STANDING ITEM)

Oral report.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority will be held on Monday 18 December 2017 at 1000 hours at Washington Hall Training Centre, Euxton.

15. URGENT BUSINESS

An item of business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Clerk should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Authority is asked to consider whether, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, they consider that the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, indicated under the heading to the item.

Agenda Item 4

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 19 June 2017 at 10.00 am in Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton

MINUTES

PRESENT:

F De Molfetta (Chairman)

Councillors

L Beavers

P Britcliffe

I Brown

S Clarke

D Coleman

J Eaton

N Hennessy

S Holgate

F Jackson

A Kay

M Khan

Z Khan

T Martin

D O'Toole

E Oades

M Parkinson (Vice-Chair)

M Perks

J Shedwick

D Smith

D Stansfield

M Tomlinson

G Wilkins

1/17 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Clerk invited nominations for the appointment of Chairman and County Councillor De Molfetta was nominated for 2017/18. A second nomination was received for County Councillor O'Toole.

Taking the second nomination for County Councillor O'Toole first, the Clerk held a recorded vote and the name of Members who voted for or against the Motion, and those who abstained, are set out below: -

For (9)

P Britcliffe	I Brown	S Clarke
J Eaton	A Kay	M Perks
J Shedwick	D Stansfield	G Wilkins

Against (13)

L Beavers	D Coleman	F De Molfetta
N Hennessy	S Holgate	F Jackson
M Khan	Z Khan	T Martin
L Oades	M Parkinson	D Smith
M Tomlinson		

No Members abstained.

The motion was therefore LOST.

Taking the original nomination for County Councillor De Molfetta, the Clerk held a recorded vote and the names of Members who voted for or against the Motion, and those who abstained, are set out below: -

For (12)

L Beavers	D Coleman	N Hennessy
S Holgate	F Jackson	M Khan
Z Khan	T Martin	L Oades
M Parkinson	D Smith	M Tomlinson

Against (10)

P Britcliffe	I Brown	S Clarke
J Eaton	A Kay	D O'Toole
M Perks	J Shedwick	D Stansfield
G Wilkins		

No Members abstained.

The motion was therefore CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: - That County Councillor De Molfetta be appointed Chairman of the Combined Fire Authority for 2017/18.

On taking the Chair, County Councillor De Molfetta thanked past and continuing Members for their considerable contributions to the work of the Authority.

2/17 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairman and County Councillor Parkinson was nominated for 2017/18. A second nomination was received for County Councillor Shedwick.

Taking the second nomination for County Councillor Shedwick first, the Clerk held a recorded vote and the name of Members who voted for or against the Motion, and those who abstained, are set out below: -

For (9)

P Britcliffe	I Brown	S Clarke
J Eaton	A Kay	D O'Toole
M Perks	D Stansfield	G Wilkins

Against (13)

L Beavers	D Coleman	F De Molfetta
N Hennessy	S Holgate	F Jackson
M Khan	Z Khan	T Martin
L Oades	M Parkinson	D Smith
M Tomlinson		

No Members abstained.

The motion was therefore LOST.

Taking the original nomination for County Councillor Parkinson, the Clerk held a recorded vote and the names of Members who voted for or against the Motion, and those who abstained, are set out below: -

For (12)

L Beavers	D Coleman	F De Molfetta
N Hennessy	S Holgate	F Jackson
M Khan	Z Khan	T Martin
L Oades	D Smith	M Tomlinson

Against (10)

P Britcliffe	I Brown	S Clarke
J Eaton	A Kay	D O'Toole
M Perks	J Shedwick	D Stansfield
G Wilkins		

No Members abstained.

The motion was therefore CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED: - That County Councillor Parkinson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Combined Fire Authority for 2017/18.

3/17 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Chairman advised that as a mark of respect for the bereaved, the survivors and all those affected by the Grenfell Tower fire in London there would be a minute's silence held at 11:00am.

4/17 COMPOSITION OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

RESOLVED: - That the Composition approved by the 3 Constituent Authorities for 2017/18 for the Combined Fire Authority be noted and endorsed, and the 11 new Members appointed to serve on the Authority for 2017/18 (namely, County Councillors: Beavers, Brown, Clarke, Eaton, Hennessy, Howarth, Kay, Martin, Tomlinson and Wilkins, appointed by Lancashire County Council and Councillor Coleman appointed by Blackpool Council) be welcomed.

5/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor David Howarth and Councillor Tony Williams.

6/17 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

7/17 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

The Chairman, County Councillor De Molfetta presented the proposed Chairmen and Vice Chairmen for the Authority's Committees. He also confirmed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Strategy Group were the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority.

RESOLVED: -

(1) That in accordance with Standing Order 5.1(b) of the Authority, the following members be appointed as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees of the CFA for 2017/18.

- (i) Appeals
 - County Councillor L Beavers (Chairman) (LAB)
 - County Councillor G Wilkins (Vice-Chairman) (CON)
- (ii) Audit
 - County Councillor M Tomlinson (Chairman) (LAB)
 - County Councillor J Shedwick (Vice-Chairman) (CON)
- (iii) Performance
 - County Councillor S Holgate (Chairman) (LAB)
 - Councillor M Khan (Vice-Chairman) (LAB)
- (iv) Planning
 - County Councillor M Parkinson (Chairman) (LAB)
 - Councillor F Jackson (Vice-Chairman) (LAB)
- (v) Resources
 - County Councillor F De Molfetta (Chairman) (LAB)
 - County Councillor N Hennessy (Vice-Chairman) (LAB)

(2) That Councillor D Smith be appointed as Chairman and County Councillor I Brown be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Member Training and Development Working Group for 2017/18.

(3) That County Councillor D O'Toole be appointed as Chairman of the Injury Pensions Sub-Committee for 2017/18.

8/17 MEMBER CHAMPIONS

The concept of Member Champions was introduced in December 2007. Since then the areas of focus for Member Champions had not been reviewed. This paper looked at the terminology and the areas in which Member Champions could add maximum value to the Service and offers some opportunities for improvement.

Following consideration the Authority approved the following revised areas of:

Community Safety;
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;
Health and Wellbeing; and
Road Safety.

CC O'Toole requested that the Champion for Community Safety consider the universal provision of free smoke alarms.

The Chairman, County Councillor De Molfetta presented the proposed Champions and it was:

RESOLVED: - That the following Members be appointed as Champions for 2017/18:

- (i) Community Safety - County Councillor Mark Perks;
- (ii) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan;
- (iii) Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Tony Martin;
- (iv) Road Safety – Councillor Fred Jackson.

9/17 REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Authority is requested to determine its representation on outside bodies for the 2017/18 municipal year.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the County Councillor F De Molfetta, Chairman of the Authority is authorised to cast the Authority's vote at the LGA Annual General Assembly;
- ii) That County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson (as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority) be appointed to the Local Government Association Fire Commission;
- iii) That County Councillor De Molfetta, Chairman of the Authority can authorise additional representation(s) to either the LGA Fire Commission or the Fire Services Management Committee as appropriate;
- iv) That 2 members of the Labour Group and 1 member of the Conservative Group (County Councillors F De Molfetta, M Parkinson and D O'Toole, as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and main Opposition Spokesperson) be appointed to serve as representatives on the North West Fire Forum for 2017/18.
- v) That County Councillors F De Molfetta and M Parkinson (as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority) be appointed as North West Fire Control Directors for 2017/18.

10/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

CC Wilkins queried whether resolution 97/16 referred to no complaints received or no complaints processed. In response, the Clerk confirmed that no complaints had been received.

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the CFA held 24 April 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

11/17 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/18 AND 2018/19

RESOLVED: - That a report on a proposed programme of meetings for the Combined Fire Authority for 2017/18 and 2018/19 be noted and the Authority agree the programme of meetings below: -

2017/18

18 September 2017

18 December 2017 (1st Budget Meeting)

19 February 2018 (2nd Budget Meeting)

2018/19

23 April 2018

18 June 2018 (Annual Meeting of the CFA)

17 September 2018

17 December 2018 (1st Budget Meeting)

18 February 2019 (2nd Budget Meeting)

12/17 RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON

Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 made provision in relation to standards matters. The Authority has a duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members which includes the appointment of one or more Independent Persons.

At its meeting held 22 June 2015 Mrs Hilary Banks was re-appointed to the role of Independent Person for a further term of 2 years, continuing in that role until June 2017 with the option for Mrs Banks to continue to hold office after that date if the Authority so wished and she was prepared to do so (resolution 08/15 refers). The Authority was asked to consider formally extending the period of office for a further period of 2 years.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority re-appoints Mrs Hilary Banks as the Authority's Independent Person as required by the Localism Act for further a period of 2 years thereby continuing in that role until the CFA AGM in June 2019 with an option to continue to hold office after that date if the Authority so wished and Mrs Banks was so prepared.

13/17 MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 26 APRIL 2017 OF MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

The Chairman of the Member Training and Development Working Group, Councillor Smith presented the proceedings of the Member Training & Development Working Group meeting held on 26 April 2017.

CC O'Toole asked that the Group consider better use of IT systems particularly the mode of claiming expenses. Cllr Smith confirmed that better use of IT was happening slowly and that there was an item on the Strategy Group agenda for discussion the following week.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Member Training & Development Working Group held on 26 April 2017 be noted and endorsed.

14/17 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION 2016/17 AND ANNUAL ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVES UPDATE

The Authority considered the year end performance information which was set against Service Key Performance Indicators. In addition, Members were updated on the road safety initiatives carried out over the last 12 months across the County. It was noted that performance management information was normally considered by the Performance Committee, however in light of the changes to the Authority following County Council Elections it had been agreed to present the year end performance for information to the full Authority. The summary of the full year's performance within Lancashire was highlighted in Appendix 1, Measuring Progress report, as now presented.

CC Britcliffe asked for clarification that his understanding of why the Performance Committee meeting was cancelled was because of the General Election and not because of the County Council elections. As a Member of the Performance Committee he would have attended the meeting given he had been re-appointed and re-selected as an Authority Member. CC Holgate as Chairman of the Performance Committee confirmed he had determined that the meeting be cancelled in case of poor attendance due to the General Elections and on the understanding that there was a discussion at this meeting. CC Britcliffe asked for clarification from the Clerk that he was considered to be a Member of this Authority on 8 June 2017. The Clerk agreed to clarify this separately outside the meeting.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer explained that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service had achieved its best ever performance results and asked that his gratitude for the efforts of all staff within the Service be placed on record.

He highlighted that: -

- There had been a 10% reduction in accidental fires in people's homes over the previous year, equating to almost 100 fewer fires, and a 24% reduction than there was 5 years ago;
- The number of people killed within dwelling fires had fallen by half of that recorded 5 years ago, and these were at their lowest since 2005/06;
- Fire within buildings (other than dwellings) were at an all-time low and had reduced by 25% over the last 5 years;
- Similarly, deliberate secondary fires, which were fires related to anti-social behaviour, were at a 10 year low, and had reduced by 72% over that time.
- Accidents to staff continue to decrease with 2016/17 recording one of the lowest counts over the last 10 years.

In response to a question raised by CC Hennessy in relation to Exception Report 2.1.1, 'Critical Fire Response – 1st Fire Engine Attendance' the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that this indicator had been in exception all year and that there was a link between the call handling time and the time of response. The actions taken to improve performance included that the Heads of Service Delivery monitored firefighter performance and at the last meeting of the Committee the Head of North West Fire Control (NWFC) had attended to answer Member questions. Assurances were given that NWFC data was not directly comparable with the Service's data, new systems had been added and there had been a number of external changes. The Committee requested the Head of North West Fire Control provide a plan of action report to a

future meeting. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer wanted to recognise the professionalism of NWFC in the provision of the best service they could and confirmed that he would be inviting representatives to attend Performance Committee meetings every 6 months to discuss this issue. CC Shedwick asked that the Committee also look at the training progression of new control staff. CC Holgate, Chairman of the Performance Committee invited all Members to attend any future meetings of the Committee as observers and he would welcome their participation in discussion and debate.

For the benefit of new Members, CC O'Toole explained the background and membership of the North West Fire and Rescue Forum. He found it disturbing that call handling performance continued to be below the agreed standard and requested that the Authority's Members on the Forum provide regular updates on this to the Authority.

The Service continued to work with partners in reducing the numbers of road traffic collisions and improving outcomes. Through a partnership approach Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service had been working to improve road safety outcomes and work with partners to deliver various initiatives which were outlined in Appendix 2, as now presented.

Councillor Jackson as Road Safety Champion appreciated the dedication of staff to road safety. The Service was now very much a part of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. He had attended some of the Road Safety Thematic Group meetings and was very impressed with the work being done. He appealed to all Members to publicise wherever possible the training available which, although difficult to quantify, he was confident had had a positive impact on the number of accidents on the road.

In light of personal experience, CC Wilkins asked that the 'Biker Down' Course be well publicised and shared. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that this programme was one aspect of the Road Safety Programme which was running across the Service in a number of small locations with the intention being to roll this out more widely in the future.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer highlighted that:

- The Service had a representative on the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. The partners worked very closely with each other and utilised the partnership strategy, 'Towards Zero Lancashire: Road Safety Strategy For Lancashire 2016 – 2026' in an attempt to reduce those killed or seriously injured on our roads in Lancashire;
- The Road Safety Thematic Group had developed a new road safe primary school package for year 6;
- The Service had developed and promoted a young driver road safety education programme entitled 'Wasted Lives' which was aimed at young and pre-drivers and aimed to influence behaviour and change attitudes either as a driver or a passenger, thereby reducing risk to this specific group and other road users. To date this programme had been delivered to over 80,000 young people throughout Lancashire.
- The Service worked in partnership with emergency services and families affected by road collisions to present real life stories and share emotional experiences to support the reduction of young people killed or seriously injured on Lancashire's

roads. Members were actively encouraged to attend to observe a 'Safe Drive Stay Alive' session. To date 13,413 students had seen this hard hitting educational programme.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority note and endorse the contents of the report.

15/17 SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17

The Authority considered the Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report for Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service covering the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

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 2016 to 31 March 2017.

The Director of People and Development was pleased to report that the Service had again seen a very positive year in terms of overall safety, health and environment performance. The number of accidents to LFRS staff was the second lowest on record with 58 events being reported of which only 25 resulted in lost time accidents. The Health and Safety Executive was notified under RIDDOR regarding 16 events, 1 major specified injury, 14 for over 7 day absences following accidents and 1 for a dangerous occurrence for a breathing apparatus set failure. The Service continued to deliver projects to manage health and wellbeing, learn from accidents and provide operational assurance, reduce its carbon emissions, review National Operational Guidance, research and develop equipment and firefighting techniques to ensure firefighter safety etc. 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.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority note and endorse the report and associated safety, health and environment performance outcomes.

16/17 POLICY ON DEALING WITH HABITUAL AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS - ANNUAL UPDATE

At its meeting held 20 June 2016 the Authority adopted a formal Policy on Dealing with Habitual and Vexatious Complaints (resolution 13/16 refers) which was fair and proportionate, yet which did not prevent genuine complaints from being properly investigated and fair and equitable outcomes promulgated.

The Policy on Dealing with Habitual and Vexatious Complaints identified situations where a complainant, either individually or as part of a group, or a group of complainants might be considered to be habitual or vexatious. It set out the

definitions of habitual or vexatious complainants and the process that the Authority followed.

The Clerk reported that during the previous 12 months there had been 2 complainants who were judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious (including one complainant, who along with others had taken part in a joint course of action, as part of a joint enterprise). Those individuals had given cause for concern within the last 12 months as a result of action taken on their part which unequivocally demonstrated that they remained vexatious and habitual complainants and they would be informed in writing of their continuing status, in open correspondence from the Clerk.

The Clerk had reviewed the Policy to ensure that it remained appropriate, proportionate and effective to the needs of Members, Officers and staff.

In response to a request by CC O'Toole for particular emphasis to be put on the provision of support to Members, the Clerk confirmed that full support would be provided by him and the Executive Board members, given the distressing nature of some of these complaints which could involve inaccurate or misleading issues of integrity for Members.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted and endorsed.

17/17 FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 April 2017 to 31 May 2017 was provided.

In addition, Fire Protection and Business Support Information was included in the report which included an update on the Primary Authority Scheme, Business Safety Advisors activity, details of public events and the publication of Arson Risk Reduction Guidance for use by all Fire and Rescue Services.

RESOLVED: - that the Authority noted the report.

18/17 COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

This report included information for the 2 Unitary and 12 District Authorities relating to Community Fire Safety Initiatives and Fires and Incidents of particular interest.

As part of this report Jane Williams, Prevention Support Manager gave a presentation to Members on what the Service was doing to support people living in Lancashire with dementia. This included:

- Dementia prompt stickers (examples provided);
- Dementia buddies (example provided);
- Dementia Action Alliances;
- Dementia Friends; and,
- Dementia Cafes and Events.

In response to Members' questions, the Prevention Support Manager gave reassurance that the activities were sustainable in light of increasing demands. The aim was for all Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service staff to become Dementia Friends

and staff were enthusiastic. She confirmed that the prompt stickers had been produced with the involvement of a focus group and checked by the Alzheimer's Society and they were now being used by other Fire and Rescue Services.

Members then considered the report.

In relation to the report for Blackburn with Darwen, Councillor Smith queried the Service's approach to high risks fires at waste recycling units. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised there had been a spate of these fires in Lancashire and the Service worked closely with partners such as the Environmental Agency. When aware of the existence of a site, a site-specific risk assessment would be undertaken to consider how the Service would respond.

CC Shedwick was very encouraged to see the involvement of the Women's Institute at the Dementia Open Day held in the Wyre area and he was pleased to see Preesall Fire Cadets had supported the community through helping to decorate the Fire Station.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

19/17 MEMBER COMPLAINTS (STANDING ITEM)

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there had been no complaints since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: - That the current position be noted.

20/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority would be held on Monday 18th September 2017 at 1000 hours at the Training Centre, Euxton.

21/17 URGENT BUSINESS - GRENFELL TOWER FIRE TRAGEDY IN LONDON - HIGH RISE BUILDINGS IN LANCASHIRE

The Chief Fire Officer introduced Group Manager Tony Crook to inform Members on the Grenfell Tower Fire investigation process and the actions being undertaken to reassure the public in Lancashire.

GM Crook advised that NWFC was a buddy control for London and they had handled 18 direct calls. The incident was already subject to critical investigation and the Government had ordered a Public Inquiry. The Police were treating the investigation as a potential crime and the fire investigation would seek to find answers on how the fire was started, whether the construction and design of the building contributed, if the alerting and evacuation systems and policies were adequate and whether the fire risk management requirements were being met.

The stay put policy was an accepted standard for high rise premises intended to keep people safely compartmentalised for up to 2 hours while firefighters extinguished the fire. If all residents evacuated at once, the resulting congestion on the staircases in the building would dangerously hinder escape and would compromise access for firefighters.

The Local Housing Authority Act 2004 provided for Local Authorities to be responsible for housing conditions and standards with the Fire and Rescue Service only able to comment on the communal parts of the premises through the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Across Lancashire there were 73 High Rise premises (residential and non-residential) listed as high rise (6 floors and above). Sixty-nine of those were residential, either students' halls of residence or occupied by the general public. All have had a fire safety audit between 2010 and 2017.

The 69 were located as follows:-

- 7 in our Eastern/Pennine Area (1 students' hall of residence)
- 18 in our Central/Southern Area (3 halls of residence)
- 12 in our Western Area (none of them halls of residence)
- 31 in our Northern Area (13 of them halls of residence)

In Lancashire there were 3 Local Authority owned high-rise premises all of which had been re-inspected the previous week.

Since 1 January 2017 there had been 18 primary fires in dwellings of 5 storeys or above. All fire spread had remained within the room of origin. The total number of casualties was 2 at one fire.

Fire crews were last trained in operational procedures in May 2017 as part of a scheduled 2-year frequency. Training was updated to incorporate lessons learnt from recent high rise fires of Harrow Court and Lakanal House.

Investment had been made in telemetry and facilities to prevent entanglement as a direct result of learning from previous national incidents in high rise premises.

Firefighters and community fire safety staff were out and about in all areas, reassuring the public, providing face-to-face guidance on key messages in respect of fire plans, the use of lifts, evacuation, smoke alarms and dialling 999.

Additionally, the Service had begun an immediate review of the high rise accommodation fire safety provision in Lancashire, regardless of how recently they were last audited.

In addition, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer would be arranging a Lancashire Resilience Forum meeting to agree the Lancashire county activities undertaken by partners and how these should be coordinated / captured.

What we tell anyone reporting a fire in high rise premises

If the Fire Plan for the building is not 'Stay Put'

- Get Out Stay Out;
- Follow Evacuation Policy;
- Do not use the lift;
- If you find that you can't get to a safe place, ring the fire service again on 999.

Or for 'Stay Put'

- If there is a 'Stay Put' policy and the caller is safe and is not in the flat where the fire is, then stay put;
- If the situation changes, then inform the fire service immediately, dialling 999;
- If the caller wants to evacuate then we ask them to follow the building's evacuation route;
- If they can't get to a safe place, ring the fire service again on 999.

In response to a question from the Chairman as to whether there were any Service buildings that had cladding in Lancashire it was confirmed that Preston fire station was renovated 10 years ago and the building was being assessed that day; also Lancaster fire station had been clad which had already been inspected.

CC Wilkins had noticed that drones were used to survey Grenfell Tower and he queried whether Lancashire had this facility. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer was the National Lead for drones in the UK. Lancashire was leading the way as the only Service registered to use its drone across the country. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer would demonstrate the drone to Members at the next Strategy Group meeting the following week.

CC Holgate queried whether the Fire Service was kept informed of building renovations as these may compromise a 'stay put' policy. GM Crook confirmed that there was a procedure in place through local authority building control consultations to ensure that the Service could comment on alterations to buildings and the Service had a rolling risk-based inspection programme to inspect high risk premises.

CC O'Toole expressed concern that members of the public would obey a 'stay put' policy. The Chief Fire Officer agreed that it could be difficult for people to 'stay put' if this was required; and which depended on the building design. It was clear at Grenfell Tower that something had gone badly wrong and that there could be a need to adapt or adopt new policies in the future.

It was noted that support was available to assist businesses to comply with fire safety regulations; information was available from www.lancsbusinessplus.org.uk / www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 June 2017, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

M Tomlinson (Chairman)
S Clarke
S Holgate
A Kay
M Khan
Z Khan (for D Smith)
J Shedwick (Vice-Chair)

Officers

K Mattinson, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)

In attendance

C Stead, External Audit, Grant Thornton
J Taylor, Internal Audit, Lancashire County Council

1/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Dave Smith.

2/17 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

3/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 March 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4/17 EXTERNAL AUDIT - UNDERSTANDING HOW THE COMMITTEE GAINS ASSURANCE FROM MANAGEMENT

In order to comply with Auditing Standards, the External Auditors, Grant Thornton were required to obtain an assurance as to how those charged with governance discharged their responsibilities in connection with the risk of fraud and breaches of internal controls, as set out in their letter dated June 2017, copy considered by Members.

A response had been prepared by the Chairman of the Audit Committee which was considered by Members. It was noted that the Chairman of Resources Committee had provided a similar response in connection with the oversight of the annual accounts process and financial reporting.

RESOLVED: - That the Audit Committee approved and endorsed the submission of the response.

5/17 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

The report was presented by Judith Taylor, Senior Auditor, Lancashire County Council. The Internal Audit Annual Report summarised the work that the Internal Audit Service had undertaken during 2016/17 and the key themes arising from it. It provided an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the systems of governance, risk management and internal control. It was made under the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), with which the Internal Audit Service conforms.

On the basis of programme of work for the year, the Head of Internal Audit had provided substantial assurance over the framework of governance, risk management and control for 2016/17. It was their opinion that there was a generally sound system of internal control, adequately designed to meet the objectives of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the controls were generally applied consistently.

The opinion was based on the individual assurance levels provided for each of the individual audit reviews undertaken in 2016/17, detailed in the report now presented to Members.

The work of the Internal Auditor was one of the key control measures in place within the Authority. As such, the annual report provided an assurance to Members that risks were being managed and controlled, and fed the Authority's overall assessment of the internal controls that operated within the Service.

RESOLVED: - That the Audit Committee noted and endorsed the report.

6/17 EXTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members considered a report from Grant Thornton, the external auditors presented by Caroline Stead which detailed progress at June 2017 in relation to the financial statements and value for money conclusion for 2016/17. The report also set out technical matters in relation to changes to the governance framework and changes to the format of the annual accounts. In addition, the report detailed emerging issues and developments which had been identified as relevant to the sector but were not specific issues relating to the performance of this Authority.

RESOLVED: - That the Audit Committee noted and endorsed the report.

7/17 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

The Authority was required to produce an Annual Governance Statement as part of the year end process for 2016/17. The Audit Committee had previously approved a revised Code of Corporate Governance, in line with guidance produced jointly by

CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants) and SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives).

In order to assess the effectiveness of the Authority's current arrangements a self assessment had been undertaken by the Service's Executive Board who had considered the various sources of assurance that supported the core principles outlined in the Code of Corporate Governance, considered by Members under appendix 1 now presented. One of the key elements of this was external assurance on our systems, and this was provided by our auditors, both of whom provided positive reports, and by the previous years' Operational Assessment undertaken by Peer Review Team which found 'nothing of significance' that would cause problems.

The assessment also considered recommendations made as part of last year's Annual Governance Statement, and an update on the position in respect of these was considered by Members under appendix 2 as now presented.

The review highlighted a number of areas for further improvement and reviewed progress against recommendations made as part of last year's Annual Governance Statement. As part of the review, the Service was required to identify and disclose any significant internal control issues of which there had been none.

The overall conclusion of the Annual Governance Statement was that the system of internal controls was adequate, and that no significant governance issues had been identified.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee approve the self-assessment and the Annual Governance Statement as now presented.

8/17 RISK MANAGEMENT

The report highlighted action taken in respect of corporate risk since the last Audit Committee meeting. The latest review of the corporate risk register had not identified any new risks which warranted inclusion on the corporate risk register.

An updated corporate risk register was considered by Members with changes summarised in the report.

RESOLVED: - That the Audit Committee noted the actions taken and endorsed the revised corporate risk register.

9/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Thursday 28 September 2017 at 10:00 hours in the Main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

Further meeting dates were agreed for 25 January 2018 and 22 March 2018.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 18 September 2017

NOTES OF STRATEGY GROUP HELD ON MONDAY, 26 JUNE 2017

Contact for further information:

Diane Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer - Tel No (01772) 866720

Executive Summary

Report on proceedings of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Strategy Group held at the Service Training Centre, Euxton on Monday, 26 June 2017.

Recommendation

That the Authority note the proceedings as set out in this report.

PRESENT:

Councillors

I Brown	T Martin
S Clarke	D O'Toole
F De Molfetta (Chairman)	M Perks
J Eaton	J Shedwick
N Hennessy	D Stansfield
D Howarth	M Tomlinson
F Jackson	

Information

1 EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW

For the benefit of new Members the Chief Fire Officer explained that the Emergency Cover Review (ECR) was a strategic county-wide review of: fire stations, fire engines and operational staff to ensure all were in the right place and in the right numbers to respond to the levels of risk and activity.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer gave a presentation that set out the key objectives, scope, methodology and key areas of focus for the Emergency Cover Review process this year.

Details would be formally presented to the next Planning Committee scheduled for 17 July 2017 prior to a twelve-week consultation period. The Planning Committee scheduled for 27 November 2017 would consider the adequacy of the consultation process and if satisfied make final recommendations to the full CFA meeting scheduled for 18 December 2017.

2 NATIONAL STRUCTURES

The Chief Fire Officer explained that the Government had sought more effective arrangements for Fire and Rescue Services which had resulted in a number of developments in recent years including: Sir Ken Knight's Report – Facing the Future; Police and Crime Commissioner elections; Enabling Closer Work between Emergency Services – Consultation; the move to the Home Office and the Policing and Crime Act.

The Chief Fire Officer advised on the impact of these changes on different Fire Authorities across the country. He outlined Lancashire's strong partnership arrangements (including: collaboration with other blue light services); the potential implications of moving to the Home Office and the developments within the Chief Fire Officers Association and actions for Lancashire were discussed.

3 ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO COMMITTEE PAPERS

As agreed at the last Member Training and Development Working Group Members received a presentation on how they could electronically access their committee papers through an automated link sent via email and through an App for iPad/Tablet users following a short registration/security process. The App was demonstrated to show ease of access to the Authority's committee agenda packs and minutes, ease of navigation and annotation. The system was already in use at Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council and was proven to be secure. The increased use of technology enabled efficiencies to be made by moving away from printing paper copies in line with individual preferences.

4 RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT - CURRENT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES

The Head of Fleet and Engineering, John Hargreaves together with Station Manager Steve Chappell presented Members with current and future research and development initiatives (high pressure cutter, battery operated tools, fog spikes and piercing nozzles, plus size person mat, unmanned aerial vehicles (drone), personal protective equipment and alternative fire and rescue vehicles). As part of the presentation Members received a demonstration of the drone and the water tower vehicle.

Business Risk

None

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper N/A	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28 June 2017, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

F De Molfetta (Chairman)
D Coleman
N Hennessy (Vice-Chair)
T Martin
D O'Toole
D Stansfield
M Tomlinson (for L Beavers)

Officers

C Kenny, Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
K Mattinson, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS)
B Warren, Director of People and Development (LFRS)
J Bowden, Head of Finance (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)

1/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors L Beavers and G Wilkins and Councillors F Jackson and T Williams.

2/17 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

3/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 29 March 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4/17 EXTERNAL AUDIT - UNDERSTANDING HOW THE COMMITTEE GAINS ASSURANCE FROM MANAGEMENT

In order to comply with International Auditing Standards, the External Auditors, Grant Thornton was required to obtain an assurance as to how those charged with governance discharged their responsibilities in connection with oversight of the annual accounts process and financial reporting. The letter requesting this was considered by Members. A draft response prepared by the Chairman of the Resources Committee was also considered by Members. It was noted that the Audit

Committee had provided a similar response in connection with the risk of fraud and breaches of internal controls.

In response to Member queries the Director of Corporate Services provided reassurance that it was usual practice for the response letter to the external auditors to be prepared as a draft for consideration by Members at this meeting. Any changes approved by the Committee would then be incorporated into the letter before signing by the Committee Chairman.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee approve and endorse the submission of the response.

5/17 YEAR END TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2016/17

The report set out the Authority's borrowing and lending activities during 2016/17.

All borrowing and investment activities undertaken throughout the year were in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17, and were based on anticipated spending and interest rates prevailing at the time.

In accordance with the updated CIPFA Treasury Management code of practice and to strengthen Members' oversight of the Authority's treasury management activities, the Resources Committee received regular updates on treasury management issues including a mid-year report and a final outturn report. Reports on treasury activity were discussed on a quarterly basis with Lancashire County Council Treasury Management Team and the Director of Corporate Services and the content of these reports was used as a basis for this report to the Committee.

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the economic situation in the year was largely dominated by the uncertainty about the short and medium term implications of the decision in June 2016 to leave the European Union. In response to the risk of reduced economic growth, the Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee initiated a cut in bank rate to 0.25%, further gilt and corporate bond purchases and cheap funding for banks to maintain supply of credit to the economy.

The year had seen steady economic growth. Inflation remained low in the first half of 2016 but there had been signs of this increasing towards the end of the year with inflation measured at 2.3% at March 2017. Since the referendum vote the value of sterling had fallen and this was a significant factor behind the increase in inflation.

The year had seen significant volatility in the financial markets as a result of both the UK vote to leave the European Union (EU) and the election of the President of the USA. As a consequence of the uncertainty gilt yields fell, the UK's sovereign rated was downgraded to AA and the value of sterling fell. The impact of the negotiations to leave the EU would be a source of ongoing uncertainty.

Short term interest rates continued at historically very low levels. In response to a potential reduction in economic growth the Bank of England reduced the base rate from 0.5% to 0.25% in August 2016; a level it remained at throughout the rest of the year. The expectation during the year was that interest rates would remain low for the rest of the financial year and beyond.

Cash flow and interest rates continued to be monitored by the Director of Corporate Services and the County Council's Treasury Management team in order to inform future decisions on borrowing and investments.

There had been no new borrowing undertaken in the year in line with the continuation of the policy of using cash balances to fund capital expenditure which had resulted in no new borrowing being undertaken since 2007. In addition, the Authority had a policy to set aside monies in the form of statutory and voluntary minimum revenue provisions to reduce borrowing requirements and enable the repayment of debt as it matured. The estimated balance at 31 March 2016 was £5.682m and therefore during the year a maturing debt of £0.250m was repaid.

In response to a question raised by CC O'Toole on whether it would be prudent to use reserves to pay off some of the debt the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that exercises had been undertaken and reported to the Authority previously but that these had concluded that as a result of the premium associated with the early repayment of the debt this was not deemed to be cost effective.

Members requested the Director of Corporate Services bring a report to a future meeting setting out facts, figures, options and consequences of using reserves to pay off some of the debt.

Investments

Both the CIPFA Code and the CLG Guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return or yield. Throughout the year when investing money the key aim was to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return.

Two long term investments were held with UK local authorities as outlined in the report. In addition, the Authority had access to the call account provided by Lancashire County Council which paid the base rate throughout 2016/17. Each working day the balance on the Authority's current account was invested in this to ensure that the interest received on surplus balances was maximised. The average balance in this account during the year was £32.4m earning interest of £0.105m.

The overall interest earned during this period was £0.305m at a rate of 0.72% which compared favourably with the benchmark 7 day notice index which averaged 0.36% over the same period.

All the investments were made in accordance with the current Treasury Management Strategy and the CIPFA treasury management code of practice.

In order to control and monitor the Authority's treasury management functions, a number of prudential indicators had been determined against which performance could be measured. The revised indicators for 2016/17 were presented alongside the actual outturn position.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee note and endorse the outturn position report.

The report presented the year end position for the Authority's capital programme including how this had been financed, which showed total expenditure in year of £3.508m compared with a total budget of £8.823m with a slippage requirement of £5.354m which resulted in an overall overspend of £0.039m. The slippage was a timing issue dependent on the progress of capital schemes and not an indication of future underspends.

The year end capital outturn position, set out in appendix 1 also showed how the programme had been financed in year, from a combination of capital grant (£2.0m) and revenue contributions (£1.5m). Over the next five years the capital reserves, available to fund future capital programmes outlined in the report now presented, would leave a balance of £3.0m in capital reserves as at 31/3/22.

Under the prudential framework, the Authority was required to identify various indicators to determine whether the approved capital programme was affordable, prudent and sustainable. The revised indicators, after allowing for the various changes to the capital programme, which were set out in the report confirmed that performance had been within approved limits.

The estimated impact on band D council tax of the revised capital programme compared to the actual outturn figures was considered by Members and it was noted that the net impact was zero.

The original approved capital programme for 2017/18 was £8.179m which excluded any estimated slippage from 2016/17. This had been amended to reflect the final level of slippage of £5.354m therefore, the final proposed capital programme for 2017/18 was £13.534m which was funded from capital grant, revenue contributions, capital reserves and earmarked reserves. Full details of the programme and its funding were set out in Appendix 2 and considered by Members.

Revised prudential indicators for 2017/18 to 2019/20 showed that the revised programme remained affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The estimated impact of slippage on band D council tax was considered by Members and noted that there was no net impact in each of the 3 years.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee: -

- i. Note the capital outturn position, the financing of capital expenditure 2016/17 and the prudential indicators, and
- ii. Approve the revised capital programme, and the financing of this, for 2017/18.

7/17 YEAR END REVENUE OUTTURN 2016/17

The report set out the revenue outturn position, which fed into the Income and Expenditure Statement within the main Statement of Accounts and the impact of the revenue outturn position on the Authority's reserves.

The annual budget for the year had been amended to reflect a slight increase in the

Section 31 grant due in respect of localised business rates for the preceding financial year, which had been subject to reconciliation by CLG. This had resulted in an additional £0.012m of Section 31 grant being received in 2016/17. The outturn position showed a net expenditure of £55.556m against an updated budget of £55.623m giving a total underspend for the financial year of £0.067m.

As reported throughout the year, the Service had identified savings at the earliest possible opportunity following the completion of reviews. The final position within individual departments was set out in Appendix 1 with major variances summarised in the report.

The report identified total in-year efficiency savings of £2.502m compared with a target of £3.971m, performance exceeded the efficiency target, largely as a result of staffing savings made and procurement savings in respect of contracts let during the year.

The Authority held 3 specific revenue reserves: Devolved Financial Management, PFI Equalisation and Other Earmarked Reserves. The impact of the year end position on the reserves was set out in a table, as now presented and the following was noted: -

- Devolved Financial Management (DFM) reserves enabled budget holders to carry forward any surplus or deficit from one financial year to the next, giving greater flexibility in managing budgets thereby optimising the use of available financial resources and facilitating better value for money.

The principles of DFM were that any overspends and 50% of any underspends were carried forward into the new financial year, subject to a £25k maximum, other than where a specific business case could be made. The remaining 50% of any underspend was transferred to the Authority's general reserve. The total DFM balance stood at £426k; full details by department were set out in Appendix 2;

- The PFI Equalisation Reserve was used to smooth out the annual net cost to the Authority of both PFI schemes and would be required to meet future contract payments. The level of reserves required was reviewed each year to ensure it was sufficient given changes in forecast inflation and interest rates. The reserves had been updated during the year, resulting in a revised balance of £3.5m;
- Other Earmarked Reserves were to fund a specific purpose. The overall reserves level had increased from £5.7m to £3.5m.

In addition, the General Reserve carried forward all surpluses and deficits that arose in year and was designed to cover uncertainties in future years' budgets; to meet short-term loss of funding and to provide flexibility in terms of medium-term financial planning. As a precepting Authority any surpluses or deficits were transferred into/out of reserves in order to meet future potential commitments, and as such the balance of the surplus on the revenue budget, £0.26m had been transferred into this reserve. After allowing for these the Authority now held a General Fund balance of £10.4m.

On an annual basis the Treasurer was required to report on the adequacy of reserves, given the risks faced by the Authority setting out the minimum (£2.8m) and maximum (£10.0m) level of reserves considered appropriate. Based on this position the current level of general reserves was slightly in excess of this, however the draft revenue and capital budgets for 2017/18 – 2020/21 included potential drawdowns in excess of £7m which would put this level of reserve at the bottom end of the target range.

In response to a query raised by CC Tomlinson concerning the terminology 'RDS bounty payments' (detailed on page 36 - other non DFM variance) the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that this was a previous retention system which provided an incentive for Retained Duty Staff to remain in the Service by paying a sum after 10, 15 and 20 years' service etc. The bounty payments had stopped when RDS staff had the opportunity to join the pension scheme. However, at the time that was introduced personnel had accrued different lengths of service and the rules provided they were entitled to the relevant proportion of the bounty that they had earned when the scheme ceased, which was paid once an individual reached the relative service anniversary. Hence an earmarked reserve had been set up to meet these costs.

In response to a question from CC O'Toole regarding whether the shortfall in staff had an impact on performance the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the RDS system was nationally under pressure when you considered trends and availability. RDS stations were often in a rural area and people now worked further afield and therefore not available within 5 minutes of the station. Primary employers were less keen to release people and until recently we have had a recruitment freeze. Nationally there were problems but our RDS availability was one of the best in the country.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee:-

- i. Agree the virement in respect of Section 31 grant receivable;
- ii. Note the outturn position on the 2016/17 revenue budget as presented;
- iii. Agree the proposed transfer of £14k to the Devolved Financial Management Reserve;
- iv. Agree the proposed transfer of £97k to the Private Finance Initiative Equalisation Reserve;
- v. Agree the proposed net transfer of £206k from Other Earmarked Reserves and the purpose of these;
- vi. Note the increase of £258k in the General Reserve.

8/17 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

The report presented the Authority's Statement of Accounts and whilst the Statement took account of the information presented in the Year End Capital Outturn, Year End Treasury Management Outturn and Year End Revenue Outturn as previously presented on the agenda, the Statement of Accounts itself was prepared in line with recommended accounting practice. It was noted that this was not accounted for on the same basis as council tax and hence did not tie into the actual revenue position as set out in the Year End Revenue Outturn report. Furthermore this was a very complicated document.

The Statement of Accounts was subject to review by the Authority's external auditors, Grant Thornton. The review was scheduled to take place in June and July and a further report would be presented to the Audit Committee once this had been completed with the final Statement of Accounts re-presented to the Resources Committee for information.

The Statement had been signed by the Treasurer to certify that it presented a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2017.

Under existing regulations the Chairman of the Committee approving the accounts had responsibility for signing and dating these. The aim of this requirement was to encourage audited bodies to produce timely accounts of a good quality and promote the concept of corporate governance.

The Statement of Accounts would be placed on deposit for public inspection in from Monday 19 June to Friday 21 July 2017.

The content and format of the accounts was as prescribed in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The Authority's Statement of Accounts set out: -

Narrative Report

This sets out the financial context in which the Combined Fire Authority operated, and provides an overview of the financial year 2016/17 as well as details of future plans.

Annual Governance Statement

This reflected the position the Authority had reached in connection with corporate governance, including internal controls and risk management, including a review of the effectiveness of these arrangements, as reported at the Audit Committee in June.

Auditors Report and Opinion

This set out the Auditors opinion on the Statement of Accounts, and was subject to the results of the outstanding audit work which would commence in June.

Statement of Responsibilities

This set out the responsibilities of the Authority and the Treasurer in terms the overall management of the Authority's finances and in terms of the production of the annual accounts.

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account

This statement showed the accounting cost in the year of providing services. It was a summary of the resources that had been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Authority during the last year. It included all day-to-day expenses and related income on an accruals basis, as well as transactions measuring the value of fixed assets actually consumed and the real projected value of retirement benefits earned by employees in the year. The format of this statement had changed since last year end to reflect reporting to management during the year, and the comparative years figures had been restated to reflect this

change. The main points of note were: -

- The cost of corporate services showed reductions when compared with the previous year largely as a result of reduced spend within the property department;
- Pension interest cost and expected return on assets related to adjustments required and was designed to show expected increase in costs of the scheme less the expected increase in asset values. However, as the Firefighters pension scheme was unfunded there was no increase in asset value to offset the increase in scheme costs resulting in a £23.3m charge to the Income and Expenditure Account;
- Page 48 detailed how the Authority raised funding through council tax and grants;
- Actuarial Gains/Losses on pensions assets and liabilities was a notional charge arising from the Actuary changing their assumptions on which future pensions liabilities were calculated, such as mortality rates, future interest rates, pay and pension increases, return on assets etc.

In response to a question raised by CC Martin regarding an increase in overheads (detailed on p47) the Head of Finance advised that this included payments made in year for the capital programme, the transfer of more money into the Capital Funding Reserve, increased depreciation charges and an impairment charge linked to the future demolition of Lancaster fire station.

In response to a question raised by CC Martin regarding the level of capital income grant (detailed on p 48), the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Service had been successful in a Government bid for capital grant for Lancaster Fire Station during 2015/16 and since that time there had been no more funding available to bid for.

In response to a question raised by CC O'Toole in relation available reserves the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the total reserves (as detailed on the balance sheet on p81) was split between unusable and useable. The vast majority of unusable reserves was the pension reserve. This was a technical adjustment and not money the Authority could spend.

Cllr Coleman asked for clarification of the total earmarked reserves for 2016/17 (as detailed on page 105) of the report under notes 17 and 18 as the values were different. The Director of Corporate Services agreed to check and correct this before the Statement of Accounts was placed on deposit for public inspection.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee approve the Statement of Accounts; subject to the correction required to the value of Total Earmarked Reserves for 2016/17 (as detailed on page 105 in the report now presented).

9/17 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2017/18

The report set out the current budget position in respect of the 2017/18 revenue and capital budgets and performance against efficiency targets.

Revenue Budget

The overall position as at the end of May showed an underspend of £0.097m. It was noted that it was too early in the financial year for any trends in expenditure to be evident and that the situation would be closely monitored as the year progressed. The Committee was provided with detailed information regarding the position within individual departments with major variances related to non-pay spend and variances on the pay budget summarised as follows: -

Area	Overspend/ (Under spend)	Reason
	£'000	
Service Delivery	43	The overspend related to various headings, such as uniforms, training props for stations, and furniture, the majority of which were timing related and were expected to even out as the year progressed.
Training & Operational Review	55	The overspend related to the timing of committed spend for training courses taking place later in the financial year, and was therefore a timing issue, rather than an anticipated outturn position.
Pay	(172)	<p>In terms of the underspend to date, this was broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wholetime pay (£50k underspend) this partly related to the number of early leavers in the year, whereby 4 personnel had left earlier than anticipated, whereas the budget allowed for just 2. With the balance of the underspend relating to the timing of costs of ad hoc payments such as overtime and public holidays. • Retained pay (£70k underspend) reflected the two month delay in implementing the new RDS pay scheme, as previously reported. • Support staff pay (£50k underspend) related to several vacant posts across various departments, which were in excess of the vacancy factor built into the budget. Recruitment for the majority of these vacancies was currently underway, however it was likely that this underspend would increase, albeit at a slower rate, as the year progressed until such time as we return to full establishment.

The Capital Programme for 2017/18 stood at £13.533m, after allowing for slippage of £5.354m, as reported elsewhere on the agenda.

A review of the programme had been undertaken to identify progress against the schemes as set out in the report. Appendix 2 set out the capital programme and the expenditure position against this, as reflected in the report. The costs to date would be met by both capital grant and revenue contributions. Members also noted that during May the surplus land at Valley Road, Penwortham was sold, bringing a capital receipt of £0.070m which could be used to fund future capital programmes.

Delivery against savings targets

The annual target stood at £1.55m. To date £0.5m of savings had been delivered. The performance to date was slightly ahead of target, a combination of the underspend on salaries for the first two months, plus savings in respect of procurement activities during the same period. It was anticipated that the efficiency target would be met for the financial year.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee note the financial position.

10/17 WORKFORCE PLANNING

The Director of People and Development tabled a report which updated Members on the current position in respect of recruitment activity and the measures being taken to improve the process to assist in meeting: ongoing positive action campaign requirements; the nurturing of candidates; the amendment of processes whilst maintaining appropriate standards and the ongoing consideration of the role of apprentices. Members considered the report in detail.

The workforce currently stood at an establishment of 1,242 with slight increases in both BME, female and disabled employees since 2010; but the Service work profile remained unrepresentative of Lancashire's community. On occasions when undertaking previous recruitment campaigns the Service had been able to reflect the community, for example the 50 Community Fire Service Practitioners was totally representative. However, when aggregated within the whole establishment, this only reflected a slight overall improvement. Of necessity the Retained Duty System (RDS) recruitment reflected the RDS catchment area which was not representative of Lancashire, and the Service had not undertaken any significant wholetime firefighter recruitment for many years prior to this year due to the demands imposed by the austerity measures.

The current recruitment activity was predicated on an ongoing desire to maintain our current operational strength and this meant the Service originally envisaged a recruitment of a further circa 60 firefighters to maintain this level with recruitment in June (36) and January 2018 (24). Further recruitment programmes would be run on an annual basis. This followed a recruitment exercise focused purely on RDS which resulted in 27 new recruits for the wholetime in November 2016. The actual numbers to be recruited would be adjusted through the campaigns to reflect altered demand, retirement and other leavers to meet the overall requirement in the long term.

This recruitment activity would be supplemented by an apprenticeship programme following the imposition on all public bodies of an apprenticeship target of a minimum of 2.3% of headcount annually which equated to a target of 29 apprentices; with a requirement to report on achievement against the target annually from September 2018. Steps had been taken in respect of support staff to consider the role that apprentices could undertake and an opportunistic approach was currently being adopted with all positions under grade 4 being considered for possible apprenticeships as they fell vacant with identification of specific areas of additional need such as in ICT.

The associated Apprenticeship levy was implemented with effect from 6 April 2017 which, based on our current pay bill, equated to £150k. The Service was currently continuing to determine the best way of drawing down from this levy, but the approach would be a combination of support staff apprentices, coupled with higher level apprenticeship training for existing staff and recruiting firefighter apprentices once the issues around the framework to be utilised were clarified. An allocation of £180k had been identified in the budget and more detailed proposals would be brought to a later meeting of the Resources Committee about the utilisation of these funds. Due to uncertainty around the appropriate mechanisms it was feasible that the full allocation would not be utilised in year. If this should occur it was proposed to carry any unspent amount including any set up provision amounts forward as an earmarked reserve as the programmes would require the funding.

The intent was to provide meaningful routes into employment within LFRS and career prospects for young individuals with skills and attributes which would enhance our organisation.

Recruitment

As the Authority had previously sanctioned, the Service had commenced an ongoing programme of recruitment with primacy being given to meeting the appropriate standards, improving the diversity of our workforce and providing an opportunity for our RDS staff to successfully apply for wholetime roles.

The Director of People and Development advised that the endorsed approach had delivered 27 transferees from RDS in 2016. This was as a bespoke programme to address immediate need whilst enabling positive action to be instigated in advance of subsequent recruitment.

Of the 32 on the current recruits' course, 12 emerged from RDS employment, while 5 of the 17 scheduled to attend the recruits course commencing in January 2018 were from the RDS. This demonstrated that the standards required had not adversely affected RDS employees (indeed the role naturally gave an opportunity to demonstrate examples of suitability). Also there were instances where individuals had used the full time standard as a spur to improve their RDS involvement and future employability (driving and enrolment on educational courses being examples). However, this level of success was unlikely to be repeated hence the proposal for additional support. In effect 44 out of the total of 76 personnel recruited have emerged from the RDS grouping. Transferring this level of resource from our RDS establishment did have performance and organisational issues which increased demands on the Service. In many respects this was a harder recruitment challenge

than wholetime exercises. A number of individuals transferred had given a dual contract commitment but this was normally with a reduction in RDS hours of cover and the impact had been felt. Whilst it was believed this would act as a spur for future RDS recruitment this benefit had not been seen yet.

Changes in process

The Service had reviewed the whole process to ensure today's and anticipated future fire service was reflected in the person and job specifications. Similarly the Service considered and adopted some positive action initiatives to facilitate recruitment from underrepresented groups, whilst the key determinate remained meeting the Services' standard.

The result from the current campaign was 32 recruited in June and potentially 17 in January 2018. The standard of successful recruits' attainment was high. However the level of underrepresented groups had been disappointing with 3 BME and 5 females being within the 32 new entrants, with one BME candidate commencing in January. The campaign was targeted to improve our diversity and to ensure the anticipated number of applications could be managed. In reality the actual number of applications was lower than anticipated and the rigid standards, set in anticipation of the volume expected, were such that the desired ability to finally select on behaviours was reduced. It was intended to allow some flexibility in future campaigns without compromising the actual standards. The processes had therefore been reviewed to identify improvements.

The main change was to adopt the national fitness standards (as opposed to the higher LFRS standards) as the threshold to provide some potential flexibility in final selection. The Service, based on previous experience, had used higher fitness standards than other services or the national standards required. This had had the consequence of reducing the level of failures on the intensive recruits training programme that immediately followed employment. The decision was also previously influenced by the firefighter pension scheme provisions. In this instance the application of the higher fitness standard had an effect on reducing the numbers to a smaller cohort but potentially had an adverse effect on females. It was proposed to adopt the national standard on the next campaign, but to continue to assess individuals' overall fitness.

Similarly the equipment assembly element of the process had a significant effect on failure rates, including female applicants and therefore whilst the Service still believed the requirement was genuine it was intended to consider an alternative dexterity test rather than the current slightly out of context measure. In addition whether a new test or the current test was used the current practice of a strict pass/fail standard would be modified to give a tolerance. Neither, the ability tests or standard of educational attainment warranted any reduction in standard. The general principle was to allow flexibility so that one slight fail would not unnecessarily rule out a candidate, when the shortfall could be addressed.

To further assist RDS employees and to potentially address any shortfall in overall operational numbers, it was proposed to offer the opportunity for development contracts of 6 months duration. The purpose was to enable individuals to address any operational gaps that they might have. Experience had shown that the gap in the requirements between an RDS and whole-time employee could be significant

and this had endorsed the previous decision for all individuals to undertake the full recruitment course as planned rather than a variance on the abridged conversion course undertaken by the 27. The utilisation of development contracts did not provide automatic progression but should enable an individual to enhance their experience ensuring some continued progression from RDS to wholetime.

A separate review of our positive action campaigning initiatives was being undertaken but the emerging themes were that this needed to be a continuous part of our operations and not a bespoke activity as we recruit. The actual generation of applications from underrepresented groups as a percentage was good; but it was considered that the higher pass figures adopted to manage numbers did not give any flexibility in approach, that a 'nearly there' list needed to be collated and nurtured.

It was noted that the results experienced by LFRS were similar to other Fire services and demonstrated the need for the development of solutions that worked within LFRS, working in partnership where benefits were seen.

Shortfall in Numbers

Serious consideration was given to revisiting the applications in order to generate further successful candidates but this was not seen as desirable in view of the messages that would send to the organisation, especially those who were still aspiring or felt concerned about the process, the fact that individuals had already been notified, practicality and the stance the Service had adopted concerning attainment of the standards. Also depending on the actions taken we would either potentially be moving into positive discrimination or revisiting the whole recruitment process. Similarly consideration was given to immediately embarking on a further recruitment campaign coupled with more positive action work. However this was seen to be unrealistic due to the limited resource and time available (as well as the effect on morale in view of the dedicated efforts that individuals had put in) and that the positive action needed to be part of the process if the diversity issue was to be addressed. The outcome was to focus on positive action and nurturing the nearly there candidates and provide opportunities and feedback to our current employees to gain skills.

In response to a concern raised by CC O'Toole regarding whether the initial 27 recruits, from the RDS staff had all achieved the required fitness standard the Director of People and Development confirmed that they had; although there had been a concession where psychometric tests (verbal, numeric and flexibility) had been used rather than educational requirements. Going forward both psychometric and educational requirements were expected.

In response to a question raised by CC Hennessy about the number of females in the Service the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that positive action had been used to encourage people from areas where there was a shortfall in the workforce and there had been a good proportion of BME and female applicants but the standards had to be met. The Director of People and Development added that progression for females was good; the difficulty was receiving applications in the first place. It was noted that the Chief Fire Officer was now leading on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion for the Service together with Cllr Z Khan the new Member Champion for this area.

RESOLVED: - That the position including the ongoing work undertaken in respect of apprentices and the measures being adopted in respect of recruitment be noted.

11/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 1000 hours in the Main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

Further meeting dates were noted for 29 November 2017 and 21 March 2018 and agreed for 13 June 2018.

12/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: - That the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, indicated under the heading to the item.

13/17 HIGH VALUE PROCUREMENT PROJECTS

(Paragraph 3)

Members considered a report that provided an update on all contracts for one-off purchases valued in excess of £50,000 and high value procurement projects in excess of £100,000 including: new contract awards, progress of ongoing projects and details of new projects with an anticipated value exceeding £100,000.

RESOLVED:- That the Committee note the recommendations as outlined in the report.

14/17 URGENT BUSINESS (PART 2)

Development of Preston Fire Station
(Paragraph 3)

RESOLVED:- Members approved the capital investment proposed by the Director of Corporate Services to support the development of joint premises with NWAS at Preston.

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 17 July 2017, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

M Parkinson (Chairman)
I Brown
S Clarke (for D O'Toole)
D Coleman
J Eaton
N Hennessy
F Jackson (Vice-Chair)
M Khan
T Martin
J Shedwick

Officers

J Johnston, Deputy Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
D Russel, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
J Harney, Member Services Assistant (LFRS)

1/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: County Councillor David O'Toole.

2/17 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

3/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 March 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4/17 ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The Annual Progress Report for 2016/17 provided an overview of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's (LFRS) achievements of the previous year, alongside our progress against the areas of work detailed in the Annual Service Plan 2016.

This year's Annual Progress Report was presented by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer to Members by way of a short film which highlighted important developments and celebrated major achievements LFRS had delivered over the last 12 months. Performance statistics were not included with the report as these were available in detail via the quarterly Measuring Progress reports on the LFRS website.

To be published alongside the film was a supporting document which had also been produced to highlight the progress of all the priority activities listed within 2016 Annual Service Plan.

In order to encourage wide engagement, it was intended for the film to be shown to all members of staff and be available to the public on the LFRS website, via YouTube and Vimeo channels. It was noted that it had been produced with in-house expertise and at minimal cost.

RESOLVED: - That the Planning Committee endorsed the production of the Annual Progress Report 2016/17 and authorised distribution to staff and public.

5/17 LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY - CONSULTATION STRATEGY - ANNUAL REVIEW

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) had a Public Consultation Strategy which provided a framework through which it could seek public opinion on major change issues.

Each year the Planning Committee reviewed the Public Consultation Strategy as now considered by Members to assure continued compliance with guidance or legislation and to incorporate learning from any public consultation exercises undertaken.

The review in 2016 amended the Strategy to make clearer links between the equality impact assessment process and consultation. During the year there had been no changes to legislation which impacted on the Strategy. It was noted that at its meeting held in January 2017, the Planning Committee endorsed the consultation process which surrounded the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2012-17 as being adequate in scale and scope.

The review of the Public Consultation Strategy for 2017 found that the existing strategy continued to reflect industry good practice and guidance and was compliant with legal duties.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the Public Consultation Strategy.

6/17 EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented a report on the requirement to carry out and consult on an Emergency Cover Review (ECR), to ensure appropriate future provision of our resources and crewing arrangements.

The review was scheduled to take place in 2016, however it was moved to facilitate consolidation of the impacts, through the implementation period of the 2013 review.

The 2017 review sought to deliver high standards of operational response, ensuring that resources were such that when an emergency happened a response was quick with the right fire appliances, specialist vehicles and crewing arrangements to deal with the incident effectively and safely.

The review had concluded and supported a no change proposal in terms of our fire appliances, specialist appliances and associated crewing arrangements.

Area Manager, Ben Norman then went through the detail of the report:

Scope

In determining the scope of the 2017 ECR, the following was agreed at the CFA Planning Committee on March 20th 2017:

- A) Validating the deliverables / outcomes / actual performance from within the previous ECR as we operate within a business as usual period beyond the implementation.
- B) Developing a subsequent Baseline Model for 2017 inclusive of the above.
- C) Determining the theoretical potential impact of a series of changes to the number, location, response capabilities and crewing of fire appliances across the county.

More specifically but not exclusively:

- i. Realising a wider Emergency First Responding capability.
- ii. Determining a revised response to Automatic Fire Alarms.
- iii. Developing a Pre-Alerting policy.
- iv. Responding to emergent risk.
- v. Acknowledging a strategic commitment in strengthening and improving LFRS Retained Duty Systems (RDS).

In order to validate the current response arrangements and to test predictive impacts LFRS commissioned the services of Process Evolution an external specialist organisation. This enabled the use of predictive modelling software in determining and subsequently validating the potential impact of any changes to the number, location and crewing of fire appliances across the county.

Validating the 2013 ECR and Developing the Baseline Model for 2017

As a measure of the 2013 ECR and the predictive element of the proposals derived through theoretical modelling, Process Evolution undertook a validation exercise, guided by a terms of reference, measured against the proposals implemented during the three year cycle 2014-17.

The 'actual' performance, which was obtained through drawing upon a two year pre

implementation and up to a three year post implementation data set, representative of the period and creating a baseline position, indicated:

- i. A marginal increase in overall response times.
- ii. Overall activity levels lower than predicted.
- iii. Some improvement in RDS response times.
- iv. An increase in the number of Critical Incidents (specifically Critical Special Services).

Acknowledging the operating environment, and the requirement to realise efficiency savings during the life-cycle of the 2013 ECR, the impact across the organisation in terms of performance had been comparable and in some cases better than predicted.

Summary of Findings

The critical fire risk score had decreased by 4% within Lancashire between the 2013-14 and 2016-17 periods.

There were 8 fewer Very High Risk Super Output Areas and 17 fewer High Risk.

Since 2011-14 critical fire incidents had decreased by 13%; a trend also shown during the last 3 fiscal years, exceeding the standard we set ourselves.

However, our first pump attendance times, though an improvement over the previous year, were below the standard which we set ourselves. Our second pump attendance times were within standard.

The spate conditions recorded during the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016, along with the collaborative work being undertaken by LFRS had the effect of critical special service incidents increasing by 24%; a trend that continued over the last 3 years.

Non critical primary fires had decreased by less than 1% whereas secondary fires had decreased by 18%.

Non critical special service incidents had risen by 41% during the period/s 2011-14 and 2014-17, largely due to the storm related flooding incidents of 2015 and the additional collaborative work undertaken with the North West Ambulance Service and Lancashire Constabulary.

The report set out at County and District levels the changes to the Critical Fire Risk Scores.

Determining Theoretical Impacts

- i. Realising a wider Emergency First Responding capability.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that when the new Fire Inspection process commenced it would ask whether we had an understanding of current and future demands therefore LFRS had scoped what it would look like to be operationally

busier.

A projection in terms of a numerical increase in Special Service calls had been developed, outlining the impact of a potential increase in operational activity across the organisation. An uplift of 1,000, 5,000 and 10,000 incidents had been modelled for illustration only in determining both the impact on Key Performance Indicator (KPI) performance and potential numerical increases at an Organisational, District and Station level.

An increase of call volume to emergent response arrangements would have a small negative impact upon LFRS' core KPI's as summarised in the report. It was noted that an increase of 10,000 incidents per annum would create comparable response levels to the 2006/07 year, this being circa 25,000 emergency response calls.

Following discussion Members were supportive to consult on the principle that the Service extended its collaborative response arrangements.

ii. Determining a revised response to Automatic Fire Alarms / Unwanted Fire Signals.

During 2016/17 LFRS mobilised to 4,103 Automatic Fire Alarms (AFA) / Unwanted Fire Signals (UWFS). This was an increase on previous years whereby this call type accounted for 3,618 incidents in 2015/16 and 3,410 in 2014/15.

A review of the organisational policy had been undertaken with proposals having been developed as set out in appendix 2 now considered. A summary of the AFA / UWFS recommendations is provided below:

- Option 1: non-attendance for all non-domestic, non-sleeping buildings during 08:00 to 18:00 (Reduction of 22%, 900 less call-outs).
- Option 2 – Non-attendance for all non-domestic non-sleeping risk premises (extending our Option 1 policy to 24 hours) (Reduction of 41%, 1,700 less call-outs).

It was noted that this approach was consistent with the approach already adopted by many Services, both nationally and regionally.

The reduction in AFA call volume would naturally deliver benefits in terms of reduced risk of vehicle accidents whilst travelling to such calls, reduced fuel use and subsequent emissions. Moreover it would provide an opportunity to better utilise in the region of 1,700 hours of time per annum; this becoming available for critical emergency incidents and other non-emergency response work such as preparedness or prevention related activities.

Although appreciative of the proposed phased approach and the national and regional position, CC Shedwick expressed concern for small businesses and school buildings including subsequent insurance implications. He also felt that the scope of the consultation would not be broad enough to include all those potentially affected. CC Clarke added his concern that any non-attendance to an automatic fire alarm on

a large industrial estate which resulted in a fire would lead to it becoming a larger incident.

In response the Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the intention was for a phased approach. After the proposed implementation of Option 1 (which related to non-sleeping buildings during the day) for 12 months in 2018/19 the intention would be for the Combined Fire Authority to consider a review of the analysis of 2018/19, before to determining the potential to implement Option 2.

Following further discussion Members determined the revised response to Automatic Fire Alarms / Unwanted Fire Signals be removed from the ECR consultation at this time and the Chairman of the Authority to be apprised of this.

iii. Developing a Pre-Alerting policy and evaluating a Dynamic Cover tool.

Pre-Alerting was a method of operation at North West Fire Control (NWFC) whereby once an addressable location was identified a mobilising type message was dispatched. This enabled the responding crews to cease any current tasks and position themselves upon the fire appliance. The call handler at NWFC would continue with the emergency call whilst the simultaneous activity was ongoing, and once the full details of the incident had been attained, they would mobilise the appliance in the usual manner. Early pilot data from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service demonstrated that they were currently mobilising circa 15 seconds quicker to incidents on average. After 10 months the success rate of mobilisation when pre-alerted was over 80%.

Pre-alerting would naturally deliver benefits in terms of performance as outlined in graphics in the report, but moreover pre-alerting would provide an opportunity to mobilise appliances sooner to critical emergency incidents.

In response to a question raised by CC Clarke regarding any additional costs for retained duty staff, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that given the more remote geographical rural locations of the retained stations it was more likely the right station would be pre-alerted. Inaccuracies were more likely in urban areas where the stations were closer. Should however, an RDS station be pre-alerted and need to stand down there would be a payment made to staff.

Members considered the recommendation in the report to approve pre-alerting as a policy position, utilising an initial pilot approach across appropriate duty systems at stations where a performance benefit may be attained.

Dynamic Cover tool type software systems were utilised by emergency response organisations in order to maximise the available response resources through geographic movement. This had particular benefit when there were large scale incidents or multiple incidents in close proximity. It was proposed that further work was commissioned to identify if LFRS could yield benefits such as increased pump attendance time performance through such systems.

Members were supportive of the proposal to consult on the development of a pre-alerting policy and evaluate a dynamic cover tool.

In response to a question from CC Parkinson, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that following the Grenfell Tower Fire Tragedy in London the Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service, Nick Hurd MP had confirmed that all regulations would be reviewed together with any recommendations or revisions which came from the investigation. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that Fire and Rescue Services would want to have an input into that review. He confirmed that Lancashire had 4 aerial appliances and 1 stinger appliance which was currently being evaluated. Lancashire did not have a pre-determined response for high-rise buildings which required an aerial appliance to respond in the first instance; this was for the Officer In Charge to determine.

Consultation

It was agreed that consultation was developed digitally with feedback requests to a specific email account. LFRS would cascade the proposals and consultation arrangements through the Service website, social media and press release resources for the engagement with the community of Lancashire. An electronic notification would be sent to formal partners and it was recommended that the ECR was made available for 12 weeks due to the summer holiday period.

The Planning Committee considered the ECR proposals and

RESOLVED: -

- i) That the principle that LFRS extend its collaborative response arrangements be approved for consultation;
- ii) That the revised response to Automatic Fire Alarms / Unwanted Fire Signals be removed from the ECR consultation at this time;
- iii) That pre-alerting as a policy position be approved for consultation, utilising an initial pilot approach across appropriate duty systems at stations where a performance benefit may be attained;
- iv) That a no change ECR for 2017-20 with regards to LFRS's 58 Fire Appliances and the associated crewing arrangements be approved for consultation;
- v) To undertake a 12-week consultation commencing 19 July 2017 – 11 October 2017.

7/17 CHANGE TO KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised Members at the last Performance Committee Meeting in March 2017 Members gave approval for a review to take place of the Authority's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which measured Mobilising (KPI 2 Responding to Emergencies).

It was noted that the recommendations were aimed at providing a more simplified approach, specifically measuring the 'Service on its end-to-end performance, how quickly the Service mobilised fire engines to incidents set against its Emergency Response Standards.

Analysis of performance would continue to identify any failures to meet response

standards and work would continue with NWFC to improve performance.

In addition, it was recommended:

1. There would be an invitation to North West Fire Control to attend Quarter 2 and Quarter 4 Performance Committee meetings to discuss 'all matters' NWFC (performance system advancement/improvement etc). It was considered that this would ensure the visibility of NWFC was maintained and would give added assurance to Members that NWFC would be included in future Performance Committee meetings, recognising that call handling was a significant important component in enabling LFRS to meet its Emergency Response Standards.
2. Service performance of other Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) would be reported to Performance Committee, based on the release of the Home Office publication of 'FRS Emergency Response Times to Incident Types'. This would provide Members with a device to benchmark the performance of LFRS not only in comparison to other family group FRSs but all FRSs.

Members discussed the proposed key changes to the KPI's 2 (Responding to Emergencies) in detail.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that with the move to Integrated Risk Management Plans the responsibility was for the CFA to set its own standards. Standards within Lancashire were as good, if not better than others. If there was a move back to national standards we would need to be careful standards did not deteriorate.

In response to a question raised by CC Martin regarding comparison with similar Fire Authorities the Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that annually a report was presented to the Performance Committee that set out performance within a family group of Fire Authorities with similar geographical spread, budget and population such as Kent and Essex.

RESOLVED: - That the Planning Committee approved the changes to the Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and endorsed their inclusion within the Service's KPI Measuring Progress Report.

8/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday 27 November 2017 at 1000 hours in the main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

Further meeting dates were noted for 19 March 2018 and 16 July 2018.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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North West Fire & Rescue Forum AGM

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2017

At

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside L30 4YD

Present:	Authority:
Cllr D Hanratty	Merseyside (Chair)
Cllr L Byrom	Merseyside
Cllr L Rennie	Merseyside
Cllr S Nelson	Cheshire
Cllr G Merry	Cheshire
Cllr D Acton	Greater Manchester
Cllr T Judge	Greater Manchester
Cllr K Houlton	Greater Manchester
Cllr F De Molfetta	Lancashire
Cllr D O'Toole	Lancashire
Cllr M Parkinson	Lancashire
Officers/Observers:	Authority:
Mr P Hancock	Cheshire/Cumbria
Mr C Kenny	Lancashire
Mr P O'Reilly	Greater Manchester
Mr D Stephens	Merseyside
Mrs J Henshaw	Merseyside
Mrs S Wainwright	Merseyside (Note taker)
Apologies:	Authority:
Cllr G Merry	Cheshire
Cllr B Rudd	Cheshire
Cllr J Willis	Cumbria
Mr S Healey	Cumbria
Mr K Mattinson	Lancashire

Agenda Item	Minute
1.	<p>Chairman's Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and opened proceedings.</p>
2.	<p>Appointment of Chair</p> <p>Nominations for the appointment of a Chair for 2017/18 were requested.</p> <p>Cllr D Hanratty was unanimously nominated and agreed by the Forum.</p> <p>Cllr D Hanratty was therefore appointed as Chair for 2017/18; and presided over the remainder of the meeting.</p>
3.	<p>Appointment of Vice Chair</p> <p>Nominations for the appointment of a Vice Chair for 2017/18 were requested.</p> <p>Cllr D Acton was unanimously nominated and agreed by the Forum.</p> <p>Cllr D Action was therefore appointed as Vice Chair for 2017/18.</p>
4.	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received as shown in the table above.</p> <p><u>Action: It was agreed that letters of thanks for their support and contribution to the North West Fire & Rescue Advisory Forum be sent to Cllr Maloney, Cllr Bell, Cllr Doughty and Cllr Strong.</u></p>
5.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made in relation to items of business on the Agenda.</p>
6.	<p>Items Requiring Urgent Attention</p> <p>There were no matters requiring urgent attention.</p>
7.	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of 18th January 2017 were agreed as a true record.</p>
8.	<p><u>Actions from the Last Meeting</u></p> <p>Action 1 – Lobbying</p> <p>Following some discussion it was agreed that a letter of invitation to a future NWFRAF would be extended to the new Fire Minister, Nick Hurd, MP.</p>

Dan Stephens confirmed that David Lamberti has replaced Dan Greaves but the latter still has responsibility for FRS National Resilience. To date no response to an earlier invitation had been received.

Action: Letter of invitation to be sent to Nick Hurd, MP.

Action 2 – NWAS

The Chair advised of a meeting which took place in Merseyside with the Chair and Chief Executive of NWAS. An invitation to be extended to NWAS to attend a future NWFRAF.

The Chair to write to NWAS confirming the date of the next meeting and extending an invitation to attend.

Action 3 – Policing and Crime Bill

Action discharged. Item closed.

Action 5 – Devolution Deals

Greater Manchester:

Cllr Acton gave an update on the current position advising that the first meeting of the Fire Committee had taken place to discuss the terms of reference and governance. These issues are still to be agreed but Cllr Acton would share correspondence with the Forum. The Mayor takes overall responsibility for Fire with the day to day running of the Service being overseen by the Committee. Cllr Acton had been nominated as Chair.

It was agreed that lessons learnt from the process would be outlined in a presentation at a future Forum.

Cllr Nelson requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the Mayor to congratulate the communities of Manchester for the manner in which they dealt with the Arena incident.

A discussion took place around the level to which Fire have a voice within the Combined Authority. Although Fire are very well represented it was agreed that a strong relationship with the Mayor was imperative.

Merseyside:

Cllr Hanratty advised on the position in Merseyside in that there is a proposal to reduce membership from 18 to 9. Consultation is currently ongoing with District Leaders and the Mayor.

Cllr Hanratty went on to confirm that Merseyside had invited the PCC to become a full voting member of the Authority, which had been accepted. A report will be presented at the Policy & Resources committed tomorrow. If agreed, a full report will go to Authority in December for implementation at the AGM in June 2018.

Nothing further to report on transition of responsibility for the FRS to the Mayor.

Actions:

- Cllr Acton to share terms of reference
- Lessons Learnt from Greater Manchester devolution process to be presented at a future Forum.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Letter of thanks to the Mayor of Manchester to congratulate the communities of Manchester for the response to the Arena incident.</u> <p>Early Day Motion – Sprinklers in Schools</p> <p>No further feedback. Action discharged. Item closed.</p> <p>Saughall Massie</p> <p>DS provided a full update later in the meeting as part of the Merseyside update. Action discharged. Item closed.</p>
9.	<p>Chairman’s Update</p> <p>The Chair advised that Chris Williamson, MP had been appointed as Shadow Fire Minister and had extended an open invitation to the Fire Sector to visit or request items to be debated in Parliament.</p> <p><u>Action: Letter of invitation to be extended to Chris Williamson, MP to attend a future NWFRAF</u></p>
10.	<p>Constitution</p> <p>No changes to the current Constitution. J Henshaw to circulate.</p> <p><u>Action: J Henshaw to circulate Constitution.</u></p>
11.	<p>Priorities Going Forward</p> <p>C Kenny confirmed the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to share best practice • National Operational Guidance • Emergency Services Mobilisation Communication Plan (ESMCP) • Major restructure of National Fire Council Committee (NFCC) • Research and development – for example, BA procurement. <p>Cllr Acton went on to add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspectorate Process – first inspections will begin March/April 2018 with the intention to inspect all FRSs within 12 months. • Grenfell – with particular emphasis on regulations. • FBU Pay Offer <p>Cllr Nelson highlighted an announcement in the press today for all vehicles to be electrified by 2040.</p> <p>A discussion took place around how best to affect change for Fire and it was agreed that the relationships with the Elected Mayors was by far the best option.</p> <p>FBU Pay Offer – how we move forward and affect lobbying in terms of the whole structure of the fire and rescue service.</p>

	<p>Cllr Hanratty highlighted the speech given by Nick Hurd in that our support is required. Important that we use the NWFRAF as a voice to influence Government.</p> <p>DS suggested that Grenfell lobbying should focus on the role of approved inspectors.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <p><u>Cllr Hanratty/Cllr Acton to discuss the best way of feeding information to the respective Mayors.</u></p> <p><u>Letter to Minister emphasising the focus on approved inspectors/regulations. Cllr Acton to share a draft letter to be sent to the Minister.</u></p>
12.	<p>North West FRS Update</p> <p>Greater Manchester: PO'R gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of Governance – 4 Year IRMP • Completed 1 Year Review of IRMP – bring to Authority and to Mayor • Ongoing discussions with Trade Union • 34 Recruits to start end of August – 64% from under-represented groups. • Grenfell – met with Mayor to emphasis the number of high rise premises within Manchester. High Rise Task Group set up. 4 cells within; Legal Cell, Technical Cell (nationally and internationally looking at best practice), Comms Cell, Finance and Procurement Cell. Thanks to Lancashire FRS, Wiltshire and Dorset for mutual assistance. • Extensive debriefing following the MEN Bombing. • New Training & Safety Centre in place. Looking to put 10,000 young people through the training and receiving excellent feedback. Recent USAR exercise a success. • New station at Wigan • Before end of financial year will be in receipt of new 42 m and 32 m turntable ladder with more planned for the future. • 6 community response vehicles expected • Firefighter physiology – working with NFCC – technology built into BA sets. <p>Lancashire: CK gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the aftermath of Grenfell, Lancashire have inspected its high risk high rise properties, number are relatively low. • It was now providing Fire Safety Inspecting Officers to GMFRS through a NW protocol of mutual support • Emergency Cover Review currently out to consultation • 32 Recruits currently and 17 programmed for later in the year • Some recruitment progress with under-represented groups (5 female and 2 BME); but liaise with Manchester on improved outcomes • Combined Authority arrangements. Talks still taking place, but progress has stalled

- Lancashire County Council Elections returned a Conservative majority, but marginally Labour maintained CFA control.
- Lancaster Fire and Ambulance station still progressing
- Preston fire station rebuild in the planning stage – NWAS looking to increase presence and incorporate a central hub.
- Mental Awareness Sessions – complete for all staff. Now rolling out programme on Distress Management which promotes general management of mental health.
- Watch Managers and above attended a Leadership Conference, run in three sessions, where all the Executive Team laid out progress to date, direction of travel and expectations

Cheshire

PH gave the following update:

- IRMP 14 (17/18), budget and MTFP approved by the Authority on the 14 February. MTFP forecasts £4m savings. One amendment to the IRMP plan; review of the plans for the change in crewing of the second pumps at Crewe and Ellesmere Port (wholetime to on-call)
- 16/17 last year of the four year Emergency Response Programme - 4 new stations now operational (Penketh, Powey Lane, Lymm and Alsager). Number of new duty systems introduced (12 hour shifts across all wholetime stations, Day Crewing 1 on three stations, Nucleus at Macclesfield (previously wholetime), number of wholetime pumps now on-call pumps (Runcorn, Widnes/Penketh)
- Redeployments and new management structure (including revised flexi duty system) for the new stations/fire cover model implemented
- Safety Centre (Lymm) completed and ready to open its doors to schools in September
- Second wholetime recruitment campaign to commence 1 August 2017
- Second cohort of Apprentices currently being recruited
- PID and BC for Training Centre Project at Sadler Road approved and Project team established – (£7.5m capital investment)
- BLC on track and making progress – ICT, Estates and Strategic Change teams TUPE transferred; Corporate Communications and Business Intelligence teams currently co-located with TUPE transfer consultation concluding on 31 July. HR, Finance, and Legal teams to co-locate during August with TUPE transfer scheduled for 1 April 2018 (aligned to the Multi Force Shared Service implementation – MFSS) Stores and Procurement teams to TUPE transfer on 1 April 2018 (aligned to MFSS and building works). PO team scheduled to move to Clemonds Hey in early September. Programme on track for completion by April 2018. PCC invited to attend meetings of the Fire Authority with arrangements in hand to appoint him as a Member of the Fire Authority.

Cumbria

PH gave the following update:

- New Administration in place – Labour & Lib Dem with same leader Cllr Stewart Young and a new Deputy Cllr Ian Stewart
- New Portfolio Holder – Cllr Janet Willis (Lib Dem)
- New CFO – Steve Healey
- New Area Manager (Nathaniel Hooton from Cornwall FRS)
- Strategic Planning started with 2 joint meetings of CMT and Cabinet. £198m saved to date with anticipated further savings of £52m (£250m in total) up to 2020/21
- Hoping to see a three year budget consultation in October/November this year
- IRMP to be refreshed – currently 2016-20 but looking to update 2018-2022 with a longer term delivery plan aligned to the MTFP as opposed to the annual consultations in recent years
- Successful wholtime recruitment campaign with 12 new firefighters now on stations
- Significant challenges around RDS – down to around 370 and should be at 420. Looking at different options in IRMP around roaming tri-service officers.
- ORH review provides robust data intelligence to identify key strategic RDS stations where we will look to increase establishments to aim for 100% availability
- 6 New Fire Appliances arriving latest this calendar year with a capital programme to deliver a further 4 each year over the next 3 years.
- 2 Type B boats now in Service. New multi-purpose jackets ordered and replacement helmet programme to be delivered this year.
- Incidents of note: tragic RTC on A595 north of Bootle (Millom) – two 18 year old girls killed, one the daughter of one of our Bootle firefighters – fortunately didn't respond as off call.

Merseyside:

DS gave the following update:

Station Mergers

Planning permission was granted for the new station at Saughall Massie at the Planning Committee meeting on 20th July.

As the site is in the green belt the decision has been referred to DCLG to be considered for Call In by the Secretary of State.

Construction of the new Police and Fire station at Prescott is progressing well and is 4 weeks ahead of schedule at the time of writing.

Work is ongoing with St Helens MBC and NWS over a joint Ambulance and Fire station including a Make Ready facility at the Pilkingtons Watson Street site in St Helens.

Budget setting – potential impact of the pay offer

The Authority medium term financial plan assumes a 1% uplift in the pay bill in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20.

	<p>If the Authority is required to meet the 5% pay offer from existing budgets it will require additional savings of £1.2m in year 2017/18 rising to £2m by 2019/20 assuming 1% pay increases in 2018/19 and 2019/20.</p> <p><u>Industrial action planning</u></p> <p>Resilience contracts are issued on 1st April each year to inform Business Continuity planning. In light of the increased possibility of industrial action arising from the pay situation Officers have commenced contingency planning with particular focus on the National Resilience Fire Control.</p> <p>The CFO is also working on behalf of NFCC with Home Office and Cabinet Office on National industrial action planning.</p> <p><u>Authority reform</u></p> <p>At the AGM on 13th June the Authority approved a report recommending the setting up of a Working Group to consider reform of the Authority.</p> <p>The recommended option is to reduce the membership from 18 to 9 in order to maintain proportionate representation from each of the 5 Local Authorities.</p> <p><u>Police Fire Collaboration</u></p> <p>The Merseyside PCC Jane Kennedy has accepted an invitation from the Authority to sit as a Member with full voting rights under the representation model.</p> <p>This decision is expected to be ratified at the Policy and Resources Committee on 27th July.</p> <p><u>Firefighter recruitment</u></p> <p>The most recent recruit course have joined their colleagues operating the days and retained duty system at Aintree and Kensington fire stations. Both are operating as 2 pump stations at this time and will continue to do so until the conclusion of the next recruit course which starts in September.</p> <p>Thereafter we will change the crewing at 2 out of the 4 stations (Crosby, Eccleston, Liverpool City and Wallasey) from WT to days and retained by posting a full crew in to each station.</p> <p>The recruit contracts extend to EMR, MTFA and all of the other NJC work streams. This amounts to the introduction of a new duty system to run in parallel with the existing default 12 hour shifts system.</p> <p><u>Grenfell</u></p> <p>200 high rise, only 4 fails from 17 ACM clad blocks, but we are in the process of auditing the FRA in all 200 blocks.</p>
13.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>No other business to report.</p> <p>Members were invited to visit the National Resilience Fire Control.</p>
	Meeting Closed 12:45 hrs

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday 18 September 2017

FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

Contact for further information:

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Justin Johnston – Tel. 01772 866801

Executive Summary

This report deals with prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson incidents within the period 1 June to 1 September 2017

In addition, Fire Protection and Business Support Information are included in the report.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS

Prosecutions under the regulatory reform (fire safety) order 2005 (RRO)

On 27 July the appeal hearing of Dr Muhammad Bhatti, previously found guilty of four offences, at HMO 143 Manchester Road, Burnley, took place. After a full day in Court the Judge found for the prosecution in that Dr Bhatti had control of the premises, as a person responsible for fire safety and he could not simply divest himself of his fire safety responsibilities by a disclaimer in an email to the leaseholders.

As a result of the appeal Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service were awarded full appeal prosecution costs of £3,980 to be paid within 6 months.

On 12 June at Lancaster Magistrates Court the defendant Mr Syed Masood Ahmed, pleaded guilty to all 12 fire safety offences relating to Sunnys Hotel in Morecambe and on 18 August sentenced at Preston Crown Court to eight months imprisonment, suspended for two years, 120 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay LFRS full costs of £10,752.

On 16 August at Burnley Crown Court, Natasha Taylor and Derek Bulling, both pleaded not guilty to serious fire safety offences relating to the Masons Arms Public House and flats, Rawtenstall. A trial date has been set for 8 January 2018.

Further Fire Safety investigations are being carried out regarding, a Take Away in Lancaster, a fire at Flats in Preston, a House of Multiple Occupancy in Blackpool, a Hotel in Blackpool and an Industrial Unit in Blackburn.

FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)

On 10 August Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) became the Primary Authority partner for its 5th company the Torus housing Group, based in St Helens, Merseyside. They have 22,000 homes, predominately across the Mid-Mersey and North West regions, consisting of sheltered accommodation, purpose built flats, House of Multiple Occupancy and houses.

LFRS is currently in talks with two large national chains within the licencing trade and two large housing providers who contacted the Primary Authority Partnership Officer with a view to working together and further improving their premises fire safety provision, procedures and management. Signing and registration of these companies has been delayed due to the update of the Primary Authority register and changes brought about by the introduction of the Enterprise Act. The changes will allow small and start-up businesses to join the Primary Authority Scheme. For further information on a Primary Authority partnership with LFRS businesses can email PAS@lancsfirerescue.org.uk.

Business Safety Advisors (BSA) Activity

The Business Safety Advisor in the Northern area has been working with the Health and Safety Officer for St Johns Hospice in Lancaster to assess any potential risk of fire at the hospice and shops and provided guidance on reviewing their Fire Risk assessments and Business Continuity Advice.

In July Prevention and Protection teams hosted a 'Places of Worship' seminar at Burnley Fire Station. Trustees and managers from churches and mosques across the area were invited to the seminar which was supported by Lancashire Council of Mosque and Blackburn Diocese. In working closely throughout the year with people from Churches and Mosques across East Lancashire, information and education has been provided to people about the risks of fire and their legal responsibilities.

On the week commencing 11 September LFRS Fire Safety Offices will be participating in National Fire Chiefs Council Business Safety Week. The week is an opportunity to engage with local business with the main driver being education not enforcement. The main focus is to be on small to medium businesses, retail premises, pubs and hotels. A number of events have been organised including visits to local markets during trading days and visits to wholesalers to make contact with owners of local businesses.

ARSON CONVICTIONS

R v Todd and Ibbotson

Cumberland Ave
Clayton-Le-Moors
Accrington

This fire stems back to April 2014 where Todd and Ibbotson along with 2 females were charged with conspiracy to commit arson being reckless as to whether life endangered. The accused had allegedly poured a large amount of petrol throughout the premises and upon ignition; a huge petrol vapour explosion took place which all but destroyed the house.

The case eventually made it to court in 2016 where 5 members of LFRS were called to present evidence. Following the initial hearing, the case was dropped against the 2 females and Todd was found guilty at that hearing.

Unusually, a re-trial for Ibbotson was ordered by the judge to be held in 2017. At the re-trial LFRS again presented evidence with the outcome that Ibbotson was also found guilty.

Both Todd and Ibbotson were sentenced to 4 years imprisonment each.

R v William John Morrison

Grafton Road
Morecambe.

This incident took place in a flat in Grafton Place Morecambe. Morrison had allegedly poured an accelerant over another male in the flat and ignited it. LFRS personnel provided the Police and CPS with an in depth investigation and impact statement which was sufficient evidence to charge Morrison.

At the Plea and Case Management Hearing (PCMH) Morrison pleaded guilty and was later sentenced to 18 months imprisonment to run concurrent with a separate and unrelated charge of 11 and a half years imprisonment.

R v Richard Guy

Ivy St
Burnley

This fire occurred in the early hours of the morning. Guy had allegedly deliberately set fire to the stairs of the premises which resulted in a female occupier being trapped by fire. She was rescued by LFRS personnel and led to safety.

Neighbours had seen Guy fleeing the scene. He was later arrested and charged with arson with intent to endanger life. An in-depth fire investigation took place with a report submitted to the Police/CPS. Guy initially pleaded not guilty but after the CPS requested more detail an in depth statement was provided by LFRS to compliment the fire investigation report already submitted.

At Guy's PCMH he entered a guilty plea. He was later given 4 years imprisonment.

The Judge and prosecution barrister both thanked LFRS for their detailed report and statement.

R v Geoffrey Lord

St Huberts Rd
Great Harwood

This incident involved the alleged deliberate ignition of an armchair within the rented flat of Lord.

Lord's flat was above a retail premises. On the morning of the fire the proprietor of the shop had just opened up when he heard Lord banging on the door which leads from the shop floor to the access staircase to the flat.

Lord was demanding to be let into the shop to purchase some alcohol. When the proprietor refused, Lord became more agitated and began shouting louder and began kicking at the door. The proprietor started to record the audible events on his mobile, where it could be clearly heard Lord shouting that he would set fire to his flat.

A few minutes later Lord was at his flat window shouting for help. The shop proprietor went in to rescue him and called the Fire Service.

The ensuing fire investigation concluded a deliberate ignition. Lord pleaded guilty at the PCMH and was later sentenced to 32 Months imprisonment.

R v Philip Andrew Martin

Gannow Lane
Burnley

This fire involved a rear room of an empty shop, though it had an occupied flat above it. A male had to be rescued from his first floor flat via a ladder by LFRS personnel. He was conveyed to hospital and treated for smoke inhalation. It had been a severe fire to the ground floor shop unit which had heavily smoke-logged the flat above.

LFRS personnel carried out a thorough fire investigation and submitted a stage 1 fire investigation report and a lengthy statement to the Police.

Subsequently it turned out that the male rescued from the first floor flat was Martin himself. Martin self-presented at the Police station and admitted to starting the fire

himself. Not only had Martin put his own life in danger but neither was he aware if his neighbours were in next door. The fire was reported to have cost £100,000 in damage and loss of earnings.

All in all, from the time of call to an arrest and charge of Arson reckless as to whether life endangered took less than 24 hrs.

Martin was later sentenced to 33 months imprisonment.

R v Phillip Parrish

Fishergate Hill
Preston

This incident was an alleged deliberate ignition of a quantity of clothing in a basement corridor of an HMO that housed up to 50 people. Although the fire was contained within the corridor it was deemed that the lives of the occupants of the HMO were put at risk. When the fire occurred, one of the occupants had silenced the alarm before the arrival of the Fire Service.

A thorough fire investigation was carried out by LFRS personnel and submitted to the Police. With the addition of some damning CCTV Parrish pleaded guilty at the PCMH and was later sentenced to 30 months imprisonment.

In a press release after the sentencing, Group Manager Tony Crook said *"At this time, in the aftermath of the tragic events at Grenfell Tower in London, we are only too aware of the potentially terrible consequences of fires in living accommodation. Although the fire that resulted in this prosecution did not result in a loss of life, it so easily could have developed into a major fire and killed someone. It was down to chance that it didn't and the custodial sentence surely reflects the seriousness of the offence."*

LFRS' continued close working relations with Lancashire Constabulary and the CPS are still resulting in one of the best arson detection/conviction rates in the Country.

Business Risk

Moderate – Members need to be aware of prosecutions related to fire safety activity and/or arson within Lancashire in order to satisfy themselves that the required robust approach is being pursued.

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday 18 September 2017

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer David Russel, Director of Service Delivery

Tel: 01772 866801

Executive Summary

Reports in relation to the 2 Unitary and 12 District Authorities are attached containing information relating to:-

- Community Safety activity;
- Incidents of Operational interest.

Operational incidents of interest will be presented to Members for information.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

Information

Included as Appendix 1 are reports for the two unitary and twelve district authorities in relation to:

- Community Safety initiatives;
- Incidents of Operational interest.

Business Risk:

None

Environmental Impact:

Potential impact on local environment

Equality and Diversity implications:

None

Financial Implications:

None

HR Implications:

None

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper Information from LFRS Management Info Systems Information received from area based staff	Date June 2017 – August 2017 June 2017 – August 2017	Contact David Russel David Russel
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

BLACKBURN-WITH-DARWEN

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Dementia

MY Colourful Memories Community Interest Company visited Blackburn Fire Station on Wednesday's during July and provided a free community art health workshop for the local community. Last year, Neil Floyd created a unique colouring book to help people who are living with dementia and it received national attention. The idea came from him when caring for his late father who was diagnosed with Dementia and Parkinson's Disease. The community workshops have evolved from the concept of the colouring book, using illustrations to trigger long-term memories and conversation. During the workshop, a person's photos are converted into monochrome line drawing prints and they are encouraged to talk about their memories associated with the photo while they colour-in the print derived from it. Neil said, *"The event has been well supported by the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, especially the Community Safety Department based at Blackburn Fire Station and with their support, people have been able to share stories and meet new people thus bringing the community closer together."*

Community Engagement

Green watch Blackburn and Community Safety colleagues attended the Blackburn Young Stars Sports Club's first hosting of a national cricket tournament run by the UK National Kokni association. Kokni, or Kokani Muslims are people who with the Partition of India seventy years ago did not migrate to Pakistan but remained as practising Muslims in India. Some subsequently emigrated to Britain, maintaining their cultural and religious Indian roots. The tournament was held at the Harrison Playing Fields in Blackburn and as well as the efforts of the players on the pitch it consisted of a family fun day with a range of activities, including the promotion of Fire Safety by our colleagues centred on the major visitor attraction of the pump and crew.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Fire Involving Electrical Substation

Date: 08 July 2017

Time of Call: 14:26

Two appliances from Blackburn were mobilised to a fire at the rear of a 4m x 4m electrical substation. Upon arrival, crews identified that the fire was spreading to the roof of the structure and affecting the internal high voltage equipment. The Incident Commander quickly realised the risks associated with high voltage equipment that had become heated as a result of fire. A 50 metre cordon was put in place, which in turn resulted in a road closure causing issues for traffic and importantly two nearby schools where parents could not meet their children due to the cordon.

As a result of close working with Blackburn and Darwen Civil Contingencies Department, a call was made from the incident requesting assistance in dealing with the pupils. The Civil Contingency team quickly contacted the schools who held all pupils in classrooms and the local radio stations who passed out public messages relating to the fire.

Colleagues from United Utilities attended the incident and isolated power to the substation resulting in the temporary loss of power to over 6,000 homes.

The multi-agency approach involving the Police, Fire, United Utilities and Blackburn with Darwen Council resulted in the safe extinguishment of the fire and replacement of damaged components in less than four hours.

Investigations led to the conclusion that the small fire was started deliberately and the scale of the incident would not have been envisaged by the perpetrators. It was a good example of how starting a small, seemingly innocent rubbish fire can have far reaching consequences to communities.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

BLACKPOOL

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Children of Chernobyl visit Blackpool

Chernobyl Children's Charity visit Bispham Station W31 on an annual basis. The charity was established and registered in 1992 by Victor Mizzi (OBE) in order to support the children of Belarus and the Ukraine. These children, and their families, will be forever affected by what is undoubtedly the world's worst nuclear disaster. In April 1986, Belarus, where most of the charity's work is focused, received over seventy percent of the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion. As a result, thousands are born every year with, or go on to develop, thyroid cancer, bone cancer and leukaemia.

This year Firefighters and the Community Fire Safety Team collaborated to ensure that the children's visit was an occasion to remember. Ten children, along with their teacher, an interpreter, two adult helpers and the helpers own children visited Bispham Fire Station on Friday, 28 July 2017.

Following a tour of the station, the children were taught about and discussed the daily duties of a Firefighter and were shown the personal protective equipment that Firefighters use. Firefighters from Blackpool W30 drove the Aerial Ladder Platform over to Bispham and the children took turns to sit in the platform as it was raised. This provided a never ending source of amazement to the children. The children were also surprised to learn that we have female Firefighters within our service.

The Community Fire Safety Team and Fire Cadets set up their smoke tent and the children performed a rescue operation, along with the Fire Cadets and rescued a toy puppy from the smoke filled tent. They were also given the opportunity to use a thermal imager. The Crew Manager arranged for "Stu's Ices" to attend the station along with his ice cream van and Stu very kindly donated free ice creams for all the children. Our Fire Cadets presented each of the children with a gift, which included a limited edition Fire Cadet badge. The young children from Chernobyl had learnt a small thank you song in English which they sang in appreciation.



Fire Cadets – Passing Out Parade

South Shore fire station hosted our annual Fire Cadets Presentation Evening and Passing Out Parade on Wednesday, 19 July 2017. Guests included the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Robert Webb and the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Ian Coleman.

Despite heavy rain, the Fire Cadets provided an excellent demonstration of hose drills and ladder work in order to showcase their recently acquired skills. After changing into dry clothing they were then awarded their certificates by Assistant Chief Fire Officer, David Russel.

The High Sheriff of Lancashire sent a letter expressing his appreciation of the Fire Cadets' excellent work.

The High Sheriff of Lancashire
Robert Webb JP DL



Longbarrow, Arkholme,
Carnforth, Lancashire, LA6 1AX
Telephone: 015245 22202
Email: info@highsheriffoflancashire.co.uk

23rd July, 2017



Dear Steve,

Many thanks indeed for inviting us to the Passing Out Parade last week. Carol and I thoroughly enjoyed the presentation & display, and thought it was a great credit to both the Cadets & Leaders.

I find the development of the Cadet movement is very positive, and I will be most surprised if you don't see the numbers coming forward grow significantly in the coming years.

Please pass on my congratulations to all participants for their contribution, and I wish you all success in the future.

With best wishes,

Robert

This month saw the fire cadets take part in their passing out parade. This was the culmination of a lot of hard work over the last 9 months.

The passing out parade took place in front of their parents, dignitaries, Combined Fire Authority Chairman and Assistant Chief Fire Officer. It included a practical drill involving hose and ladders, as well as a presentation and awards ceremony for Cadet of the year, Eureka moment and the most improved Cadet.

The Cadets also helped the Rossall Beach Buddies carry out a beach clean.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 11th August 2017
Time of Call: 14:42

On 11 August 2017, operational crews were called to a fire in the loft of a three-storey property in Blackpool. The fire originated in a solar panel inverter unit and switch mechanism. The inverter and switches were mounted onto a wooden board which was situated in a small loft area within the property. The board had been mounted just inside the loft area in order to afford easy access.

The debris resulting from the fire had dropped onto a plastic loft hatch. This in turn caused the loft hatch to burn which then fell through onto the carpeted landing area below. This set fire to the carpet. A total of seven appliances were deployed to the incident and four breathing apparatus sets were also used.

In terms of damage, the inverter unit and isolator switches relating to the solar panels were totally destroyed by the fire and the roof itself, in terms of the wooden roof trusses and loft insulation, suffered severe damage by fire. Moderate heat damage was noted on the external decorative roof cladding. The contents and decoration of the third floor landing suffered severe smoke damage and three rooms experienced moderate smoke damage as did some of the rooms on the second floor. The adjoining property also experienced light smoke damage to the loft area.

We have experienced an increase in solar panel related incidents where the inverter panel has been suggested as the possible cause of fire.

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 13 August 2017
Time of Call: 23:42

Operational crews were mobilised to Blackpool Skip Hire on the evening of 13 August 2017. This was a fire involving a large amount of recycled building waste. The incident was labour intensive and was attended by six appliances, with a further three appliances being deployed in a relief capacity.

A total of 50 tonnes of rubbish and eight skips were destroyed by heat and fire.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

BURNLEY

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Ramadan Safety

Pennine area Community Fire Safety Team was heavily involved in the 'Safety around Ramadan' campaign. Here is a compilation of some of the educational activities our staff have been involved with.

- Further to the launch of Ramadan Safety in May (to raise awareness around cooking safety, loose clothing and young drivers using the Wasted Lives package) and the launch of a Reassurance / Ramadan campaign at a Mosque with the objectives of reducing the risk of deliberate fire setting and hate crimes against the Muslim community and to show solidarity in terms of condemning the recent terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, Pennine launched a #westandtogether campaign at the aforementioned Mosque and then used social media to promote key messages to the wider community. More than 800 worshippers were addressed directly, whilst several hundred more listened to the talk via the Mosque radio broadcasting system.
- Community Fire Safety teams worked very closely with the Business Safety Advisor and piloted a presentation on 26 July at Burnley Community Fire Station. There was an opportunity to invite representatives from all places of worship in Burnley via the Lancashire Council of Mosques and Blackburn Diocese by circulating letters to businesses and places of worship on risk assessing and fire safety. This will be a continued effort across all areas within Pennine.
- More than 500 people with the local MP, the Mayor and other dignitaries met at Burnley Fire Station for a vigil walk to Burnley town centre Cenotaph supported by members of our Muslim community promoting the #westandtogether campaign, which is about community cohesion.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Emergency Special Service Call - Road Traffic Collision

Date: 18 August 2017

Time of Call: 09:01

Two appliances from Burnley were mobilised to a Road Traffic Collision between a family car and a medium sized delivery van. The collision was head on with substantial frontal impact. The van driver escaped injury free, but the car driver was trapped and had sustained serious injuries to their arm.

Operational fire crews attended, along with the Paramedics and made an initial assessment of the injuries that had been sustained and the nature of the entrapment, and a tactical plan was developed to extricate the casualty.

The roof of the vehicle was removed using hydraulic cutting equipment and space was created around the casualty to enable safe extrication to be performed. Fire Crews made the area safe, working closely with the Police (stopping passing pedestrians and vehicles), by extending the cordon whilst an Air Ambulance came in to land in the field adjacent to the road. A safe access route was then created through a boundary fence for the Air Ambulance Doctors to access the scene. Fire Crews then continued to work closely with the other agencies to transfer the casualty to the aircraft and onwards to hospital. This ensured that there was a safe and effective conclusion to the incident and demonstrated the close professional working relationships between different agencies including the Police, Ambulance, Air Ambulance and Council services.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

CHORLEY

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Dying for a Dip – Junior Citizens

Thirty young people from Chorley have engaged in a six-week summer holiday Junior Citizenship Programme, where they have engaged in a varied programme of activities including arts, sports and crafts, with a special trip to Botany Bay where they learned basic CPR training with input on Water Safety from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. Crews and Community Safety Advisors delivered the 'Dying for a Dip' Water Safety presentation to the young people. The group was split into two groups of 15, with one group litter picking around the area and the second group receiving the input. The presentation was well received, especially with the second group who were very interactive, interested and asked insightful questions around the dangers of open water swimming.

Update on PIVOT

On Monday 03 April 2017, a multi-agency team named PIVOT (Partnership, Integration, Vulnerability, Outcomes, Transforming) was launched at Chorley Fire Station. Since then, the team have worked on 54 cases and at the time of writing, 22 of those were live cases. An example of a recent success story is from a referral which came from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, where a gentleman with complex needs which impacted on a number of Services had requested the Police to attend. After presenting to the PIVOT team, a plan was put in place to provide him with the support he needed. A joint visit between Community Fire Safety and Fire Safety Enforcement took place due to the property being a House of Multiple Occupation and with further support provided by health professionals the gentleman is now receiving the support he needs.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 16 June 2017
Time of Call: 10:40

Two fire engines and crews, from Chorley and Horwich, responded to an incident in Chorley. The fire was in a chip fryer and Firefighters equipped with breathing apparatus used a hose reel jet and a dry powder extinguisher to put the fire out. The fryer had been accidentally left on at close of shift the previous evening and had subsequently overheated, igniting the oil. This was discovered at the time of ignition by the manager who was in the shop preparing to open. On arrival of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service personnel, the ground floor of the property was smoke logged but the fire had burnt itself out. There were no casualties and the cause of the fire was accidental.

Incident: Special Service
Date: 03 July 2017
Time of Call: 13:23

Two fire engines and crews, from Chorley and Darwen, responded to a special service call that had been called in by a member of the public to a report of fifteen juvenile cows stranded on a ledge in shallow water in the canal, unable to get out. On arrival, the farmer informed fire crews that the cows regularly entered the water on warm days. The farmer and Firefighters succeeded in rescuing all fifteen, uninjured, and they were led back to the farm.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

FYLDE

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Lytham Gala & Club Day

This year's Lytham Club Day was held on Saturday, 24 June 2017. The day began with a parade through the town and finished in Westby Street with the Rose Queens proceeding to Lytham Hall for the crowning ceremony. The afternoon was planned specifically as a family focused event, with sports activities which were delivered by AFC Fylde, donkey rides, and traditional stalls.

The appliance and crew from Lytham Station took part in the procession and then attended the event at Lytham Hall afterwards. Their aim was to promote general fire and rescue safety messages and to also raise awareness of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service within our local communities. The operational crews, particularly the retained duty system, felt this was an ideal opportunity to highlight to members of the local community the role played by Retained Firefighters.

The event was also designed to provide a collection of photographs and memorabilia from past festivals, thus hoping to provoke memories of the people of Lytham that have enjoyed Lytham Club Day over the years, whether this be a family coming home for the day, building floats to be included in the parade or perhaps even being a member of the procession.

Operational crews offered current and relevant advice on topics such as "Summer Safety", "Home Fire Safety", "Road Safety", as well as increasing the profile of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service within the local community. The crew obtained maximum visibility and engaged with hundreds of people throughout the course of the day. We maintained a significant visual presence, distributed leaflets and, in keeping with the tradition of these events, the appliance proved to be the "big hit" acting as a magnet for both the younger children and their parents.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Chip Pan Fire
Date: 08 August 2017
Time of Call: 19:47

On the evening of Tuesday, 8 August, the crew from Lytham Fire Station were in the yard to the rear of the fire station completing drills. During one of the drills, an operational Firefighter who happened to be on the third floor of the drill tower noticed smoke coming out of a third floor flat window from a property that was situated directly behind the fire station.

Within minutes, a second billow of smoke came from the same window. The turnout system then began to sound and alerters activated directing crews to a kitchen fire at the address that had just been identified. The crew quickly made up the essential equipment and proceeded to the incident.

On arrival, Firefighters were met by the occupants who confirmed all persons were out of the flat and that they had extinguished the chip pan fire. A male occupant from the flat had put water onto the chip pan fire causing it to flash and as a result had sustained superficial burns to both his arms. As Firefighters were tasked with administering first aid to the casualty, two Firefighters donned breathing apparatus and entered the flat to confirm the fire was out and also to ventilate the property.

Damage was severe by fire to the chip pan, the cooker hob, the extractor fan and all the wooden units directly surrounding the cooker. Damage was also moderate by smoke to the remainder of the kitchen area and slight by smoke to the living room. The occupiers had put the chip pan on to heat and then become distracted by the television. The male occupant who had sustained the superficial burns was treated with burn gel by Firefighters at the scene and was not required to attend hospital.

This incident highlights the importance of crucial home fire safety messages in relation to safe cooking practices and for occupiers to never leave their cooking unattended. The other crucial message is for occupiers not to tackle fires themselves and the importance of installing working smoke alarms. These messages were issued through Lytham Fire's Twitter account, our own Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service website and via the Blackpool Gazette.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

HYNDBURN

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Community Engagement

A Community Fire Safety Advisor and a Retained Support Officer were invited to speak on a local community radio station and to discuss fire safety and the role of a Retained Firefighter.

15,000 people from the Hyndburn and Blackburn areas tuned in during the hour allocated and many got in touch while staff were 'on air' to ask questions. It proved to be very popular and resulted in the offer of a regular slot on the radio once every six weeks.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Fire
Date: 10 July 2017
Time of Call: 03:39

A call was received at North West Fire Control indicating a fire involving a derelict building and two fire appliances were mobilised from Hyndburn Fire Station. Whilst on route, further information was received by North West Fire Control indicating that the fire potentially involved a kitchen.

The first appliance arrived on scene at 03:45, four minutes after being alerted and was joined by the second appliance at 03:47. On arrival, the Incident Commander was faced with a developing fire involving the rear ground floor of a commercial property. The extent and severity at this time prompted the Incident Commander to request additional resources and a further appliance was requested and mobilised from Blackburn Fire Station. The rear of the premises was secured by a metal security door which needed to be accessed by Firefighters using the power saw. Whilst crews were working to gain access, the Incident Commander was informed by a neighbour that the flat above the shop was occupied by an elderly gentleman, who was likely to be in his flat. A 'Persons Reported' message was sent at 04:01 and an ambulance requested to attend.

Once access was gained, four Firefighters wearing Breathing Apparatus were committed into the affected property for the purpose of firefighting and search and rescue and within a very short period of time an elderly male was located in the first floor flat and carried outside by Firefighters. An ambulance was already in attendance and the casualty was immediately handed over to paramedics.

Crews were then deployed to extinguish the fire and contain fire spread to adjacent properties. Careful scene management by the attending crews was vital in preserving evidence which was subsequently used to identify that the fire had been caused deliberately and critical to the success of a joint Police / Fire Service investigation.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

LANCASTER

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Water Safety Campaign

In support of The Royal Life Saving Society (RLSS) drowning prevention week, Community Safety Advisors and Operational Staff have been raising awareness centred on the dangers of swimming in open water in the forthcoming summer months.

As part of the week long campaign, Operational Staff visited known potential danger areas. At these key locations, staff engaged with members of the public, promoting water safety by distributing literature and displaying posters in prominent positions.

The Campaign was supported by Carnforth Fire Cadets, who after input from Community Safety Advisors, delivered awareness to be 'water safe' to their fellow pupils, supported by The Cadets creating posters and displaying them around Carnforth High School.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Building Fire
Date: 10 July 2017
Time of Call: 18:10hrs

Two fire appliances from Lancaster were mobilised to the above incident at Ravens Close, Lancaster. Upon arrival, the Officer in Charge was confronted with a well-developed fire involving large sheds approximately 5m x 5m, a section of fencing made from recycled composite plastics, trees and surrounding shrubbery. A large smoke plume was visible from several miles away.

Due to the severity of the fire, two adjacent properties had been affected. A breathing apparatus team with a hose reel made entry into the garden to prevent further spread of fire to the properties. Fire appliances were increased to four to assist with additional water supplies and increase personnel involved in firefighting. Due to the size and materials involved it took approximately one hour to fully extinguish the fire. Recycled composite plastic fencing has caused many issues, not only locally but county-wide. Fire Safety Enforcement Officers are working in conjunction with Local Authorities to restrict the use of this material. After investigation, the cause of the incident was a fire of suspicious origin.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

PENDLE

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Hoarders Support Group

A collaborative partnership working group with East Lancashire Community Restart Team has been trialled with Community Fire Safety staff in Pendle. The issues around safety in households where hoarding takes place are serious, as high levels of clutter make it much easier for a fire to start and create a greater risk of fire spreading, increasing the risk of injury and death. It can also make it very difficult to escape and can lead to difficulties for Firefighters tackling the blaze. The Hoarders Support Group is attended by six regular participants who have been identified as needing support by various agencies. The aim of the group is to allow them to start to trust and be able to talk openly with other people who have a common denominator of hoarding, as sufferers are often reluctant to seek help for their problems, causing great distress to family members.

Over the coming weeks, the group will receive interaction and advice from specially trained staff that can access other services and receive interventions. This has given Community Fire Safety staff a gateway into offering Safe and Well advice whilst identifying this as the main problem. "Chronic hoarding" is identified when rooms in a home become "unusable for their intended purpose". The use of a "Clutter Image Rating" is used to assess whether your view of your home is realistic, of which this tool is now being used by Lancashire Community Fire Safety staff. Like most human behaviours, saving and collecting possessions can range from being totally normal to excessive or pathological. Most children have collections at some point and approximately 30% of British adults define themselves as collectors. It can take people up to 30 years to build a hoard. Hoarding and Compulsive Hoarding are some of the more commonly used terms to refer to an excessive and problematic form of 'collectionism' where approximately 2-5% of the population – which in the UK alone is potentially over 1.2 million people.

Work is currently being undertaken by a Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service mental health reference group, which has now been set up to better train and guide staff on how best to find support for people living with this and other conditions. Sometimes, when possessions and clutter spill over to communal areas, e.g. front and back gardens, neighbours may be affected too and councils may be forced to intervene, which is often where Community Fire Safety and operational staff become aware of a premises belonging to a person who collects.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 02 July 2017
Time of Call: 15:41

Crews were mobilised to a house fire that was 'persons reported'. The occupant had forgotten to remove food from the oven due to falling asleep. This resulted in being awoken by a working smoke alarm - but unfortunately the occupant had attempted to remove the items from the oven and was overcome by smoke.

Crews wearing breathing apparatus entered the property to locate the individual and to extinguish the fire. Simultaneously a first aid station was set up in readiness for the potential casualty. An assessment of the individual was carried out and subsequently first aid was administered by crew members.

One appliance was in relatively close proximity to the incident due to being mobile in the area. It was despatched very quickly and arrived promptly in attendance. An ambulance was requested and upon arrival, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service crews handed over the information gleaned from the first aid assessment and the resident was given a precautionary check by North West Ambulance Service. A 'hot strike' was carried out the following day, by the local crew, to surrounding properties in order to promote key safety messages and the uptake of Home Fire Safety Checks.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

PRESTON

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Preston Fire Station Open Day

On Sunday, 18 June, Preston Fire Station opened its doors to the public to demonstrate the vital work of the Fire Service within the community. This was not only an opportunity for us to engage with our diverse communities within Preston, but also an opportunity for ourselves and our partner agencies to deliver key safety messages to some of our hard to reach groups.

A marketplace environment was set up for members of the public to engage with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, North West Ambulance Service and our partners. Several road safety, tower rescue and hot oil scenarios were demonstrated and Mountain Rescue, Bay Search & Rescue were in attendance to display their equipment.

The open day was a huge success. Over 5,000 people attended over the course of the day and a total of £1,756 was raised for the Firefighters Charity.

CFOA Boat Safety Week

At the beginning of June, the Chief Fire Officers Association launched their Boat Safety Campaign and crews from Preston Fire Station were supported by Community Fire Safety staff to promote this at several locations within Preston and the surrounding areas.

A visible presence was ensured at eight predetermined locations between 10:00-16:00hrs over the course of the week. Information leaflets were distributed to the public at marinas, boatyards and the docks. Particular attention was paid to carbon monoxide and how to identify it, escape routes, log burning fires and the storage of combustible items.

Over 70 leaflets were handed out to members of the public. Advice was delivered and discussions were had with a number of boat owners. Posters and leaflets were also left with marina shop owners.

Corpus Christie School Water Safety Presentations

During the month of June, the Royal Life Saving Society launched their Drowning Prevention Week and crews from Fulwood Fire Station were supported by Community Fire Safety staff to promote this at Corpus Christie School, Fulwood.

Water Safety Presentations were delivered over the course of a week. Children aged 12 to 16 were targeted with consideration being given to the diversity of the children within the school. The dangers of open water swimming were explained and information covering what to do if things go wrong was discussed. Personal Protective Equipment used by the Fire Service was displayed and demonstrated by operational personnel.

Water safety messages were delivered to over 100 children and positive feedback was received from the school with a request for the Fire Service to deliver this again next year.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: House Fire – Cooking related
Date: 13 June 2017
Time of Call: 19:56

Two appliances from Preston Station were mobilised to a semi-detached house. The house was heavily smoke logged. One occupant was rescued by Firefighters from the ground floor. She informed the crew that there was a disabled female on the first floor trapped in a bedroom. Two Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus stayed with the female in her bedroom until the crew extinguished the fire in the kitchen and ventilated the property. Both females were taken to hospital for a precautionary check for smoke inhalation. The fire had started when a saucepan and contents had been left unattended, the fire then spread to a grill pan containing oil.

Incident: Special Service Call
Date: 27 July 2017
Time of Call: 16:23

One appliance from Fulwood station was mobilised to a local Primary School where a child had a finger stuck in a knot hole in a wooden fence which was difficult to remove due to swelling. Firefighters reassured the pupil on arrival and after applying washing up liquid to the finger enabled it to be released without any further harm being caused.

Incident: Fire
Date: 27 July 2017
Time of Call: 20:05

Two appliances from Preston Station were mobilised to a residential accommodation. On arrival, there was no response from the occupier and another resident stated that a smoke detector had been sounding for at least 30 minutes and smoke could be seen coming through the letterbox. Entry was gained by crews via a window. The first crew inside found that the occupier had fallen and due to the level of smoke supported the occupier to leave in their wheelchair. The flat was heavily smoke logged due to food left under the grill. Firefighters removed the grill pan from the hob. A ventilation unit was used to remove smoke from the premises prior to assisting the occupier back into the flat after being seen by a paramedic.

Incident: Road Traffic Collision (Special Service)
Date: 13 August 2017
Time of Call: 20:09

Three appliances were mobilised to a road traffic collision on the M55. The incident involved two cars on the Westbound carriageway at Junction 3. An Audi had run into the rear of a Skoda Octavia with the Skoda coming to rest in lane 3. The driver of the Skoda was extricated from the vehicle by Fire Service personnel using Holmatro cutting and spreading equipment. The driver was conveyed to Blackpool Victoria Hospital by land Ambulance. There were no other casualties.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	RIBBLE VALLEY
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<p><u>Community Engagement</u></p> <p>Having seen the Grenfell Tower tragedy unfold on TV, seven-year-old George Thornberry asked his Mum Hannah how he could help and started to come up with fundraising ideas. George set to work, raiding the cupboards for biscuits, sweets, chocolate and crisps and set out a tombola stall outside his home's back gate. Local people went out of their way to help and George added his own pocket money to the funds raised. He then said he'd like to contribute to the Firefighter's Charity and a visit to his local fire station in Clitheroe was arranged.</p> <p>Watch Manager Dave McGrath invited George to join the Firefighters on parade - <i>"We were overwhelmed when George attended the station. For such a young boy to share his thoughts and feelings about how it had affected him was quite emotional - and to raise money as he has, shows what a special boy George really is. It was a real pleasure to meet him."</i></p> <p>George himself said, <i>"I saw the tower on fire on the TV and watched the Firefighters rescuing people and thought how brave they were and started thinking what I could do to help them"</i>. George's heart-warming story and his visit to the station rightly made front-page news.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	ROSSENDALE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<p><u>Wild Fires and Water Safety During Summer Term</u></p> <p>Pennine Community Fire Safety staff and Operational crews have planned in advance for the potential for young people in the area to be involved in risk taking situations. Many of these things can often relate to an increase in anti-social behaviour. As we move forward with our collaborative work with our partners in Pennine, it was felt we should take opportunities to integrate and help to educate these younger people where possible, and warn them of the potential dangers they could face. High schools in Rossendale, Burnley and Pendle received information which was sent home to parents before term reminding them to make a conscious effort in knowing the whereabouts of their child and diverting them from the potential of getting in to dangerous situations. This was a joint initiative with Lancashire police.</p> <p>In addition to this initiative was a Fun4Families programme. Through a joint effort by Children's Social Care, the Wellbeing Prevention and Early Help, along with Lancashire Police gave Community Fire Safety staff an opportunity to work in partnership with multi-agencies to consider developing better practice by pooling resources and responses to family needs during non-term time. All agencies had been working separately to respond to identified needs in the area and had highlighted specific needs in key areas.</p> <p>The purpose of the pilot was to trial and test whether added value can be accrued by pooling resources, to meet needs more effectively for families at those times of the year when family circumstances can be particularly stressful and difficult. In Rossendale, there has also been acute issues identified with young people in relation to anti-social behaviour, one such area was Haslingden.</p> <p>Statistics show previous experience of delivering holiday programme provision within Wellbeing Prevention and Early Help had impacted to an extent that Children's Social Care recorded a 60% reduction in safeguarding referrals within the district during 2009-2012 during these specific (summer) periods. Evidence and evaluation has shown that families will engage with Fun4Families style programmes due to its fun, informal and inclusive approach and the model can be effective in promoting health, new skills development and cohesive community experience.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Building Fire
Date: 12 August 2017
Time of Call: 22:55

Appliances from Bacup and Rawtenstall were sent to a building fire in the Edgeside area. On arrival, they were faced with a fully developed fire on the ground and first floor of a large unoccupied semi derelict detached house. Following the initial assessment, more resources were requested which included; a further appliance from Bacup, both appliances from Hyndburn and an Ariel Ladder Platform.

It was noted that the building was showing signs of recent movement, including a large crack separating the gable end of the structure from the returning walls. Fearing the building was in danger of imminent collapse; crews were withdrawn to a safe distance and safety cordons put in place to keep both attending emergency workers and members of the public at a safe distance. The fire was then fought from this position using hand held jets and the ariel ladder platform was set up to tackle the fire from above.

Police were requested to attend to assist in keeping members of the public, who were spectating, away from the scene and also to assist in investigating the fire as it was deemed to be of suspicious origin.

The local authority building inspector was also requested to attend to assess the structural stability of the premises, which is now scheduled for demolition in the near future.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

SOUTH RIBBLE

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Leyland Fire Station Open Day

On Saturday, 08 July, Leyland Fire Station opened their doors for a station open day. The event was attended by agencies including the Round Table, Lancashire County Council and the Air Cadets who helped out with serving food. There were a number of activities and attractions including fire safety, a raffle and guess the weight of the cake, fairground rides and a bouncy castle. Crews from Leyland and Bamber Bridge did a road traffic collision exercise, rope rescue and the smoke tent, and the Community Fire Safety team demonstrated the dangers of putting water on a chip pan with the hot oil demonstration. The Police attended and assisted Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service with talking to people about the dangers of drink driving using one of the crashed cars as a focal point. A total of £1,264.18 was raised with the Firefighters Charity receiving £563.00, Manchester Children's Hospital receiving £541.00 and Operation Florian (who ran the BBQ) receiving £160.00.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Consequences Talk

The Community Fire Safety team were approached by Hutton Grammar School to provide some input on antisocial behaviour in relation to fire safety and the consequences of fire setting. After some discussion, teachers felt that some pupils would benefit from a better understanding of the seriousness of hoax calls or calling emergency services out unnecessarily. 300 Year 9 students received input on water safety, fire safety and the consequences of fire setting. Feedback from the school was very positive. The school were provided with information on the FIRES programme and how to refer if they feel any of their pupils need any one-to-one intervention.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 14 June 2017
Time of Call: 06:50

An occupier had put the washing machine on at about 06:30-06:40. About 10 mins later there was a smell of burning, and smoke could be seen coming from the washing machine. The occupier unplugged the washing machine and closed the door before calling 999. On arrival, there was a large amount of smoke and small amounts of flame within the utility room. Two breathing apparatus wearers with a hose reel were used to extinguish the fire. Positive pressure ventilation was used for smoke clearance. The occupier noted that the washing machine had displayed the code F-06 a couple of days earlier and after googling the code had turned off the machine at the mains and turned it back on again. It appeared that an accidental electrical fire had started within the wiring of the washing machine.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	WEST LANCASHIRE
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LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Fire Cadet Passing Out Parade

Crews and Community Safety Advisors from Ormskirk Fire Station assisted in the Passing Out Parade for Ormskirk Fire Cadets at Ormskirk School on Tuesday, 12 July. The event was attended by the parents of the Cadets as well as teachers and support staff from Ormskirk School. The Passing Out Parade opened with a drill the Cadets had perfected during their course, where they responded to a fictitious incident which saw them rescue a number of casualties from a smoke filled property. From there, they moved to the school hall, where a presentation took place displaying some of the activities they had taken part in over the year. These included water safety, first aid and an enrichment day at Service Training Centre. Each Cadet then received a certificate, presented by the Chairman of the Combined Fire Authority, County Councillor Frank De Molfetta, recognising their success during the year and two Cadets received an award for Cadets of the Year.

Information Day

Community Safety Advisors, along with 27 other organisations including Young Addaction, the Quit Squad and West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Services, attended an information day at the Concourse Shopping Centre in Skelmersdale. The aim of the event was for residents of West Lancashire to speak to the different organisations about the services that are available to them in their area and help them to feel safer and happier.

The organisations that attended were specially chosen in order to meet the different purposes of the event, including improving health and wellbeing, developing partnerships and providing advice and support.

Over 70 people were provided with the Home Fire Safety Check referral process and the referrals are beginning to be made. Links were also made with a number of partners unknown to Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and training and information on how to refer into the Service has been offered. The day was really well attended and deemed a success from the amount of people spoken to and the outcomes for each agency.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 17 July 2017
Time of Call: 09:22

The call came from North West Ambulance Service, reporting that a battery (an 'AA' sized rechargeable type) had exploded in a man's pocket. Fortunately, he sustained only minor injuries that were treated at the scene by Ambulance Paramedics. Skelmersdale Firefighters were on hand to offer assistance and they contacted one of our fire investigation specialists, who discovered that the battery terminals had been short-circuited by a set of keys the man had been carrying in the same trouser pocket. The battery had rapidly discharged and exploded.

Incident: Primary Fire
Date: 12 July 2017
Time of Call: 02:17

Two appliances from Skelmersdale, one from Ormskirk and one from Wigan were called to a commercial premise on Helmsdale, Skelmersdale. The building, a detached building of two stories, housed a boxing club. Firefighters equipped with breathing apparatus used two hose reel jets to extinguish the fire, the cause of which is under investigation. There were no casualties.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE – AUGUST 2017

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:

WYRE

LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)

Preesall Cadets - Dementia Friends

As part of their Community Project, Preesall Fire Cadets held a series of 'mobile' Dementia Cafés in the Preesall area. Part of the project was to serve cakes and refreshments at the Cafés. The Cadets put together a plan and each Cadet was tasked with an action of either baking cakes or asking local businesses, family or friends to donate some.

During the course of the day, the Cadets visited Conifers Nursing Home in Hambleton, Pilling Nursing Home and St Albans Nursing Home in Knott End, where the residents were served tea and cakes.

Throughout the day, the Cadets displayed patience and professionalism, utilising their Dementia Friends training. They enjoyed talking to the residents and hearing their accounts particularly their involvement in the war. The Cadets also had the opportunity to share their experience of the Fire Cadet programme with both residents and visitors.

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Incident: Building fire
Date: 18 July 2017
Time of Call: 17:41

Two fire appliances were initially mobilised to an incident at Stone Wharf, Moss Lane in Garstang. However, due to information received from an off duty Firefighter stating these premises were known to be used by squatters, the incident was upgraded to persons reported and fire appliances increased to three.

Upon arrival, the Officer in Charge was confronted with a disused detached property where both ground and first floors were heavily involved in fire. Appliances were increased to four for personnel and breathing apparatus. A breathing apparatus team entered the building to search for casualties however were rapidly withdrawn due to concerns for the stability of the building.

Fire appliances were increased to eight and the Air Support Unit requested. Light portable pumps were deployed to pump water from the canal.

The last appliance left the incident at midnight, the incident being left open for inspection the following day. A Building Control Officer and Structural Engineer met with Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service personnel, after confirmation of safe areas, a search of the premises was made. Due to the unsafe condition of the first floor, the Air Support Unit was deployed using the high definition camera. No casualties in these areas were located. The cause of the fire is of suspicious origin, and is being investigated by both Police and Incident Intelligence Officer.