

Public Document Pack

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 14 December 2020 – Virtual meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast) commencing at 10.00 am.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THE AGENDA PAPERS OR REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DIANE BROOKS, PRINCIPAL MEMBER SERVICES OFFICER ON TELEPHONE NUMBER PRESTON 01772 866720 AND SHE WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST

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AGENDA

PART 1 (open to press and public)

Chairman's Announcement – Open and Transparent Virtual Committee Meeting

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Government has made regulations that enable virtual meetings.

This meeting will be accessible for Committee Members via Microsoft Teams and for members of the press and public via a live webcast on YouTube.

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 WEDNESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2020 OF PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE (PAGES 15 - 32)

6. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2020 OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE (PAGES 33 - 60)

7. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2020 OF MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP (PAGES 61 - 66)

8. MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2020 OF PLANNING COMMITTEE (PAGES 67 - 76)
9. MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2020 OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE (PAGES 77 - 86)
10. MINUTES OF MEETING FRIDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2020 OF AUDIT COMMITTEE (PAGES 87 - 94)
11. MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2020 OF STRATEGY GROUP (PAGES 95 - 96)
12. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES (PAGES 97 - 102)
13. AERIAL APPLIANCE STRATEGY (PAGES 103 - 140)
14. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE (PAGES 141 - 156)
15. POLICY UPDATE REPORT (VERBAL REPORT)
16. FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS (PAGES 157 - 160)
17. COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS (PAGES 161 - 184)
18. MEMBER COMPLAINTS

Standing item.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority will be held on Monday 22 February 2021 - venue to be confirmed.

20. 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.

21. 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.

PART 2

22. PENSIONABILITY OF ALLOWANCES (PAGES 185 - 188)
23. SERVICE HEADQUARTERS BUSINESS CASE (PAGES 189 - 214)
24. URGENT BUSINESS (PART 2)

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.

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Agenda Item 4

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 14 September 2020 at 10.00 am - Virtual meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast)

MINUTES

PRESENT:

F De Molfetta (Chairman)

Councillors

L Beavers

S Blackburn

P Britcliffe

I Brown

S Clarke

J Eaton

N Hennessy

S Holgate

D Howarth

Jane Hugo

A Kay

H Khan

M Khan OBE

Z Khan

T Martin

D O'Toole

M Pattison

A Riggott

J Shedwick

D Smith

D Stansfield

T Williams

73/19 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, CC Frank De Molfetta welcomed Authority Members and members of the press and public to the virtual committee meeting of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority. He advised that in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Government had made regulations that enabled virtual meetings. This meeting was accessible for Committee Members via Microsoft Teams and for members of the press and public via a live webcast on YouTube.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Jane Hugo from Blackpool Council and County Councillor Margaret Pattison from Lancashire County Council who had replaced Councillor Fred Jackson and County Councillor Miles Parkinson on the Authority. He thanked both Fred and Miles for their long service and dedication to the work of the Authority.

The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate former Deputy Chief Fire Officer, David Russel on his promotion to Chief Fire Officer of Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service. On behalf of the Authority the Chairman thanked Dave for his 29 years' service to the people of Lancashire and wished him well in his new post.

The Authority recognised the sad loss of so many people who had lost their lives to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The Chairman asked that it be put on record the excellent work that the Service had done and continued to do during this difficult time, not only to maintain a response to emergencies but to work in partnership especially supporting the Lancashire Resilience Forum for the benefit of the people of Lancashire.

Mr Mark Nolan, Clerk to the Authority conducted a roll call and Authority Members individually confirmed their attendance.

74/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors Liz Oades and George Wilkins.

75/19 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the term 2020/21 and County Councillor Hennessy was nominated. No further nominations were received. The Clerk held a vote and the motion was CARRIED unanimously.

CC Hennessy thanked all Members for their support in her appointment. She also took the opportunity to thank Councillor Jackson and County Councillor Parkinson for their work on the Authority and to congratulate David Russel on his appointment as Chief Fire Officer at Manchester.

Following a request from County Councillor O'Toole it was agreed that the Clerk would write on behalf of the Authority to Councillor Jackson and County Councillor Parkinson to formally express gratitude and to acknowledge their work on the Authority.

The Chairman announced that CC Hennessy would now become the Planning Committee Chairman, CC Khan would become the Audit Committee Chairman and that CC Pattison would take on the responsibility of Health and Wellbeing Champion.

RESOLVED: - That:

- i) County Councillor Hennessy be appointed Vice-Chairman of the CFA for the remainder of the term 2020/21;
- ii) Changes to Member responsibilities be noted; and
- iii) The Clerk formally writes to Councillor Fred Jackson and County Councillor Miles Parkinson.

76/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

CC Hennessy disclosed a pecuniary interest in item 9 on the agenda as an allowance was payable by the Local Government Association (LGA) to Members of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee.

77/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the CFA held on 24 February 2020 be confirmed for signature by the Chairman.

78/19 MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE 2020 OF PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee, County Councillor Holgate thanked those who attended the first virtual meeting of the Committee which he thought went particularly well.

County Councillor Riggott raised for the attention of the full Authority that on page 28 (resolution 22/19 refers) and page 29 under Key Performance Indicator 1.3 for Accidental Dwelling Fires that the reporting of comparable activity from the previous year had been incorrectly stated as a decrease which was on both occasions an increase. He felt that scrutiny was important and was concerned why this had happened. In response CC Holgate thanked CC Riggott for his meticulous reading of the reports and asked officers to make sure this typographical error did not reoccur. The Clerk confirmed that amended Measuring Performance reports would be available on the Performance page of the Service website.

County Councillor Pattison referred to the work of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership detailed on page 35 particularly in relation to child pedestrian training at reception, year 1 and year 2 at almost every primary school in the county. CC Pattison had receive a number of concerns from head teachers and parents who (now due to covid-19) were not able to drop the children off in the playground at school and this was leading to increased risk on the roadside. CC Pattison queried whether the training could be increased to all children. In response CC Holgate felt it was appropriate to work in partnership with the Police to provide guidance to head teachers and parents to drop off children in as safe a manner as possible. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reassured Members that this would be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership executive in October.

In relation to the overall activity detailed on page 29, County Councillor Clarke was concerned that 47% were false alarms and he had raised the point at the Committee meeting that repeat offenders should be charged a cost for the turnout or face a penalty. CC Holgate confirmed that the procedures used at North West Fire Control did filter out a lot of false alarm calls and agreed that businesses should be supported to ensure their equipment was adequate particularly at this challenging time as many tried to keep their businesses afloat.

In response to questions raised by County Councillor Britcliffe, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the classification of a call as a False Alarm came after attendance when the cause could be determined. These were most commonly either person error or most predominantly, equipment failure (which was classed in the incident recording system as an unwanted fire signal from an automated fire alarm system). The Service had not issued a financial penalty to date but this was something that could be evaluated. The Service did however use the Fire Service Order legislation to mandate premises to make changes to their fire risk assessment and/or equipment and the Service did follow these up. In addition, if 2 calls were received concerning a building this triggered an evaluation of that building. He advised that there were repeat offenders and some high risk significant buildings where changes following building work could see an increase in calls however in the main the number of repeat offenders were very small across the commercial premises in Lancashire.

CC Britcliffe asked that a detailed report be provided to an Authority meeting. The Authority Chairman stated that previously when this concern had been discussed at the Performance Committee, Members expressed that the Service did respond to these calls as there could be a serious fire however, it was felt that this issue could be looked at again to see if any improvements could be made to ensure building owners carried out their duties.

CC Eaton expressed concern that while the Service was dealing with a false alarm there could be a genuine fire elsewhere and any delay could be at the cost of someone's life.

CC Holgate agreed that the Performance Committee would commission officers to bring a detailed report to a future meeting that explored potential changes to response arrangements which could result in a reduction of attendance at false alarm calls.

RESOLVED: - That:

- i) A detailed report be provided to a future Performance Committee meeting that supported the reduction of attendance to false alarm calls; and
- ii) The proceedings of the Performance Committee held on 24 June 2020 be noted and endorsed.

79/19 MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY, 13 JULY 2020 OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

In response to a question raised by CC Shedwick the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that consultants had been commissioned to look at a draft business case on the relocation of Service Headquarters and options would be presented to Members at the next Strategy Group for consideration.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Planning Committee held on 13 July 2020 be noted and endorsed.

80/19 MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 28 JULY 2020 OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

County Councillor O'Toole asked that a thorough update be provided of the money received from HM Government (for covid-19) detailing how and where this had been spent and including what the balance was and what that would be used for. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that at the Resources Committee scheduled for the end of the month details would be provided in the Financial Monitoring report.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on 28 July 2020 be noted and endorsed.

81/19 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Clerk presented a report received on behalf of County Councillor Hennessy which detailed background information and key points raised at Local Government Association meetings of: the Firefighters Pensions Scheme Advisory Board, the Fire Commission, the Fire Service Management Committee and the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project which she had attended on behalf of the Authority.

As the Authority was the body responsible for the pension scheme CC Hennessy felt that training by Clair Alcock, Senior Pension Adviser of the LGA, would be beneficial for all Members. CC Shedwick observed that often when considering budget items there was a lot of information received regarding the pension scheme therefore this training would be very much appreciated.

RESOLVED: - That:

- i) The report be noted; and
- ii) The Authority received a presentation by the senior pension adviser of the LGA.

82/19 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21 AND 2021/22

Members raised concern over the sound quality during virtual meetings. It was acknowledged that Members were requested to turn off their microphones and videos unless speaking to assist this and that Lancashire County Councillors who were using their home authority corporate lap tops could benefit from the Teams app being available on their devices.

RESOLVED: - That the proposed programme of meetings for the Combined Fire Authority for 2020/21 and 2021/22 be agreed as: -

2020/21

27 April 2020*
15 June 2020* (Annual meeting of the CFA)
14 September 2020
14 December 2020
22 February 2021 (Budget Setting Meeting)

*cancelled in line with the Coronavirus Act

2021/22

26 April 2021
28 June 2021 (Annual Meeting of the CFA)
13 September 2021
13 December 2021

21 February 2022 (Budget Meeting)

83/19 EXECUTIVE BOARD SUCCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Warren, Director of People and Development advised that the recruitment process for the Deputy Chief Fire Officer role was a live process following David Russel's promotion to the Chief Fire Officer of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services.

He confirmed that to ensure there were enough candidates a sector specific consultancy was employed to raise awareness of the role across a whole cohort of suitable people (including those who had taken the sector executive leadership

programme and across UK Fire Service contacts with Chief Fire Officers and others at a senior level and networks) to encourage people to participate in the process. This resulted in 45 people invited to have a confidential interview of which 25 potential candidates took this option before deciding whether to make a formal application.

It was noted that the process would conclude for shortlisted candidates with a Member and Chief Fire Officer Interview panel on Thursday that week.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted and endorsed.

84/19 HMICFRS COVID-19 INSPECTION

The Chief Fire Officer advised that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had confirmed that it was undertaking for all Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) in England an interim review of the sector's response to the covid-19 pandemic in order to draw out any common learning. The main focus was identifying what worked well and the contribution that the sector had made. The assessment was not scored but it would feed into the formal assessment next year. A narrative report of all England FRS from the HMICFRS was expected to be published alongside the next State of the Nation report at Christmastime.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Service had conducted its own review of its response to the pandemic which included a staff survey and this had been fed into the National Fire Chief Council's review of the process.

In terms of business continuity, there had been a great contribution from all staff who were dealing effectively with the largest incident ever faced alongside a lot of operational activity (such as the wildland fires at Longridge Fell, Darwen Moor and Winter Hill all at the same time and the recent flooding in the north of the county). He felt it was important to mention that there had not been any known inter-service transmission of covid-19 which was due to the procedures and ways of working that were in place.

The Service had looked at how it had supported the people of Lancashire through the provision of significant support to the Lancashire Resilience Forum (for example, through the establishment of temporary field hospitals, undertaking processes for potential body recovery, face fit testing for the NHS and distribution of PPE including to care homes etc). The Chief Fire Officer was confident that the inspection would confirm that all staff had continued to maintain an effective service delivery and had really contributed to keeping Lancashire communities safe.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that the inspection would take place virtually over the last 2 weeks in September and over the first week in October using data and with interviews with certain staff including the Chairman and himself.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Williams, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that details of the covid-19 pandemic funding received from government which included a considerable spend on PPE would be reported to the Resources Committee at the end of the month.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

85/19 ANNUAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT

The report was presented by the Director of People and Development. The Authority considered the Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report for Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service covering the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

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 Safety, Health and Environment Policy and provided a summary of safety, health and environment performance data. It included the reporting on occupational safety, health and environmental issues that had arisen during the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

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.

External Audit

Since initial certification in November 2011 annual surveillance visits had been conducted with re certification every 3 years to maintain external certification of the Health and Safety and Environment Management Systems. In February 2020 the auditors from British Assessment Bureau carried out audits against international standards for health and safety ISO 45001:2018 and environment ISO 14001:2015. The scope for both standards was 'The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire'. This included all operational activity with visits to five fire stations that operated different duty systems and to a number of supporting departments. Continued certification was granted without any non-conformance or opportunities for improvement identified.

Improvement Actions during 2019/20

The report included examples of improvements carried out during 2019/20:

- Reviewed the organisational arrangements for health and safety and environment to meet the revised meeting structures within LFRS.
- Continued to embed improvements in fitness and the mandatory fitness testing for operational staff.
- Carried out Workplace Wellbeing Toolbox Talks and wellbeing promotions at our fire stations, service headquarters and service training centre to continue to embed and support staff health and wellbeing.
- Introduced our Leadership Framework into LFRS.
- Continued to provide improved PPE for attending operational incidents.
- Continued to implement National Operational Guidance into service.
- In partnership with UCLAN and FBU developing best practice to mitigate the potential risks of contaminants on dirty fire PPE.
- Made improvements and refurbished the fire house training building at Service

Training Centre (STC) used to deliver breathing apparatus training to operational crews.

- Extended our Employee Assistance Programme contract for a further two years.
- Continued to develop and integrate the Wildfire Burn Team and their skills into Wildfire Operational Incidents.
- Carried out a self-assessment against the Blue Light Wellbeing Framework promoted by the National Fire Chiefs Council.
- Introduced the Operational Briefing Note to ensure learning from incidents is communicated effectively.

Health and Safety Performance

During 2019/20 there were 88 accidents (73 to LFRS staff and 15 non-LFRS staff), 113 near misses (91 near misses and 22 near miss attacks on staff) and 9 RIDDOR events (1 major injury of a broken bone and 8 resulting from absence over 7 days). The report provided details of the total accident and ill-health statistics for 2019/20.

Health and Wellbeing

The management of sickness absence for 2019/20 showed that musculoskeletal and mental health related conditions accounted for 28% of all sickness absence. In total there were 1165 sickness absence cases resulting in 11,331 working days lost within the service, 327 musculoskeletal related absences gave rise to 3,136 working days lost and 61 mental health related absence resulted in 2081 working days lost and 15 cases relating to cancer relating to 1062 working days lost. In order to improve performance from musculoskeletal and mental health related absence, health and safety toolbox talks were to be delivered to all staff during the coming year. The toolbox talks would engage staff to increase understanding of the links between maintaining physical fitness for role, reducing the risks of musculoskeletal injuries and encouraging good mental health.

During 2019/20 there had been an increased focus on employee health and wellbeing through the development of a more holistic approach. The Health and Wellbeing Framework aimed to improve the health and wellbeing of the workforce ensuring all who worked for Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service were engaged, motivated, healthy and resilient and well. The report also detailed the activities that had been achieved during 2019/20.

Environmental Performance

The Carbon Management Plan agreed by the Resources Committee in March 2009 and reviewed in April 2013 included a visionary target of 40% carbon emission reduction by March 2020. The Service had achieved an overall reduction of 23% by March 2020 which equated to 1005 tonnes of CO₂; this delivered savings in the region to date of £679k. the original plan included the closure of Service Headquarters and a move to new premises which had not happened. Work would continue to improve environmental performance.

A look ahead to 2020/21

The report also detailed key safety, health and environmental priorities for 2020/21:

- Rationalise and refresh the existing risk assessments, standard operating procedures/service orders and training requirements following the introduction and publication of National Guidance for Fire and Rescue Services together with

legislative changes.

- Reduce the number of accidents and related sickness absence whilst increasing the number of near miss events reported.
- Maintain LFRS certification to ISO 45001:2018 and ISO14001:2015 standards and continually improve the Health and Safety Management Systems and Environmental Management Systems.
- Embed Safety, Health and Environment through continued training and interaction with staff to enable proportionate and informed workplace safety, health and environmental decisions to be made.
- Continue to engage our Environmental Champions to assist in reducing carbon emissions from energy and fuel use through a refreshed Carbon Management Plan and reduce waste collected and increase the percentage of waste being recycled.
- Continue to deliver a program of health and wellbeing support to engage staff in maintaining fitness, reducing injury and absence, informing staff about the support available to maintain health and wellbeing whilst promoting ways to enhance personal resilience.
- Develop a Management of Occupational Road Risk policy.
- Embed our Leadership framework.
- Review Climate Change impacts.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy the Director of People and Development confirmed that the Member with responsibility for the environment including climate change was the Health and Wellbeing Champion. In addition, the Chairman confirmed that any Member could attend any Committee of the Authority as an observer.

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

86/19 POLICY FOR DEALING WITH HABITUAL AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS

The Clerk to the Authority presented the report. 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.

On an annual basis the Clerk and Chief Fire Officer reviewed the status of complainants judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious and reported this to the Authority. In addition, each year the Clerk reviewed the Policy, as now presented. This year's review concluded that the effectiveness of the Policy was demonstrable, accordingly the Policy remained appropriate, proportionate and effective to the needs of Members, Officers and staff.

During the previous 12 months there had been 1 complainant who was judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious. The individual had given cause for concern within the last 12 months as a result of action taken on their part which unequivocally demonstrated that they were a vexatious and habitual complainant and they would be informed in writing of this status in open correspondence from the Clerk.

County Councillors Shedwick and Holgate thanked the Clerk for his advice regarding when it was appropriate to respond to a complainant.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted and endorsed.

87/19 FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents. There were 2 successfully completed prosecutions under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and 7 incidents where investigations were ongoing and case files being prepared.

Fire protection and business support information considered by Members included: i) fire safety information system and inspection programme, ii) business safety and website; iii) implementing regulatory change and transforming fire protection services; iv) building risk review of all high rise buildings in Lancashire; and v) recruitment of fire protection staff.

In addition Members noted that there were 10 arson convictions reported.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Shedwick regarding the building risk review (as detailed on page 103) the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that the national target to respond to immediate concerns from high-rise residential buildings had been set for December 2021 and the Service aimed to have all the audits undertaken by March 2021. He confirmed that the Service had already carried out an assessment of risk and had started to inspect those that were most significant. The Service had increased its pre-determined attendance to 6 premises where there were significant concerns and work remained ongoing to visit all 73 premises by March 2021.

CC Hennessy praised the team on their work, referring to the quote by His Honour Judge Medland (as detailed on page 101) that "Fire Safety Teams in the local areas should be commended for not only compiling an exemplary prosecution case file but also the help, support and professionalism shown".

In response to a question raised by Councillor Williams regarding the Service returning to a business to report on any improvements so the business could reopen, the Assistant Chief Fire officer advised that it depended on hazards in the building. The shortfalls in the fire risk assessment at the Cornhill Hotel were significant. They didn't have a suitable means to raise a fire alarm to residents and holidaymakers would be unfamiliar with the surroundings. In this type of case the Service used the full weight of the legislation and could prohibit the use of part, or as in this case, all of the building. Nationally the legislation was used frequently and appropriately and in this case the Judge was in full of praise for the support provided to the Hotel by the Service.

County Councillor Beavers stated that it was 3 years since the Grenfell Tower Fire. She asked that of the 2,000 high-rise buildings covered with dangerous cladding how many were in Lancashire and what was the Service doing to help remedy the situation. The Chief Fire Officer advised that this was a really significant issue for the Service,

not just in terms of high-rise or cladding but the nature and scope would only get broader. The Service inspected all high rise buildings for aluminium composite material (ACM) type cladding initially however, more cladding types and their methods of construction had come into play over time which had created the new requirement for the Service to go back out and look again at these buildings. At the time of the initial inspection there were no domestic high-rise buildings with ACM type cladding but when you started to look at other cladding forms and at wooden balconies and constructions in very modern premises that had caught fire around the country, this was going to be a significant issue for all fire and rescue services which was why the Service was bringing forward a significant change programme.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that there were some domestic high rise buildings classified in special measures ie: that needed a waking watch and additional procedures in place before a remedy was put in place by the building owners. This was tied up in the same myriad of issues that were occurring nationally including: who were the responsible persons that were needed to do the work, how long would remediation take and what was safe remediation. In addition, the more the range of issues coming out of Grenfell was considered the more premises types were identified, particularly as thinking moved away from only considering high rise buildings.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that there were premises in Lancashire that had ACM cladding but they were not high rise domestic buildings. The size and scale of this would fundamentally change the entire response to the built environment and the fire sector would have a significant role to play. The legislation was just going through parliament and the National Fire Chiefs Council had been consulted and had input into that. There was a danger that if the consultation was not done carefully and respond to correctly the sector could find it had a much bigger remit without the appropriate resources to respond. The size and scale of this was fundamental change for the sector and this was the start of that journey.

The Chief Fire Officer wanted to be in a position to reassure Members that the building stock in Lancashire was safe in accordance to building regulations but there was a lot more work to be done over the coming months and years when considering the scale.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer added that in Lancashire, ACM was not a primary concern, it was high pressure laminates, checking the suitability of doors ie: that they were fire doors and in relation to compartmentation. Retrospectively changing gas installations and electrical intakes to buildings was another area that created significant concern. He advised that building fires not behaving as expected was far wider than Grenfell ie: the Cube incident in Manchester and other timber cladded or framed buildings across the country. He reassured Members that the Service was fully considering the built environment, the implications of the last 2 decades of regulatory reform, the way the built environment had developed and the potential lack compliance with fire safety. This was a huge piece of work the detail of which would be presented to Members at a future meeting or Strategy Day. Plans had been developed for the next 3 years to create system change in the way the Service operated to ensure public safety was as robust as it could be.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that this issue was not that the Service had not done what needed to be done over the last 20 years; it was about looking at who was responsible for what, across the range of building partners for building construction and that was what would change through new legislation with a new role for the fire sector foreseen as more significant than in the past.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority noted and endorsed the report.

88/19 COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented the report. He highlighted that whilst there had been challenging times during the pandemic, the Service had still attended urgent requests for safe and well home fire safety checks. In addition, the report demonstrated that the Service had supported local authority partners by undertaking in the region of 3,500 household visits to vulnerable people, many of whom were shielding. It was noted that the Service had adapted to the new working environment using digital means to remain engaged for example, with young people who had a fascination with fire and to carry out some restorative justice. In addition, supported by the local authority the Service had seen hugely successful community prevention work around wildfire prevention.

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

Members asked that the incidents in the report be reflective of the geographical area the incident occurred and not which fire appliance attended.

In relation to the Wyre district report (on page 127), CC Kay thanked officers that worked with Sendsafe. She felt it was important to visit vulnerable children, young people and adults to provide fire safety education. Councillor Williams agreed with CC Kay on the importance of the work with children and young people and he felt the number of visits had been outstanding.

As Member Champion for Community Safety, Councillor Williams asked that recognition also be given to the prevention safety team who continued to deliver training for vulnerable people. He advised that 47 adults and 5 children were referred to agency partners in the first quarter 2020 which was a significant amount and safeguarding referrals from 2019 – March 2020 had risen by 81% which showed how effective the training was. Councillor Williams felt it was an important area of activity where encouraging and rewarding results were achieved.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority noted and endorsed the report.

89/19 MEMBER COMPLAINTS

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there had been no complaints or information from any of the constituent authorities since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: - That the current position be noted.

90/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority would be held on Monday 14 December 2020 - venue to be confirmed.

91/19 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.

92/19 RE-APPOINTMENT OF CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

(Paragraphs 1 and 2)

It was confirmed that the Clerk to the Authority had withdrawn from the meeting for this item.

RESOLVED:- That the Authority approved the re-appointment of Mr Mark Nolan as Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority for a period of twelve months, to the September meeting of the Authority in 2021.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 September 2020, at 10.00 am - Virtual Meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast).

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

S Holgate (Chairman)
L Beavers
P Britcliffe
S Clarke
N Hennessy (for M Khan OBE)
H Khan
Z Khan
A Riggott
D Smith
D Stansfield

Officers

B Norman, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
T Crook, Area Manager, Head of Service Delivery (LFRS)
S Morgan, Area Manager, Head of Service Delivery (LFRS)
J Ashton, Community Protection Manager (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
N Bashall, Member Services Officer (LFRS)

26/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mohammed Khan.

27/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

28/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In relation to resolution 25/19 on page 16, Councillor Smith was aware of a petition to parliament to ban the sale of disposable barbecues. He felt this was an important issue and asked whether any progress had been made. In response, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that the sector had fed back concerns to the National Fire Chiefs Council who were lobbying the Home Office to consider making changes to legislation to ban barbecues. In the interim a number of leading manufacturers and supermarkets had chosen to stop stocking them, not just those used on the

moorlands but also those that were used on balconies. Members would be updated at future meetings as clarity emerged.

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

29/19 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

The Chairman introduced, Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman who presented the report.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised Members that this was the 1st quarterly report for 2020/21 as detailed in the Risk Management Plan 2017-2022.

Members examined each indicator in turn as follows:-

KPI 1 – Preventing, fires and other emergencies from happening and Protecting, people and property when fires happen

1.1 Risk Map

This indicator measured the fire risk in each Super Output Area. Risk was determined using fire activity over the previous 3 fiscal years along with a range of demographic data, such as population and deprivation.

The standard was to reduce the risk in Lancashire – an annual reduction in the County risk map score.

The current score 32,448, previous year score 31,816.

This was a negative exception report due to the overall risk score increasing over the previous year.

Analysis showed the reason was due to two factors:

- i) an update in 2019 to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score which was compiled by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government; (with the previous update being 2015). The IMD score was the official measure of relative deprivation for Lower Level Super Output Areas (SOA's) and was taken from the English Indices of Deprivation. Each SOA was assigned a score; the higher the score the more deprived the area. The 2019 update showed an increased score for 565 of the 941 SOA's within Lancashire. Our risk map calculation applied a multiplier of two to the score; hence an increased likelihood of SOA's being moved to a higher risk banding; and
- ii) the number of dwelling fire casualties recorded over the three-year period had increased. Details of casualties were reported quarterly within KPI 1.4. It was noted that although there were decreases in the number of dwelling and building fires, they were insufficient to offset the combined increases in IMD and casualties.

It was also noted that as the increase in the risk map score appeared to be related to the updated IMD, it was felt that this increase would be a single occurrence and that the current trajectory of dwelling and building fires would lead to a reduction in the next risk map update. The updated risk would be considered in future planning actions and performance would continue to be monitored at both a local and county level.

1.2 Overall Activity

This indicator measured the number of incidents that the Service attended with one or more pumping appliances.

Quarter 1 activity 4,916, previous year quarter 1 activity 4,532 an increase of 8.47% over the same quarter.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
4,916	4,916	4,532	4,532

Incidents attended consisted of a myriad of different types. The report presented a chart which represented the count and percentage that each activity had contributed to the overall quarter's activity; most notably was that 45% were false alarms which was comparable with previous periods. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that the Home Office had commissioned an academic institution to undertake a national study on how Fire and Rescue Services were dealing with false alarms and a report was awaited. This would feed into National Fire Chief Council practices and identify best practice for consideration.

In response to a request from the Chairman that a detailed report be provided to the Committee on the issue of false alarms, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer suggested and it was agreed that a report would be presented once the national report had been received.

1.3 Accidental Dwelling Fires

This indicator reported the number of primary fires where a dwelling had been affected and the cause of the fire had been recorded as 'Accidental' or 'Not known'.

It was noted that quarter 1 activity was 224, the previous year quarter 1 activity was 209, which represented an increase of 7.18% over the same quarter.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that although this indicator was not in exception there had been an increase when compared to quarter 1 from the previous year; the reasons for this had therefore been investigated.

Area Manager Morgan advised that a moderate spike had been seen in May with incident numbers moving from the very low 60s (which was comparable with previous months) up to 100 accidental dwelling fires. This was during the lockdown period which reflected that more people were spending time at home. The data

showed that those primarily involved were single occupant males or older persons and the incident types were cooking and distraction related, with the fires contained to items first ignited.

1.3.1 Accidental Dwelling Fires – Extent of Damage (Fire Severity)

This indicator reported the number of primary fires where a dwelling had been affected and the cause of the fire had been recorded as ‘Accidental or Not known’ presented as a percentage extent of fire and heat damage.

The extent of fire and heat damage was recorded at the time the ‘stop’ message was sent and included all damage types. The report charted a rolling quarterly severity of accidental dwelling fire over the previous two years with each quarter broken down into high, medium and low severity. Each quarter included the percentage (out of 100%) that each severity type represented of the total, with an indicator to illustrate the direction against the same quarter of the previous year.

The latest quarter recorded a combined ‘low’ and ‘medium’ severity of 92.9% which was a decreased of 3.3% against the 96.2% recorded in the same quarter of the previous year.

Severity (Direction against the same quarter of previous year)	Previous Rolling 4 Quarters				Quarter 1	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4		
High	↑	3.8%	6.5%	4.9%	8.1%	7.1%
Medium	↑	49.8%	51.5%	57.8%	50.8%	52.7%
Low	↓	46.4%	42.0%	37.4%	41.1%	40.2%

1.3.2 Accidental Dwelling Fires – Number of Incidents where occupants have received a Home Fire Safety Check

This indicator reported the number of primary fires where a dwelling had been affected and the cause of fire had been recorded as ‘Accidental or Not known’ by the extent of the fire and heat damage. The HFSC must be a completed job (i.e. not a refusal) carried out by LFRS personnel or partner agency. The HFSC must have been carried out within 12 months prior to the fire occurring.

	2020/21		2019/20	
	ADF's with previous HFSC	% of ADF's with previous HFSC	ADF's with previous HFSC	% of ADF's with previous HFSC
Q1	26	12%	23	11%
Q2			26	13%
Q3			31	15%
Q4			27	14%

County Councillor Riggott queried whether it was possible to provide an update concerning those who had refused a Home Fire Safety Check (as detailed on page 3 in the third paragraph of the previous minutes). In response, Area Manager Crook advised that within quarter 1 there had been 4 people who had refused a HFSC. The reasons for the refusal were: 1 x change of occupier; 2 x unable to contact (after trying for up to 3 times) and 1 x person declined following a small fire. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer added that for some homeowners, particularly those living in troubled conditions or with chaotic lifestyles, it was common for a Home Fire Safety Check to be declined. The Service did install smoke alarms wherever possible at the scene of a fire, given the probability that if someone had already had a fire a further fire was more likely.

CC Riggott thanked Officers for the information and asked that this be provided at future meetings. As he had a number of questions regarding Home Fire Safety Checks he wondered whether at some point it would be appropriate to consider what was reported rather than ask Officers to keep doing extra work. In response, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed the headings in the report were set by the Integrated Risk Management Plan but the detail of what was provided in the reports could be changed and systems set to extract the required data.

CC Riggott queried (on page 33) of the report the statement that an improvement indicated "that the correct households were being targeted with prevention activities". He wondered whether the data showed an increase in accidental dwelling fires in premises that had had a HFSC due to better targeting and people were taking advice on board, or had the number of accidental dwelling fires just increased. In response, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised the aim was to demonstrate that individuals who were highly vulnerable and who had received an intervention didn't have a fire although, this was difficult to evidence. He suggested a case study presentation for the next meeting to provide qualitative evidence of why high risk individuals that didn't have a fire was a measure of success. He also reassured Members that there remained a targeted approach taken for those having fires and low risk households to influence behaviour however; the approach was through other means including social media.

In response to a question from County Councillor Hennessy on the action taken to inform residents of the risks, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed it was possible to see if there was more the Service could do via social media and this would be included in the presentation agreed for the next meeting. He advised that those who were most vulnerable to fire were those in domiciliary care which was where efforts were focussed and while the Service was very successful in accessing those dwellings it was very difficult to change deep seated behaviours.

1.4 Accidental Dwelling Fire Casualties

This indicator reported the number of fire related fatalities, slight and serious injuries at primary fires where a dwelling had been affected and the cause of fire had been recorded as 'Accidental or Not known'. A slight injury was defined as; a person attending hospital as an outpatient (not precautionary check). A serious injury was defined as; at least an overnight stay in hospital as an in-patient.

There were no fatalities during the latest quarterly period. One casualty was recorded as serious and 10 slight. The same quarter of the previous year recorded 2 fatalities, 6 serious and 5 slight.

Casualty Status	2020/21 Quarter 1	2019/20 Quarter 1
Fatal	0	2
Victim went to hospital visit, injuries appeared Serious	1	6
Victim went to hospital visit, injuries appeared Slight	10	5
TOTAL	11	13

1.5 Accidental Building Fires (Non-Dwellings)

This indicator reported number of primary fires where the property type was 'Building' and the property sub type did not equal 'Dwelling' and the cause of fire had been recorded as 'Accidental' or 'Not known'.

Quarterly activity increased 29.89% over the same quarter of the previous year.

Total number of incidents	2020/21 Quarter 1	2019/20 Quarter 1
	113	87

This was a negative exception report due to the number of accidental building fires (non-dwelling) recorded during the month of May, within quarter 1, being above the upper control limit.

Analysis had identified that there had been 113 recorded accidental building fires, with a peak in May of 50. This month was just above the upper control limit of 48.8. A similar increase was seen during quarter 1 of 2018 with activity possibly being exaggerated during the period by the national lockdown which started late March.

Area Manager Crook advised that private garden shed fires accounted for a third of the fires during the quarter, with a further 14% being within a private garage. Combined, there were 53 fires, which accounted for almost 50% of the accidental building fires within the quarter. This would be consistent with the public being mainly confined to their home address for several months.

As a comparison, during the same quarter of the previous year, there had been 21 private garage and private garden shed fires.

It was expected that performance would return to within standard over the coming months which had already started to occur with June activity being very low in comparison to previous years. During lockdown, appropriate local targeting had taken place which included where an accidental garden rubbish fire that without intervention might have led to a primary property being affected. He assured Members that the campaign calendar would be reviewed to ensure that risks associated with the home were highlighted, including: the use of sheds, gardening, electrical and barbeque safety.

1.5.1 Accidental Building Fires (Non-Dwellings) – Extent of Damage (Fire Severity)

This indicator reported the number of primary fires where the property type was a building and the property sub-type was not a dwelling and the cause of fire had been recorded as 'Accidental or Not known' presented as a percentage extent of fire and heat damage.

The extent of fire and heat damage was recorded at the time the 'stop' message was sent and included all damage types. The report charted a rolling quarterly severity of accidental building fires over the previous two years with each quarter broken down into high, medium and low severity. Each quarter included the percentage (out of 100%) that each severity type represented of the total, with an indicator to illustrate the direction against the same quarter of the previous year.

The latest quarter recorded a combined 'low' and 'medium' severity of 56.6%. This was a decrease of 6.6% against a combined severity of 63.2% in the same quarter of the previous year. Area Manager Crook advised that analysis of the accidental building fires showed that although the fires were not major they had led to a near or complete loss of a shed or outbuilding structure.

Severity (Direction against the same quarter of previous year)		Previous Rolling 4 Quarters				Quarter 1
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
High	↑	12.6%	22.4%	29.2%	17.8%	43.4%
Medium	↓	50.6%	57.9%	58.3%	65.8%	47.8%
Low	↓	36.8%	19.7%	12.5%	16.4%	8.8%

1.6 Deliberate Fires

This indicator reported the number of primary and secondary fires where the cause of fire had been recorded as 'Deliberate'. Secondary fires were the majority of outdoor fires including grassland and refuse fires unless they involved casualties or rescues, property loss or 5 or more appliances attended. They included fires in single derelict buildings.

The Assistant Chief Fire officer advised that it was seen as a real positive that this indicator was not in exception (as it had been in previous years) given a number of social factors at that time (such as young people were not in school and people were not engaged in holidays and social activity). Efforts from wholetime, prevention and unusually on-call staff (because of their first class availability during the period) were focussed on reducing deliberate fires.

Deliberate Fire Type	2020/21 Quarter 1	2019/20 Quarter 1
1.6.1 Deliberate Fires – Anti-Social Behaviour	552	681
1.6.2 Deliberate Fires – Dwellings	18	29
1.6.3 Deliberate Fires – Non-Dwellings	29	35

1.7 Home Fire Safety Checks

This indicator reported the percentage of completed Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC), excluding refusals, carried out where the risk score had been determined to be high.

An improvement was shown if: i) the total number of HFSC's completed was greater than the comparable quarter of the previous year; and ii) the percentage of high HFSC outcomes was greater than the comparable quarter of the previous year.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that during the lockdown the Service had carried out 2,300 Home Fire Safety Checks on a risk basis (where the risk of harm from fire to individuals was greater than the risk to staff of wearing PPE and entering the home). This was in addition to the 3,500 visits that mainly prevention colleagues delivered on behalf of local authorities with a focus on those shielding, checking on people's welfare, ensuring food parcels and medicines were delivered etc.

Members noted that although the number of HFSCs undertaken during the quarter had decreased by 52% over the same quarter of the previous year, it was pleasing that the percentage of those with a high risk outcome had increased by 6%.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Riggott the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that quarter 2 would be very similar figures to those seen in quarter 1. The Service was currently still in the emergency phase of the response to Covid however, a recovery group had been set up to look at services that had been ceased or amended and, in a prioritised order, risk assessments had been undertaken to look at those recommencing. The risk assessments were currently being reviewed in line with Public Health England, Public Health Directors and the National Fire Chief's guidance. Currently there was more freedom to consider entering into homes to carry out safe and wellbeing visits and work was ongoing to determine an appropriate time for this to be re-established.

In addition, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer reassured Members that where services could recommence they had done so including: i) for young people playing with fire the restorative justice work had been adapted to a digital based delivery; and ii) education work continued particularly the Prince's Trust programme with 9 teams due to commence this month. Therefore the Service was looking to influence circa 150 young people in a Covid secure way.

	2020/21	2019/20
	% of High HFSC outcomes	% of High HFSC outcomes
Q1	71%	65%
Q2		61%
Q3		60%
Q4		61%

1.8 Road Safety Education Evaluation

This indicator reported the percentage of participants of the Wasted Lives and Road Sense education packages that showed a positive change to less risky behaviour following the programme; based on comparing the overall responses to an evaluation question before and after the course.

Total participants were a combination of those engaged with at Wasted Lives and Road Sense events.

	2020/21 (cumulative)		2019/20 (cumulative)	
	Total participants	% positive influence on participants' behaviour	Total participants	% positive influence on participants' behaviour
Q1	The covid-19 pandemic led to the closure of educational facilities which meant it was not possible to deliver road safety activities in the normal way.		4,354	85%
Q2			8,158	85%
Q3			16,417	85%
Q4			21,516	85%

It was noted that during the quarter 1 period the pandemic had led to the closure of educational facilities and the Service had been unable to deliver road safety activities in the normal way. However, to ensure road safety messages continued to be available people were engaged via social media platforms; with 30,000 people recorded as being engaged via social media platforms during the period.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer introduced Area Manager Crook who was the national fire chief's lead for the sector on road safety.

Area Manager Crook advised that the Service was part of the Road Safety Partnership which was also very active on social media in relation to road safety messages across the county. He advised that the Service recovery group was writing out to all educational establishments requesting they complete a survey to determine whether they wanted education packages to be delivered either in school, remotely or by more digital handouts for pupils.

In response to a question asked by CC Hennessy at the last meeting, Area Manager Crook advised that between the years 2014 – 2018 there had been a consistent year-on-year decrease in the number of people who had been killed and seriously injured on Lancashire's roads from 859 in 2014 to 734 in 2018. Of all those killed or seriously injured in Lancashire over the 5 years, two-thirds were male.

Area Manager Crook advised that: i) there was an increasing trend for motorcyclists (who represented 1% of all traffic on the roads) yet they were much more prominent on the casualty data (and the Service provided education through its Biker Down campaign); ii) there was a higher rate of collision in the hours of daylight in line with increased traffic at rush our periods and education was needed for commuters to drive responsibly and safer; iii) in summer cyclists were more prevalent to have accidents; iv) there was a spike in collisions involving 11 and 12 year olds as they moved to high school which introduced new risks to them (this was a key message covered in RoadSense delivered by the Service at year 6); v) there was also a spike in serious collisions at ages 16-20 when most people learned to drive (which was covered in education packages such as Wasted Lives and SafeDrive StayAlive).

To date there had been 20 fatalities across Lancashire. This included 6 drivers, 3 pedal cyclists, 8 motorcyclists and 3 pedestrians (none of whom were children). All of these investigations were complex and would take some time to determine the causation factors. The number of fatalities in 2020 was far lower than the 51 fatalities in 2019 which reflected the dramatic (around 50%) reduction in road traffic primarily as a result of lockdown since March.

The next Lancashire Road Safety Partner Executive Board was due to meet in early October and at the meeting the Partnership analyst would update the Board on the current data to determine the targeting of demographic and geographic risk. Area Manager Crook reassured Members that the road safety data and the education prevention provided was carefully considered.

In response to Member comments concerning an update on the partnership work, it was agreed that Area Manager Crook would invite the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership Co-ordinator, Rhiannon Leeds to attend a future meeting.

1.9 Fire Safety Enforcement

This indicator reported the number of Fire Safety Enforcement inspections carried out within the period resulting in supporting businesses to improve and become compliant with fire safety regulations or to take formal action of enforcement and prosecution of those that failed to comply.

Formal activity was defined as one or more of the following: enforcement notice or an action plan, alterations notice or prohibition notice.

An improvement was shown if the percentage of adults 'requiring formal activity' was greater than the comparable quarter of the previous year. This helped inform that the correct businesses were being identified.

*The 'number of inspections' count included business safety advice and advice to other enforcement authorities not captured within the formal/informal or satisfactory counts.

	2020/21				2019/20	
	*No. of Inspections	Requiring		Satisfactory Audit	% requiring Formal Activity	% requiring Formal Activity
		Formal Activity	Informal Activity			
Q1	18	5	7	4	28%	9%
Q2						9%
Q3						10%
Q4						13%

KPI 2 – Responding, to fire and other emergencies quickly and competently

2.1.1 Emergency Response Standards - Critical Fires – 1st Fire Engine Attendance

This indicator reported the 'Time of Call' (TOC) and 'Time in Attendance' (TIA) of the first fire engine arriving at the incident in less than the relevant response standard.

The response standards included call handling and fire engine response time for the first fire engine attending a critical fire, these were as follows:-

- Very high risk area = 6 minutes
- High risk area = 8 minutes
- Medium risk area = 10 minutes
- Low risk area = 12 minutes

The response standards were determined by the risk map score and subsequent risk grade for the location of the fire.

Standard: to be in attendance within response standard target on 90% of occasions.

Quarter 1 – 1st pump response decreased 0.74% of total first fire engine attendances over the same quarter of the previous year.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
88.50%	88.50%	89.24%	89.24%

2.1.2 Emergency Response Standards - Critical Fires – 2nd Fire Engine Attendance

This indicator reported the time taken for the second fire engine to attend a critical fire incident measured from the time between the second fire engine arriving and the time of call. The target is determined by the risk map score and subsequent risk grade for the location of the fire.

Standard: to be in attendance within response standard target on 85% of occasions.

Quarter 1 – 2nd pump response decreased 5.76% of total second pump attendances over the same quarter of the previous year.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
83.71%	83.71%	89.47%	89.47%

2.2.1 Emergency Response Standards - Critical Special Service – 1st Fire Engine Attendance

This indicator measured how long it took the first fire engine to respond to critical non-fire incidents such as road traffic collisions, rescues and hazardous materials incidents. For those incidents there was a single response standard which measured call handling time and fire engine response time. The response standard for the first fire engine attending a critical special call was 13 minutes.

Standard: to be in attendance within response standard target on 90% of occasions.

The latest quarter 1st pump response increased 2.32% over the same quarter of the previous year.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
92.07%	92.07%	89.98%	89.98%

2.3 Fire Engine Availability – Wholetime, Day Crewing and Day Crewing Plus

This indicator measured the availability of fire engines that were crewed by wholetime, day crewing and day crewing plus shifts. It was measured as the percentage of time a fire engine was available to respond compared to the total time in the period.

Fire engines were designated as unavailable for the following reasons:

- Mechanical
- Crew deficient
- Engineer working on station
- Appliance change over
- Debrief
- Lack of equipment
- Miscellaneous
- Unavailable
- Welfare

Standard: 99.5%

Year to date availability of 99.27% was a decrease of 0.31% over the same period of the previous year.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
99.27%	99.27%	99.58%	99.58%

2.4 Fire Engine Availability – On-Call Duty System

This indicator measured the availability of fire engines that were crewed by the on-call duty system. It was measured as the percentage of time a fire engine was available to respond compared to the total time in the period.

Fire engines were designated as unavailable (off the run) for the following reasons which include the percentage of off the run hours that each reason contributed to the total. Members noted that fire engines can be off the run for more than one reason; hence the percentages were interpreted individually (rather than as a proportion of the total):

- Manager deficient 50%
- Crew deficient 30%
- Not enough BA wearers 29%
- No driver 33%

Standard: above 95%

Year to date availability 96.11%, a 9.28% increase against the previous year to date total availability of 86.83%.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
96.11%	96.11%	86.83%	86.83%

This was a positive exception report due to On-Call availability being within standard and greater than the lower control limit, during all three months of quarter 1.

Area Manager Morgan advised that from analysis, on-call availability had increased during the start of the lockdown period due to: staff being furloughed from their primary employment, those who were self-employed who were not able to carry out their roles, and those who were homeworking. An overall increase in availability was also due to furloughed and self-employed staff choosing contract variations to increase availability, with staff on some units working over their contracted hours, particularly at weekends. As the job retention scheme was coming to an end it was felt likely that the need for wholetime staff to cover (which had decreased during quarter 1) would begin to increase to the pre-April position. Wholetime staff would be used to help manage the reduction in hours that on call staff would be able to cover when they returned to their primary employment.

The number of on-call staff who had left the Service during quarter 1 was lower than previously recorded at this time of year which might suggest that the Service had assisted staff to be able to maintain their financial position to support any furlough payments they received from their primary employers.

As we moved out of the initial restrictions, additional work on local risks, hydrants and additional training, where possible, would continue to drive Service Delivery at a local level. Additionally, an increase in the use of flexible contracts, used to cover

gaps in availability, would continue to be appraised.

2.4.1 Fire Engine Availability – On-Call Duty System (without wholetime detachments)

Subset of KP1 2.4 and provided for information only

This indicator measured the availability of fire engines that were crewed by the on-call duty system (OC) when wholetime detachments were not used to support availability. It was measured by calculating the percentage of time a fire engine was available to respond compared to the total time in the period.

Fire engines were designated as unavailable (off-the-run) for the following reasons:

- Manager deficient
- Crew deficient
- Not enough BA wearers
- No driver

Standard: As a subset of KPI 2.4 there was no standard attributable to this KPI.

The percentage of time that OC crewed engines were available for quarter 1 was 94.57%. This excluded the wholetime detachments shown in KPI 2.4.

2.5 Staff Accidents

This indicator measured the number of staff accidents.

The number of staff accidents during the latest quarter decreased by 19.05% against the same quarter of the previous year.

Year to Date	2020/21 Quarter 1	Previous year to Date	2019/20 Quarter 1
17	17	21	21

KPI 3 – Delivering, value for money in how we use our resources

3.1 Progress against Savings Programme

The annual budget for 2020/21 was set at £57.3m with a budget to 30 June of £13.8m. The spend for the same period was £13.5m which gave an underspend of £0.3m; a variance of -0.52%. This was a result of the pandemic affecting planned spend activity during the period. This position would continue to be monitored in the forthcoming months.

3.2 Overall User Satisfaction

There had been 2,472 people surveyed since April 2012 and the number satisfied with the service was 2,447; % satisfied 98.99% against a standard of 97.50%; a variance 1.53%.

During the latest quarter, 71 people were surveyed and 69 responded that they were 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with the service they received.

KPI 4 – Valuing, our people so that they can focus on making Lancashire safer

4.1 Overall Staff Engagement

Staff surveys were undertaken on matters which required a broader range of input. In the past, these had related to health and wellbeing, naming of the new intranet or more targeted surveys on challenges faced by blue light drivers. Due to surveys being undertaken on an ad hoc basis they were reported on an 'as required' basis. As such, the measure of success would be the levels of engagement in a survey and in contributing to decisions and improvements.

Members noted that 2 surveys for operational and support staff ran online only for two weeks from 15th to 21st June 2020. These were designed to gain insight into the health and wellbeing of staff during the pandemic along with their views on ways of working, safety measures and communications. There was additional focus on support service staff in relation to remote working and plans to gradually re-occupy offices. In total, 374 responses to the surveys were received (32% of staff). In total 79% of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with safety measures taken by work to-date; 96% strongly agreed or agreed that they knew what to do to keep safe and healthy during the pandemic; 81% strongly agreed or agreed that they were receiving timely communications; 93% of people were able to access the systems and technology they needed to do their job remotely; and 76% strongly agreed or agreed that the Service was supporting employees during the pandemic.

4.2.1 Staff Absence – Excluding on-Call Duty System

This indicator measured the cumulative number of shifts (days) lost due to sickness for all wholetime, day crewing plus, day crewing and support staff divided by the total number of staff.

Annual Standard: Not more than 5 shifts lost

Cumulative total number of monthly shifts lost 1.549

This was a negative exception report due to the number of shifts lost through absence per employee being above the Service target for the months of April and May.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented Members with the analysis, that:-

During quarter 1 (April 2020 to June 2020), absence statistics showed wholetime personnel and non-uniformed personnel were above target for April and May and below target for June. The target for April was 0.41 and the total shifts lost was 0.71. Cumulatively, the target for May was 0.83 and the total of shifts lost was 1.18 and the target for June was 1.25 and the total number of shifts lost was 1.55.

There were 10 cases of long-term absence which spanned over the 3 months and there were 24 other cases of long-term absence which were recorded within the 3

months with the reasons detailed in the report.

Members also considered the actions undertaken to improve performance which included that the Service aimed to continue with:

- Early intervention by Occupational Health Unit (OHU) doctor / nurse / physiotherapist;
- Human Resources supported managers in following the Absence Management Policy managing individual long-term cases, addressing review periods / triggers in a timely manner and dealing with capability of staff due to health issues;
- To be included again within the leadership conference to assist future managers understanding and interpretation of the policy;
- Encouraging employees to make use of our Employee Assistance Programme provider Health Assured and The Firefighters Charity;
- HR to be in attendance at Stress Risk Assessment meetings, to support managers and to offer appropriate support to the employee along with signposting;
- OHU to organise health checks for individuals on a voluntary basis;
- Support from Service Fitness Advisor / Personal Training Instructors;
- Promotion of health, fitness and wellbeing via the routine bulletin and Employee Assistance programme.

As staff were key workers, County Councillor Hennessy queried the level of engagement staff received and whether consideration was given to family concerns around child care, supporting elderly family members etc. In response, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that staff briefings were held via Teams with the Executive Board members and departmental and sectional managers. There was in the region of 50 staff members who worked flexibly to support childcare, caring for family members or they were shielding themselves and this in a limited fashion remained ongoing. He advised that in the long term the Chief Fire Officer was clear that any improvements to practices be continued after Covid and that the Service emerged better stronger and more effective.

4.2.2 Staff Absence – On-Call Duty System

This indicator measured the percentage of contracted hours lost due to sickness for all on-call contracted staff.

Annual Standard: Not more than 2.5% lost as % of available hours of cover.

Cumulative on-call absence (as % of available hours cover) at the end of the quarter, 0.91%.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee endorsed the Measuring Progress report for Quarter 1 (including noting the contents of the 3 negative and 1 positive KPI exception reports).

30/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 16 December 2020 at 1000 hours – venue to be confirmed.

Further meeting dates were agreed for 17 March 2021, 30 June 2021 and 15 September 2021.

31/19 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.

32/19 COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE

(Paragraph 3)

It was noted that arrangements were in place within the old Best Value (BV) Family Group 4 to compile an annual comparative data in respect of the two (now withdrawn) National Fire Indicators that related specifically to fire authorities.

Data was provided for the six components which in turn made up the two explicit fire and rescue indicators in respect of: the position of each Fire and Rescue Service within the Family Group, 2018/19 – 2019/20 comparative progress/decline; percentage change in terms of actual numbers; the position of each F&RS within the comparative group for the respective indicator and a summary overview in graphical form.

Members examined each indicator in turn and noted Lancashire’s position.

National Indicator 33 – Number of deliberate (i) primary and (ii) secondary fires per 10,000 population.

NI 33 – Arson Incidents (deliberate fires) per 10,000 population

Position in Family Group 4th Quarter YTD 2019/20		BV – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		Actuals – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		
Position	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-
9	17.4	15.1	-13.33	2595	2249	-13.33

NI 33i Deliberate primary fires per 10,000 population

Position in Family Group 4th Quarter YTD 2019/20		BV – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		Actuals – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		
Position	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-
13	3.4	3.9	15.68	504	583	15.68

NI 33ii Deliberate secondary fires per 10,000 population

Position in Family Group 4th Quarter YTD 2019/20		BV – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		Actuals – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		
Position	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-
8	14.0	11.2	-20.26	2090	1666	-20.26

National Indicator 49 – Number of primary fires and related fatalities and non-fatal casualties per 100,000 population.

NI 49i Number of primary fires per 100,000 population

Position in Family Group 4th Quarter YTD 2019/20		BV – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		Actuals – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		
Position	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-
11	137.5	135.4	-1.56	2049	2017	-1.56

NI49ii Number of fatalities in primary fires per 100,000 population

Position in Family Group 4th Quarter YTD 2019/20		BV – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		Actuals – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		
Position	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-
6	0.6	0.6	0.00	9	9	0.00

NI49iii Number of non-fatal casualties in primary fires per 100,000 population

Position in Family Group 4th Quarter YTD 2019/20		BV – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		Actuals – 4th Quarter YTD Comparison 2018/19 - 2019/20		
Position	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-	2018/19	2019/20	% +/-
8	4.5	4.9	7.27	68	73	7.27

RESOLVED:- That the Committee noted the content of the report and the comparative outcomes.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 23 September 2020, at 10.00 am in the Virtual Meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast).

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

F De Molfetta (Chairman)
S Blackburn
I Brown (for G Wilkins)
N Hennessy (for M Pattison)
Jane Hugo
Z Khan (for T Martin)
D O'Toole
T Williams

Officers

J Johnston, Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
K Mattinson, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS)
B Warren, Director of People and Development (LFRS)
J Charters, Area Manager, Head of Service Development (LFRS)
J Bowden, Head of Finance (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
N Bashall, Member Services Officer (LFRS)

76/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors Tony Martin, Lorraine Beavers, Margaret Pattison, David Stansfield and George Wilkins.

77/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

78/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

79/19 YEAR END REVENUE OUTTURN 2019/20

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report. He advised that the lengthy agenda was due to the cancellation of the March and May meetings.

This report presented the revenue outturn position and the impact of this on usable reserves. The overall outturn position showed an overspend of £248k after allowing for the potential costs of backdating for pensionable allowances (the impact of this was reported in the Year End Usable Reserves and provisions Outturn later on the agenda).

The annual budget for the year was set at £56.051m. The final outturn position showed net expenditure of £56.300m, giving a total overspend for the financial year of £248k. As set out in the Year End Usable Reserves and Provisions Outturn report (reported elsewhere on the agenda) it was proposed to transfer £38k to the DFM earmarked reserves and to balance draw down £286k from the general reserve.

The final position differed from the forecast of £0.1m underspend in the November meeting due to:

- In March confirmation was received from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) that the previously reported potential shortfall of £0.273m Section 31 grant relating to Business Rates Relief for 2019/20 would be paid and the sum was received in March.
- The National Business Rates (NDR) Levy fund surplus allocation income being paid to LFRS before the end of the financial year. The NDR Levy Fund was created by the Government to fund business rates safety net grant payments from previously held back NDR monies, any unused funds were now being redistributed, with LFRS receiving £53k. (Notification of this was received at the end of February, with no prior indication).
- The national government exercise to audit the Section 31 grants in relation to Business Rates Reliefs for 2018/19 had now been completed, and as a result the Authority would receive a further £40k from Central Government in relation to this. (Confirmation of this was received at the end of February, with no prior indication of this amount).
- It had been previously reported that any costs of backdating pensionability of various allowances had not been included as it was anticipated this would be applicable in 2020/21. Subsequently, the Authority had made an offer to the representative bodies of backdating which, although still under discussion, now included £0.6m of potential backdating costs in the year end outturn as presented.

The detailed final revenue position was set out in Appendix 1, with major variances being summarised in the report.

Delivery against savings targets

It was noted that performance exceeded the efficiency target for the year largely due to savings in respect of staffing costs and procurement savings.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the outturn position on the 2019/20 revenue budget, the associated drawdown of £286k from general reserves and the transfer of £38k to the DFM earmarked reserve.

80/19 YEAR END CAPITAL OUTTURN 2019/20

The report presented the year end position for the Authority's capital programme including how this had been financed and the impact of slippage from the 2019/20 capital programme into the 2020/21 programme.

The year end position for the Authority's capital programme showed total expenditure of £2.9m compared with the budget of £3.6m, with the difference being slippage of £0.6m and an underspend of £0.1m. It was noted that slippage was a timing issue dependent on the progress of capital schemes and not an indication of future underspends. The Director of Corporate Services highlighted:

- Pumping Appliances - slippage of £338k related to delays in build, as design issues of the crew cab were finalised. Delivery was still expected during the financial year however this had been impacted by covid-19 as the supplier who was based in Scotland had been subjected to stringent lockdown measures.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor O'Toole the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that there was a fixed price on the remaining vehicles and that quality assessments were done during the build and final delivery and there had been no significant issues on previous vehicles received under this contract.

- ICT Systems – underspend of £211k. Following a review of the need to replace or maintain systems 2 did not need replacing at this time hence the underspend.
- Buildings – £4m capital project was ongoing at Training Centre for workshop development. Revised pricing for that contract was currently awaited. Initial design work had been included in the cost in 2019/20. However, the whole budget had been transferred into next year and there was a slight overspend on the building element which was a timing issue. The overall cost of the project was not known until the final price had been received from the contractor. This gave an overspend this year.

The programme had been financed in year, from a combination of revenue contributions (£2.0m), the drawdown of capital reserves (£0.9m), as detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

Prudential Indicators 2019/20

Under the prudential framework the Authority was required to identify various indicators to determine whether the capital programme was affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The revised indicators, after allowing for the various changes to the capital programme, were set out in the report alongside the actual outturn figures which confirmed that performance had been within approved limits.

The Impact of Slippage from the 2019/20 Capital Programme into the 2020/21 Programme

The original approved capital programme for 2020/21 was £10.8m. This had been

updated to reflect the final level of slippage of £0.6m, therefore the final proposed capital programme for 2020/21 was £11.4m, funded from capital grant, revenue contributions and capital reserves. The revised programme and its funding were set out in appendix 2 and considered by Members. Whilst it was certain that due to the covid-19 pandemic more slippage would occur during 2020/21, the effect of this was still being reviewed. However, it was clear that there would be significant slippage in 2020/21.

Revised prudential indicators for 2020/21-2022/23 showed that the revised programme remained affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Capital Reserves

The capital programme over the next 5 financial years would use all the capital reserves and receipts.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee: -

- i) Noted the capital outturn position, the financing of capital expenditure 2019/20 and the prudential indicators; and
- ii) Approved the revised 2020/21 capital programme, and the financing of this and the prudential indicators.

81/19 YEAR END TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2019/20

The report provided a broad view of the economic position.

COVID-19, spread across the globe in early 2020 causing falls in financial markets not seen since the Global Financial Crisis.

In response to the spread of the virus and sharp increase in those infected, the government enforced lockdowns, central banks and governments around the world cut interest rates and introduced massive stimulus packages in an attempt to reduce some of the negative economic impact to domestic and global growth.

The Bank of England, which had held policy rates steady at 0.75% through most of 2019/20, moved in March to cut rates to 0.25% from 0.75% and then swiftly thereafter brought them down further to the record low of 0.1%. In conjunction with these cuts, the UK government introduced a number of measures to help businesses and households impacted by a series of ever-tightening social restrictions, culminating in pretty much the entire lockdown of the UK. With similar impacts being felt around the world.

With the crisis there has been flight to quality in financial markets resulting in gilts yields to fall substantially for example the 10-year benchmark yield fell from 1% to 0.4%.

Borrowing

The borrowing of the Fire Authority had remained unchanged at £2m in 2019/20. The current approved capital programme had no requirement to be financed from borrowing and the debt related to earlier years' capital programmes. While the

borrowing was above its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes, this was because the Fire Authority had a policy of setting aside monies in the form of statutory and voluntary minimum revenue provision (MRP) in order to repay debt as it matured or to make an early repayment. Consideration had been given to repaying the £2m but as reported as part of the 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy the penalties incurred on repaying the loans early would incur significant costs. Also any early repayment meant that cash balances available for investment would be reduced and hence interest receivable would also be reduced. It was concluded that the repayment was not considered to be financially beneficial at the time. However, the situation was periodically reviewed by the Director of Corporate Services.

Investments

Both the CIPFA Code and the MHCLG Guidance required 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.

In order to reduce credit risk to the Authority, Lancashire County Council (credit rating by Moodys Aa3) was the main counterparty for the Authority's investments via the operation of a call account. However the Treasury Management Strategy did permit investment with other high quality counterparties including other local authorities. During the year the cash held by the Authority had been positive with the highest balance being £48.0m and the lowest £27.7m. Therefore, given that the expectation was that interest rates would remain low the opportunity was taken to undertake some fixed term investments with other local authorities rather than keeping all the monies in the call account. This aimed to enhance the investment return while keeping the credit risk low. At the year-end, fixed investments of £10m were in place. However, during the year other fixed term investments had matured.

The table on page 32 of the report showed there had been 5 different lump sums invested with third parties; all were other local authorities and depending on when the investment had been taken out the interest rate had changed. In total these investments had generated approximately £100k more investment return in year than if it had been invested in the call account.

It was highlighted that interest rates had changed significantly since April / May which would impact on any future fixed-term investments.

The call account provide by LCC paid the base rate throughout 2019/20. 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 £25.8m earning interest of £0.185m.

The overall interest earned during this period was £0.332m at a rate of 0.91% which compared favourably with the benchmark 7 day index (Sterling Overnight rate 7 day rate) which averaged 0.74% over the same period.

All of these investments were made in accordance with the current Treasury

Management Strategy and the CIPFA treasury management code of practice.

Cash flow and interest rates continued to be monitored by the Director of Corporate Services and the County Council's treasury management team, and when rates were felt to be at appropriate levels further term deposits would be placed.

Prudential Indicators

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 2019/20 were presented alongside the actual outturn position.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the outturn position report.

82/19 YEAR END USABLE RESERVES AND PROVISIONS OUTTURN 2019/20

The report presented the year end outturn position in respect of usable reserves and provisions based on the information reported in the Revenue Outturn, Capital Outturn and Treasury Management Outturn reports.

The Authority approved the reserves and balances policy as part of its budget setting process, in February, with the year-end outturn position being reported to Resources committee and included in the statement of accounts. The previously reported Revenue Outturn, Capital Outturn and Treasury Management Outturn all fed the Authority's overall reserves position, which was considered by Members as summarised in the report.

General Reserve

These were non-specific reserves kept to meet short/medium term unforeseeable expenditure and to enable significant changes in resources or expenditure to be properly managed in the medium term.

The Authority needed to hold an adequate level of general reserves in order to provide:-

- A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing;
- A contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events;
- A means of smoothing out large fluctuations in spending requirements and/or funding available.

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 deficit on the revenue budget, £286k, had been drawn down from this reserve. After allowing for transfers the Authority now held a General fund balance of £7.9m. This was within the target range agreed by the Authority at its February meeting, £3.0m to £10.0m.

Earmarked Reserves

The reserve covered all funds, which had been identified for a specific purpose. The

overall reserves level reduced slightly from £8.0m to £7.8m, with the detailed position in respect of the various earmarked reserves considered by Members as set out in the report.

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted:

PFI Equalisation Reserve – This reserve was 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 reserve required to meet future contract payments had been updated to reflect current and forecast inflation levels.

Public Works Loan Board – This reserve was created to meet the potential penalty costs associated with repayment of the remaining PWLB loans however, given the reducing likelihood of repaying the loans with such a large penalty, the balance was transferred into the Capital Funding Reserve as part of the 2020/21 budget setting process.

Insurance Aggregate Stop Loss – The Authority had aggregate stop losses on both its combined liability insurance policy (0.4m) and its motor policy (0.3m). This meant that in any one year the Authority's maximum liability for insurance claims was capped at the aggregate stop losses. As such the Authority could either meet the costs direct from its revenue budget or could set up an earmarked reserve to meet these. Lancashire had chosen to meet the potential costs through a combination of the two. Hence the amount included in the revenue budget reflected charges in a typical year with the reserve being set up to cover any excess over and above this. As such the reserve, combined with amounts within the revenue budget, provide sufficient cover to meet 2 years' worth of the maximum possible claims. It was also noted that the revenue budget allocation had also been reduced in recent years reflecting the claims history. Without holding this reserve to cushion any major claims that may arise this would not have been possible. There was no utilisation during 2019/20 as the costs were met from the revenue budget and existing insurance provision.

Fleet & Equipment – This reserve provided scope to meet new equipment requirements identified in-year such as battery powered hand tools and other new technologies. In addition, the reserve had been increased by the unspent budgets for replacement structural firefighting boots and replacement duty rig, as neither were purchased in 2019/20, both of which should be spent during 2020/21, plus £0.1m for a delayed delivery of firefighting PPE which was received in April rather than March as expected.

Capital Reserves and Receipts

Capital Reserves had been created from under spends on the revenue budget in order to provide additional funding to support the capital programme in future years; as such they could not be used to offset any deficit on the revenue budget, without having a significant impact on the level of capital programme that the Authority could support.

Capital Receipts were generated from the sale of surplus assets, which had not yet been utilised to fund the capital programme. In 2019/20, £860k was utilised of

capital reserves. However, this was partly offset by the sale of assets which generated £13k of capital receipts from the sale of a vehicle.

As a result of this the Authority currently held £19.0m of capital reserves/receipts. However, the 2020/21 capital programme, after allowing for slippage showed all of this being utilised over the next 3 years of the capital programme.

North West Fire Control Reserves

The North West Fire Control (NWFC) reserves brought forwards formed part of the opening balances, and the draft accounts' balances were included in the report and the draft accounts. This was not available for use as it was the Authority's share of the NWFC required reserves.

Provisions

The Authority had three provisions to meet future estimated liabilities:-

- Insurance Provision, which covered potential liabilities associated with outstanding insurance claims. A review of current claims outstanding and our claims history had been undertaken and as such the provision had increased to £522k at 31 March 2020.
- RDS Provision, which covered potential costs associated with RDS personnel relating to employment terms and eligibility to join the Pensions Scheme.
- Business Rates Collection Fund Appeals Provision, which covered the Authority's share of outstanding appeals against business rates collection funds, which was calculated each year end by each billing authority within Lancashire based on their assumptions of outstanding appeal success rates, as part of their year-end accounting for the business rates collection fund.

The overall position at year end showed the Authority (excluding draft North West Fire Control balances) holding £37.3m of reserves and provisions.

At this level the Treasurer believed these were adequate to meet future requirements in the medium term.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Williams regarding the stock levels of PPE and any further costs of these the Director of Corporate Services advised Members that if a second spike did come and it lasted through to March 2021 it was anticipated, based on the first period, that there would be sufficient PPE available. However it was difficult to predict how long a second spike would last and also depended on the roles the Service would pick up. He reassured Members that this would be kept under review particularly given the potential for availability difficulties and higher costs when faced with increasing demand.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor O'Toole regarding a breakdown of the spend against the covid-19 grant, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that funding received and expenditure incurred were set against the same ledger code with any surplus shown in the reserve at year end. He confirmed that returns were submitted to the Home Office on a monthly basis which showed the Authority's position.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee: -

- i) noted the additional £646k of earmarked reserves and the additional £298k of provisions, contributing to the overall revenue outturn position;
- ii) agreed the year end transfers associated with the revenue outturn, £286k from the general reserve and £38k to earmarked reserves;
- iii) noted the transfer of £877k from earmarked reserves into capital reserves;
- iv) agreed the year end transfer associated with the capital outturn, £860k drawdown from capital reserves;
- v) noted £13k of capital receipts;
- vi) noted the additional £172k of unused revenue contributions to capital increasing reserves; and
- vii) noted and endorsed the overall level of reserves and provisions as set out in the report.

83/19 UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20

This report presented the Unaudited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

The Statement of Accounts took account of the information presented in the Year End Revenue Outturn, Year End Capital Outturn, Year End Treasury Management Outturn and Year End Usable Reserves and Provisions Outturn reports and were prepared in line with recommended accounting practice which was not accounted for on the same basis as we accounted for council tax. As such this meant they did not match the details in the Outturn reports, and hence the sections provided an overview of each statement and a reconciliation between Outturn reports and the Core Financial statements where appropriate.

It was noted that the Statement presented assumed that the Authority's 25% share of North West Fire Control Ltd draft year end position for 2019/20.

Members noted that there would be a further pensions adjustment in respect of the recent HMT consultation on the McCloud/Sargeant remedy, estimated by our actuaries to reduce the Firefighters pension scheme liabilities by up to 1% (up to £8.1m). Once our actuaries had completed the additional analysis, any changes required would be built in to the final version of the Statement of Accounts.

Narrative Report

This set out the financial context in which the Combined Fire Authority operated, and provided an overview of the financial year 2019/20 as well as details of future financial plans.

Statement of Accounts

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 those arrangements as reported to Audit Committee in July 2020.

Auditors Report and Opinion

This would set out the Auditor's opinion on the Statement of Accounts and would be included on completion of the audit which commenced in August.

Statement of Responsibilities

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

Comprehensive income and 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.

Movement in reserves statement

This statement showed the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into i) Usable Reserves (those that the Authority may use to provide services or reduce local taxation, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use) and ii) Unusable Reserves (which include reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets were sold; and reserves that hold timing differences 'between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations').

Balance Sheet

This showed the value as at the date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) were matched by the reserves held by the Authority.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet showed the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) were matched by the reserves held by the Authority.

Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement showed the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement showed how the Authority generated and used cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities.

Signing of the Statement of Accounts

The unaudited Statement of Accounts would be 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 2020. This would be subject to review by the Authority's external auditors, Grant Thornton which was scheduled to take place in August and September. A further report will be presented to the Audit Committee in November, following completion of the revised IAS19 pensions adjustments and completion of the

external audit. At that meeting the Chair of the Audit Committee would be asked to sign the final statement of accounts, as well as the Treasurer.

The Director of Corporate Services advised that there was an independent review undertaken of local government accounts by Sir Tony Redmond the recommendations of which were published recently and were out for consultation including: i) the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy to review and where possible simplify the accounts; ii) a summary statement be prepared that tied into the revenue outturn position which might make the accounts more understandable to non-technical accountants; and iii) that audit fees be increased to take account of the complexity involved.

CC Hennessy advised that training for Members on the pension scheme would be arranged with the Senior Pensions Adviser of the LGA.

CC O'Toole referred to page 44 regarding the impact on a number of departmental services of the pension adjustment. He queried whether it would be possible to identify the pension increases separately to enable Members to better understand its effect. In response, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the pension adjustment applied throughout the accounts. This information could be provided separately outside the meeting however, the additional work to provide separate disclosures would be challenging in terms of the timeframe to compile the accounts and the Finance Team's capacity. He assured Members that changes to departmental budgets were set out in the Revenue Budget report presented in February, and that a detailed analysis of departmental budgets year end variance was set out in the revenue outturn position referred to earlier.

As the changes related to the Pensions Schemes, and in the main to the Firefighter Pension Scheme, the Director of People and Development suggested and Members agreed that this be discussed at the next Strategy Group meeting.

The Chief Fire Officer reassured Members that the accounts were subject to a qualified auditor process whereby auditors presented their reports and answered questions from Members of the Audit Committee. Firefighter pension schemes had become far more complex with variations now on existing schemes and new schemes, and those schemes currently subject to possible other changes which could potentially continue until people retired.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee:

- i) Noted and endorsed the Unaudited Statement of Accounts;
- ii) Consider the complex issue of Firefighter Pensions at the next Strategy Group meeting.

84/19 PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Director of Corporate Services presented to Members the Property Asset Management Plan which adopted a document framework that comprised a suite of four documents:

1. Property Policy Framework;

2. Asset Management Plan Progress Report;
3. Property Performance Report, and;
4. A 5 year Action Plan.

Property Policy Framework

This section looked across the whole portfolio and set out how that portfolio would be used in furtherance of the Service's strategic aims. The Authority's property assets had a book value of over £85m and comprised of the following assets:

- Service Headquarters;
- Service Training Centre;
- 39 Stations:
 - 7 Wholetime (including 2 with a retained appliance as well);
 - 17 Retained;
 - 4 Day Crew (including 2 with a retained appliance as well);
 - 11 Day Crew Plus (including 8 with a retained appliance as well);
- Urban Search and Rescue;
- 1 lease granted to Prince's Trust.

The Authority's vision for property assets had 6 key elements:

1. Maintained in a good state of repair;
2. Fit for purpose;
3. Future proof;
4. Environmentally sustainable;
5. Efficient in cost and use, and;
6. Inclusive and accessible.

These key elements were used to assess the assets to determine what, if any investment was required and where this would be prioritised.

Asset Management Plan Progress Report

This set out the progress that had been made by the Service in improving the assets in use, towards an overall asset vision and how the Service was improving the alignment of the property portfolio with Service delivery needs.

Considerable improvement in the asset base had been made since 2006/07, with the Service now only having 2 assets that were classed as in poor condition and as being unsuitable:-

- Service Headquarters and;
- Preston Fire Station.

Property Performance Report

This set out how the performance of the property assets had been measured to date and the general direction and areas of performance that needed to be adopted going forward if the 5-year Action Plan was to be delivered. It was anticipated that this Property Performance Report would be revised and refreshed each year.

5-Year Action Plan

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted key areas identified for property investment (as detailed on pages 196 and 197 of the agenda pack). Members considered an analysis of where the gaps were and an Action Plan against which progress could be measured.

The main action plan items were:-

- Construction of Service Training Centre Workshop/Breathing Apparatus School;
- Enhance welfare/sleeping facilities;
- Re-provision of Service Headquarters, which was subject to the outcome of a business case; this would be presented as a summary report to the next Strategy Group which would now be scheduled for the end of November;
- Re-provision of Preston Fire Station, which was subject to the outcome of a business case; and
- Continue to review opportunities for site sharing.

The Director of Corporate Services stated that the Authority's asset base was in a good position due to the investments made over the last 10-15 years. The challenge for the Authority was the balance between the affordability of property investments given the capital funding available and the potential need to borrow.

Should further capital grant be made available by the Government, the Authority would review opportunities to bid against this.

The Chairman confirmed that the Strategy Group meeting would be an essential meeting for Members to understand the detail of the business case for the re-provision of Service Headquarters.

County Councillor Hennessy appreciated the work undertaken in the production of the Property Asset Management Plan. However, she felt more information could be included regarding the availability of community facilities and flood risk. In response, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the provision of community facilities was a challenge on some stations given space limitations. He also advised that there were some stations in a flood risk area but it would be very challenging to relocate given the cost, the need to provide appropriate emergency response and in some cases the size of the flood risk area.

In response to a question from County Councillor O'Toole regarding whether any appeals had been submitted regarding the level of business rates payable, the Director of Corporate Services advised that a regular review was undertaken of the rateable values on all properties and there had been many occasions where these were successfully appealed.

RESOLVED:- That the Committee approved the Property Asset Management Plan, and noted the link between this and the capital and revenue budget of the Authority.

85/19 FINANCIAL MONITORING

Revenue Budget

The overall position as at the end of June showed an underspend of £0.3m, largely

as a result of reduced spend during the first quarter, due to the Covid-19 pandemic as planned expenditure was not progressed. This position had continued throughout quarter 2, and although we were currently discussing with budget holders what impact this could have on their end of year budgetary position, clearly this would have significant impacts on the outturn position for 2020/21.

In terms of the year end forecast an initial forecast, based on trends and budget holder discussions were being worked through and would be reported at the next meeting.

The year to date positions within individual departments were set out in the report with major variances relating to non-pay spends and variances on the pay budget being shown separately in the table below: -

Area	Overspend / (Under spend) to 30 June £'000	Reason
Service Delivery	(68)	The underspend for the first quarter largely related to the reduced activity levels, in particular for car allowances and smoke detector purchases.
Covid-19	-	We received a further £1.1m S31 grant in May 2020, in addition to the £0.3m received in March, taking the total funding received to £1.4m. We had spent £0.9m to date, comprising PPE, cleaning and decontamination equipment and ICT hardware/software. The balance was held in an earmarked reserve.
Training & Operational Review	(30)	The current underspend largely related to training courses expected to take place during the quarter, it seemed unlikely that these could be caught up before the end of the financial year.
Information Technology	(90)	In addition to the pandemic impacts on business as usual spending, savings from the phased introduction of the new Wide Area Network occurred in the quarter where the first three months service were free of charge whilst the network was fully implemented.
Property	(95)	The underspend position related to planned premises repairs and maintenance, which could not be carried out and this had continued into the second quarter.
Wholetime Pay (including associate trainers)	(50)	In anticipation of reduced staffing levels due to the pandemic 16 existing On Call staff who had been successful in the Wholetime

		<p>recruitment campaign and who were initially due to commence on the recruits course in September were allowed to commence riding Wholetime appliances in May. This would cease once they commenced on the recruits course in September. The additional cost of this was offset by additional 8 early leavers since the budget was initially set.</p> <p>In addition vacant posts were effectively budgeted at Firefighter rates, however there were a number of vacancies within TOR, Fire Safety and Service Development at higher grades, resulting in a further underspend.</p>
RDS Pay	135	<p>The overspend reflected activity related payments for the first three months, which could be attributed to several moorland fire incidents during the period, a 36% higher activity level than the corresponding quarter last year. We would monitor the situation over the coming months and update in due course.</p>
Support staff (less agency staff)	(51)	<p>The underspend to date related to vacant posts across various departments, which were in excess of the vacancy factor built into the budget. Due to the cessation of recruitment activity due to the pandemic, it was unknown when these posts might be filled, however it was clear there would be an underspend by the end of the financial year.</p> <p>Note – agency staff costs to date of £16k were replacing vacant support staff roles, this accounted for less than 1% of total support staff costs.</p> <p>Note – following on from November 2019 Resources Committee approval, in April we prepaid three years' worth of LGPS employer's contributions in order to save £36k over the three year period. These would be spread over the three years for budget monitoring purposes.</p>

It was noted that the Home Office had issued a guidance note on the treatment of 'Immediate Detriment' cases in respect of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme arising from the McCloud / Sargeant ruling. It had always been assumed that any shortfall in backdated employer contributions would be covered under the next scheme valuation or would be covered by additional grant from the Government. Potentially this position had changed and this could result in a significant additional cost in the current and future years.

Capital Budget

The Capital budget for 2020/21 was agreed at £10.8m. As highlighted in the Capital Outturn Report (elsewhere on the agenda) an additional £0.6m of slippage was required, giving a revised programme of £11.4m.

Following a review of the anticipated cost and utilisation of the proposed Area Based Training Hub it was agreed to put this project on hold, as it was felt that there was limited evidence that on-going usage would warrant a £0.5m investment. As such the current Programme for 2020/21 stood at £10.9m.

There had been very little spend against the resultant 2020/21 programme, just £0.4m, as departments had been dealing with the impacts of the ongoing pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on anticipated in-year spend was currently being reviewed, with a view to reporting this to the next Committee meeting, but it was clear there would be significant slippage again this year.

The current position against the programme was set out below, with further details provided for consideration by Members in Appendix 2: -

Pumping Appliances	<p>The budget allowed for the remaining stage payments for 7 pumping appliances for the 2018/19 programme, the phased delivery of which are anticipated between August and October.</p> <p>In addition, the budget allowed for the purchase of 3 pumping appliances for the 2019/20 programme, and 2 pumping appliances for the 2020/21 programme, all of which had been delayed pending consideration of the specification.</p>
Other vehicles	<p>This budget allowed for the replacement of various operational support vehicles, the most significant of which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two Command Support Units (CSU), the requirements are still being finalised with Service Delivery prior to undertaking a procurement exercise;• One Water Tower;• One Aerial Ladder Platform;• One all-terrain vehicle <p>In addition to these, the budget allowed for various support vehicles which were reviewed prior to replacement.</p>
Operational Equipment/Future Firefighting	<p>This budget allowed for completion of the kitting out of three reserve pumping appliances, in addition to providing a £50k budget for innovations in fire-fighting to be explored.</p> <p>This budget also allowed for the progression of CCTV on pumping appliances.</p>

Building Modifications	<p>This budget allowed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a new workshop, BA Recovery and Trainer facility at STC. We had completed design work and were in discussion with Chorley BC relating to planning permissions. We had selected a procurement framework and had appointed a contractor/partner to take designs forward to tender; • Exploring with NWS co-location at Morecambe; • Based on the latest stock condition survey, several stations had identified upgrades to dormitory and shower facilities, the actual timing of works would vary depending on Property department capacity to deliver the works; • We had included budgetary provision for a drill tower replacement plan, and would seek to replace a notional 2 towers per year over the 5 year programme.
IT systems	<p>The majority of the capital budget related to the national Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP), to replace the Airwave wide area radio system and the replacement of the station end mobilising system. The ESMCP project budget, £1.0m, was offset by anticipated grant, however the timing of both expenditure and grant was dependent upon progress against the national project. This national project had suffered lengthy delays to date.</p> <p>The balance of the budget related to the replacement of various systems, in line with the ICT asset management plan. Whilst procurement work was ongoing to facilitate the replacement of some of these systems in the current year, we were still reviewing the need to replace others. Hence further updates on progress would confirm which replacements were being actioned in the current year and anticipated spend profiles.</p>

The committed costs to date would be met by revenue contributions.

Delivery against savings targets

The current position on savings targets identified during the budget setting process was reported. It was anticipated that we would meet our savings target for the financial year.

The Chairman thanked the Director of Corporate Services and his team for the production of the financial reports presented which covered the period since the last meeting. The Chief Fire Officer suggested a conversation with the Chairman and

Vice-Chairman would be useful if Members wanted significantly more detail in some areas; given the finance team was very small and there was a lot of information to collate and present to Members.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the financial position.

86/19 PENSION BOARD - FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEME TRANSITION PROTECTION CONSULTATION

The Director of People and Development presented the report. In April 2015 a new firefighters pension scheme commenced replacing the 1992 and 2006 schemes. The Government's original proposals were to address the rising cost of the legacy schemes to the public purse, ensuring sustainability whilst still providing appropriate pensions. The main changes were an alteration from a final salary to a career average scheme with an increased normal pension age and the introduction of a cost control mechanism. It was always clear that the structure of the 1992 scheme was superior to the 2015 scheme, although the contribution rates were higher.

As part of the 2015 reforms, those within 10 years of retirement remained in the legacy scheme with tapered protection being given for individuals within a further 4 years of their retirement date. The protection was given following negotiations with the FBU and was intended to give protection and certainty to people who were close to retirement. After introduction the FBU undertook court proceedings arguing that the transition protection was age discriminatory. In December 2018 the Court of Appeal found that the transition protection unlawfully discriminated against younger members of the judicial (who also undertook court action) and firefighters. The Courts required that this unlawful discrimination be remedied by the Government.

The Home Office therefore had issued a consultation document on proposals to address this adverse discriminatory finding by the High Court in respect of the Firefighters pension schemes. It was noted that the consultation would end on 11 October 2020 and that it included a number of unfunded schemes and was not limited to the firefighter schemes (with Police, Teachers and NHS schemes being included but the Local Government Pension Scheme was subject to a separate consultation).

The consultation proposals applied to all members of the 2015 scheme who were in employment before 31 March 2012 and also on or after 1 April 2015 including those with a qualifying break in service of less than 5 years. An individual would not be required to submit a legal claim. Any new entrant after 31 March 2012 was excluded. Until the 2015 scheme was live they were placed in 2006 scheme.

The Government proposed that all eligible members would be given the choice of which set of scheme benefits was better for them for the period 1/4/2015 to 31/3/2022.

The basis for this option was dependent on an individual's personal circumstances (in particular their earnings progression); overall in the public sector many members were likely to be better off in the reformed schemes. The Government was proposing to therefore allow individuals to have a choice rather than move everyone back into

their legacy scheme. In Fire Service terms except in very unusual circumstances, it was highly unlikely that the 2015 benefits were better than their 1992 benefits over this period, but it became more likely comparing the 2006 with 2015 scheme benefits.

The consultation requested comments on 24 questions. Extending the transitional protection arrangements until 1/4/2022 to all staff seemed the logical and sensible route. The caveat to this was that the necessary ICT solutions and other administrative activity might not be completed by then.

The Director of People and development urged Members to respond to the key questions which were:

Funding of the remedy

The following points were noted:

- The costs associated with this remedy would be significant, and would include system development, additional pension administration (out with any existing contractual arrangement) and considerable in-house service guidance and administration. This was on top of an ever increasing administrative burden driven by pension regulation;
- The need for a remedy was the Government concluding with the FBU a transition commitment which gave rise to the discriminatory effect. In effect the new schemes were a government initiative which had to be implemented. As Pension Scheme Manager, the Authority had no choice but to administer the scheme in accordance with the statutory instruments. It was noted that the LGA currently had a hearing listed at the Court of Appeal arguing that the Government should be liable for any costs arising from and this was not a burden that should fall on Fire Authorities;
- In short “How would the costs of remedy be covered?”

Which option (immediate / deferred choice)

The main question posed in the consultation was should individuals make an immediate choice (asap after April 2022) or be allowed to make their choice when they retire.

In this context removing the discrimination was achieved by allowing every individual the same timeframe for protection and then removing the protection hence April 2022 (and was accepted by the government as the need). A more contentious alternative would have been to withdraw the protection when the outcome of the court case was known or the claim made. The Government’s wish not to allow an individual to be disadvantaged by being withdrawn from a better scheme was also accepted.

However, the proposal seemed overly complicated, risk averse and would cause greater problems than the alternative of making an option soon after 1/4/22 as to which scheme was considered appropriate.

Whilst the workload associated with the pension options should not be underestimated, this would need to be undertaken at some point but an organisation

could plan to resource it as a one-off rather than over 30+ years. So whilst making a single choice would peak that workload, the alternative of allowing a deferred option was far greater in extent requiring repeated complicated calculations on “what ifs” and gave rise to other issues and complications, such as the retention of knowledge. An immediate choice would put the issue to bed and provide certainty going forward and was in line with other pension issues and allowed appropriate contributions to be collected and appropriate tax obligations to be met. It would also make the Authority’s task of workforce planning more straightforward.

Currently if an employee joined an organisation then they had 12 months to decide whether to transfer in pension benefits. Sometime later in their career individuals sometimes requested to review that decision as their circumstances had changed and the informed decision they made on entry was no longer the right one for them. Inevitably by the nature of the situation this would increase the cost to the pension fund and were normally declined. This proposal would therefore cause resentment with other employees. As would the ongoing requirement for recalculations would be an extra obligation.

Similarly individuals could take advantage of the situation and opt to remain in the “cheaper” fund and make their real election at retirement, this would require significant adjustments in retrospective contributions to be made and after a 4 year period income tax to the revenue account would be lost and if overpaid contributions had been made the proposals suggest the employer (i.e. LFRS) would pay interest but not if the individuals have underpaid (and this would give rise to claims of unfair treatment). Especially, as almost all 1992 employees should opt for a return to the legacy scheme.

In this respect it was noted that different definitions of pensionable pay and contribution rates existed across the schemes.

Similarly it was suggested that those that had withdrawn from the pension schemes should be allowed to re-join and it was felt that this should only be allowed when justification was advanced.

Calculating tapering retrospectively would also be especially difficult.

The proposal to allow an individual to make the choice at the end of their career was providing an unfair advantage over other individuals and no justification could be seen for this approach except to prevent any challenge by allowing the use of hindsight, which seemed unfair to other employees and depending on the outcome would impact on the cost control mechanism and the viability of the schemes as a whole.

A deferred option would mean these issues continued for 30 + years, with the maintenance of two pension records for those effected.

The Director of People and Development’s recommendation was that an immediate option should be nominated.

Potential additional discrimination being created

Within the documentation seen was a suggestion that any person with “tapering” protection should have this maintained beyond 2022. This would appear to be extending the discrimination that had caused the problem in the first place and far from reducing the scope for claims it would create new claims in the mistaken belief that discrimination would occur if you changed the offer, ignoring that it was the High Court that has deemed the protection offered as unlawful and had to be removed.

Currently in the 1992 scheme an individual’s pension entitlement was limited to 30 years’ service and if they achieved this before age 50 they were given a contributions holiday but after 50 had to recommence payment. The proposal was to allow staff to opt for 1992 scheme until 30 years and then join the 2015 scheme. Not only was this proposal flawed if implemented it would give rise to more claims of mal-administration.

Other examples existed which the Director of People and Development felt should be included in at least one of the two proposed responses which were:

Taxation

The consultation proposed that if a deferred option was adopted then the Government would meet the tax obligation and any tax owed over the four year timeframe would be lost, this was not the case under the immediate option which would give rise to grievances if not claims.

The issue of annual allowance would also be fundamentally different if an individual remained in the reformed scheme until retirement and then opted for 1992 as opposed to reverting to the 1992 scheme immediately. Scheme pay obligations would also arise differently and if used would impact on an individual’s final pension. Taxation issues also arose in respect of tapering. It was suggested that this detail be picked up in the response to the consultation by the Director of People and Development.

Communication

Pension entitlements had become more complicated by the existence of multiple schemes and also Government changes (such as taxation, minimum and normal retirement ages, annual allowance and other changes effecting individuals) irrespective of the transition issue. Appropriate consistent and simplified communications was therefore a key imperative.

One of these legal pension requirements was to provide clear accurate annual benefit statements. If an individual had had an option in 2022 then this task (although more challenging than before) was manageable but if each year the calculation had to be undertaken for two scenarios and included a statement, conveying the import would be not only administratively challenging but providing clear information would also be difficult. This would in turn encourage claims for being misled. Experience showed that even the current requirement caused confusion. Often it was necessary to assist individuals in understanding what their options were. In the current situation this could be done within the confines of not providing advice, these proposals made that more difficult and officers would probably need to err on the side of caution.

Clear consistent pension advice and documentation was needed to prevent misunderstandings.

Financial Implications

There were no direct financial implications arising from the report however whatever remedy that applied would have a significant impact on the Service in terms of i) employer contributions; ii) any recalculation of benefits would increase the Authority's liability, iii) interest payments to employees if overpaid would negatively impact on the Authority; iv) additional costs would be incurred by our pension administrator that would be outside the contractual arrangement and would need to be funded; v) the complex nature of the remedy would require revised technical solutions that would need to be funded within the sector increasing costs; vi) the cost of future administration would increase significantly; vii) developments in the pension field limit the options for provision of a cost effective administrative service.

Human Resources Implications

Pension arrangements were a fundamental part of the contractual arrangements that had become more specialised. The complexities of the proposals and extent added to the demands on the Human Resources function and if the deferred option was selected by Government this would continue for 30 years. Maintaining the required knowledge and expertise would be very problematic. The complexity would result in considerable more questions over pension entitlement and uncertainty from employees and would negatively impact on morale. The retrospective nature of the proposals and the need for complicated administration moving forward was likely to result in administrative errors (maybe significant). The proposals would increase individual's tax liability and exposure to scheme pays which was not normally seen as positive by the individual. The sum total of activity and lack of a technical solution meant that timelines were extremely tight and must be considered a risk. The revised pension arrangements would maintain firefighter pension provision as excellent which was beneficial in workforce terms.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The discriminatory effect would be resolved by returning everybody into the legacy scheme until 1/4/22 but the Government believed this was unfair and had proposed a series of measures. The measures proposed however establish new grounds for discriminatory impact and should be avoided as outlined in the body of the report.

It was noted that the Local Pensions Partnership as our pension administrators would be responding in respect of their position as would the Director of People and Development as the designated Pension Scheme Manager for the Authority in respect of the consultation covering the detailed questions.

In response to comments made by County Councillor O'Toole in terms of the detailed consultation questions and the need for a fairer and less complicated system, the Director of People and Development confirmed that he had included the key questions in the report and a link to the consultation questions and he provided Members with further information including a number of examples:

- It had been suggested that for those individuals offered transition protection, to take away the entitlement for them to retire whenever they wanted under the

1992 scheme beyond 2022 (which was possible) meant they would be potentially given better protection than others and also it meant those who had to retire or had retired did not have that option;

- In the 1992 scheme if an individual who had accrued 30 years contribution (which equated to 40/60ths) remained in the Service longer they still had to pay contributions and not get any benefit from it (if aged over 50, if under 50 and had 30 years' service they received a pensions holiday);
- One suggestion was for individuals to transfer into the 2015 scheme once 30 years' service had been accrued; but that was unfair on everyone else;
- Also there was the option to make a decision on retirement. This meant one officer could transfer back into the 1992 scheme and another officer could stay in the 2015 until retirement, when they then retired the taxation arrangements meant they would be treated differently;
- There was an issue with individuals in the 2006 going into the 2015 scheme. For Police and Fire it was difficult to foresee any situation where it was better to remain in the 2015 scheme unless there was very little service or an individual died in service, hence it was very unlikely for someone to be better off in that scheme;
- Also people who had left the scheme would now be given another option to re-join which put them in a much better position than those who had remained in the scheme;
- LPP were saying it would be more costly; and
- There was the need for greater resources to manage the relationship with LPP and deal with a sequence of questions from firefighters.

The Director of People and Development asked that Members respond to the consultation in relation to the impact on administration, costs and the negative effect on terms and conditions.

County Councillor O'Toole thought it was an ideal situation for individuals to have a choice to either make a decision now or leave it until retirement. For example, anyone with a personal pension plan if they retired early they had the option to take the money straight away or wait until retirement age; the option was there. In response, the Director of People and Development advised that when you joined a new organisation you had 12 months under the current schemes to transfer your pension pot into the new scheme. If this was an open ended issue it would be more difficult to clarify pension liabilities and it was unfair on people who had made the decision earlier and their life events had changed. In addition he confirmed that retirement options were already enshrined in the 1992, 2006 and 2015 schemes. This would allow individuals to not pay the contributions and get the benefits and we would not get the interest on the unfunded element; whereas if an individual had opted to join earlier they would be disadvantaged by that. Therefore, the person that opted to stay in the 1992 scheme would be disadvantaged. In an ideal world it would be good to make life decisions at the end but it is much more administratively costly to do as that information would require maintaining over 20 – 30 years which would require re-calculation every year.

It was agreed that the Director of People and Development provide Members with the consultation questions together with proposed responses for consideration. Members would then submit comments to the Chairman for his final agreement of a

response on behalf of the Authority to the Home Office.

RESOLVED: That the Director of People and Development issue the consultation questions and draft responses to the Committee Members for consideration and comment to the Chairman for the Chairman to agree a response.

87/19 CARBON MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Director of People and Development presented the report. The Service had participated in the Carbon Trust Carbon Management Programme during 2008/09. A Carbon Management Team (CMT) was created to oversee the programme together with a programme board (Climate Change and Environment Programme Board). This resulted in the production of a Carbon Management Plan which was agreed by CFA Resources Committee in March 2009. Regular update reports were presented to the Combined Fire Authority, currently through the Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report.

It was noted that a target of 20% carbon emissions reduction by March 2013 was set by the Authority with a long-term target of 40% reduction by 2020. A revised target of 40% reduction by 2030 was proposed as the visionary long-term target for 2020 included a potential move from Service Headquarters to Service Training Centre.

Progress was measured against a 'business as usual' baseline i.e. the anticipated position if no action was taken. The forecast was that carbon emissions from buildings and fuel use would increase from 4,352 to 5,074 tonnes by March 2030 without any mitigating action. The target set was to reduce carbon emission to 2609 tonnes. At March 2020 carbon emissions was 3347 tonnes showing a saving of 1005 tonnes.

It was noted that the target set was challenging but a decrease in carbon emissions had been achieved across gas, electricity and fuel use but not at the rate anticipated. This included reductions in electricity use of 7.6%, gas 38% and fuel 23.8%. In addition a reduction of 30% had been achieved for water use. To continue this trend Environmental Champions have been introduced to change staff behaviour and support the Carbon Management Plan.

Monthly collation of electricity, gas, and fuel and water data commenced in 2011/12 on all LFRS premises. It was now possible to compare the monthly data this year with the data last year enabling further scrutiny of the data by the Carbon Management Team. This information enabled new projects to be delivered in premises that would have the most impact.

The monthly meter readings collected on each premises allowed for projects to be targeted to where there was the greatest need. Usage was analysed by the CMT and this had resulted in a number of cost savings and carbon emission reductions such as: challenges being made to utility companies from inaccurate bills; station staff over-riding heating controls; heating systems being left on; investigations into water leaks; spikes in usage providing useful management information e.g. wildfires increased fuel use and flooding resulted in increased energy use for drying kit; fleet vehicle usage for various roles based on historic provision rather than current need

and departmental plans being prioritised to deliver savings where needed most. The data collected was also used to produce certificates which had to be displayed in our buildings

There were a number of risks and issues that might have impacted on achieving continued carbon emission and cost savings and meeting the reduction target.

- Extreme weather events e.g. cold wet winter could again impact on energy use.
- Fuel consumption could rise further due to preventative activity and wildfire and flooding activity.
- Financial and staff support for projects may be affected through reduction in budget allocation.
- To continue to achieve reductions investment would be required to support projects that delivered energy efficiency.

The Carbon Management Plan, as now considered by Members had been written to seek to achieve the target of 40% reduction by March 2030. It was accepted that projects completed would slow down due to future budget reductions and reductions in resources. However, there were a number of projects/reviews that should continue to deliver cost savings and carbon emission savings in the future. The anticipated move of Service Headquarters to Service Training Centre, reduction in staff posts resulting in reduction of energy use and reduction in fleet vehicles, reviews on ways of working e.g. Home Fire Safety Check delivery, more energy efficient buildings in the LFRS estate and the PFI buildings and the fleet vehicle replacement programmes would all assist in achieving future reductions.

RESOLVED: - That:

- i) the Carbon Management Plan for up to March 2030 be agreed; and
- ii) that monitoring and future reporting of carbon emissions be presented to Authority Members through the annual Safety, Health and Environment report presented to the Combined Fire Authority.

88/19 EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Director of People and Development presented the report.

The Annual Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Report, as now presented, documented the Service's performance in relation to meeting its legal duties over the year 2019 – 2020, the workforce profile as at 31 March 2020 and future plans for the Service 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

The report demonstrated how obligations to recognise diversity, value inclusion and promote equality were met and reflected the work done within our diverse communities as well as reporting key equality data / information.

The report contained information on: i) corporate planning and the approach taken to equality and diversity; ii) the comparison and equality profile of the workforce; and iii) an overview of equality-related activities.

It was noted that due to the covid-19 pandemic, the government had removed the

requirements related to Gender Pay Gap reporting.

County Councillor Hennessy requested the equality and diversity of Members on the Authority be recognised.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted the report.

89/19 ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Organisational Development Plan was presented by the Director of People and Development. The document was a dynamic and evolving plan as more issues were identified or their importance increased or decreased and approaches to address deficiencies were progressed.

The report identified current issues and reflected the position before the impact of the current covid-19 pandemic. Changes as a result of this experience would need to be factored into actions taken when fully known and understood and the response determined; as would the developing picture in respect of the apparent deficits in the protection of the built environment impacted on proposals for the Protection activity. Progress would be impacted by the availability of funding. However the plan demonstrated the thrust in respect of organisational development and measures being developed and progressed.

The Organisational Development Plan was part of a suite of plans which explained the interventions that supported the achievement of our mission and values and how we developed all of our employees to provide a safe, competent, healthy and representative workforce who demonstrate LFRS cultural values and behaviours.

The Organisational Development Plan flowed from the overarching strategic plans of LFRS and linked people management into the operational business process. Development of the plan had taken into consideration the requirements of the NFCC National Fire and Rescue People Strategy and the recommendations of the Inclusive Fire Service Group.

Expectations from staff within our Annual Service Plan and our values defined how we STRIVE to achieve our purpose of “making Lancashire safer” by making sure what we do is guided by strong principles of:

- Service: Making Lancashire safer is the most important thing we do.
- Trust: We Trust the people we work with.
- Respect: We respect each other.
- Integrity: We do what we say we will do.
- Value: We actively listen to others.
- Empowered: We contribute to decision making and improvements;

In light of the changing environment and the need for a workforce that was equipped to support these changes; one that was confident in its abilities, had adaptable skills and was able to act with authority and responsibility. The Service was focused on the development of a strong organisational culture based on clear values and leadership.

The Organisational Plan detailed the activity that had been delivered so far and that which would be delivered over the next twelve months in terms of delivering the Service ambitions in respect of leadership, organisational culture, professionalism and technical ability.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted the report.

90/19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 25 November 2020, venue to be confirmed.

Further meeting dates were agreed for 24 March 2021, 7 July 2021 and 29 September 2021.

91/19 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.

92/19 ISO 45001:2018 HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT AUDIT REPORTS

(Paragraphs 1 and 2)

The Director of People and Development presented the report which included a comprehensive and confidential appendix.

ISO 45001 and ISO 14001 were international best practice standards for how organisations managed Health and Safety and the Environment. The specifications gave requirements for occupational health and safety and environmental management systems to enable an organisation to control its risks and improve performance. Each year the Service was externally audited to ensure both these systems continually improved and met the needs of the Service.

Commencing 26 February 2020 LFRS was audited for 7 days. The British Assessment Bureau carried out the audit against the 2 standards. The Service had now received a joint audit report for both systems which had no major or minor non-conformances or opportunities for improvement included.

It was noted that as part of the audit, where areas for improvement had been identified by LFRS staff, it was intended these be developed into an internal, improvement action plan which would be taken forward by the Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted and endorsed.

93/19 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 £100,000 and high value procurement projects in excess of £100,000 including: new contract awards, progress of ongoing projects and details of new projects.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the report.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Notes of meeting held in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood, on Wednesday, 4 November 2020.

PRESENT:

Councillors

D Smith (Chairman)
I Brown (Vice-Chair)
Z Khan
T Williams

Officers

B Norman, A/Deputy Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
B Warren, Director of People and Development (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
N Bashall, Member Services Officer (LFRS)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors S Holgate and A Kay.

NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman, Councillor D Smith welcomed the Members to the meeting.

The notes of the previous meeting held 6 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

REVIEW OF MEMBER TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Authority has had a Member Training and Development Strategy in place since 2006 which had been reviewed regularly. Members noted that the review of the Member Training and Development Strategy included a comparison with the model strategy which was used by North West Employers Organisations and other local Authorities' strategies. Members reviewed and approved the revised Strategy as presented which included minor revisions to the PDP – Review Meeting and Personal Development Plan template to update the details of the training and development information available to Members.

Members continued to find the Members' Handbook a useful resource. It was confirmed that the Handbook would be updated after the elections were due in May 2021 and that hard copies would be circulated to Members. Members also felt that the Member Information Bulletin was very informative and continued to be the main means of communication.

Members felt that the Strategy worked well and approved the revised Strategy as presented.

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE REPORT

The Director of People & Development gave a brief background of the work and successes of the Member Training & Development Working Group.

Personal Development Plans

This year had seen 3 new Councillors join the CFA all of whom had participated in their initial PDP and induction discussions. Members noted that a lack of resources over the 7-month period to March 2020 followed by Government restrictions imposed later that same month due to the Coronavirus Pandemic had led to a backlog of work. Democratic Services had started the process of circulating review documentation electronically to all Members with effect from September 2020 and the remaining 22 Members had been reviewing their annual PDP and Action Plans.

e-Learning

Through the Member Information Bulletin, Members were encouraged to view North West Employers Organisation (NWEO) and Local Government Association (LGA) websites which offer support to authorities in the region and for Members to access training opportunities. Members noted that, although the majority of face-to-face events had been postponed due to the Pandemic, online content had continued to be available to support elected members.

Members' Handbook

The Members' Handbook was a pocket-sized, quick reference guide produced for Members to support their Training and Development. It set out: the role of the CFA and its committee structure, scheduled meeting dates and Members' contact details. It also detailed the Executive Board contact numbers and responsibilities, area contact information and a number of key issues for new Members to consider. Members noted that the Handbook would be updated for the municipal year 2021/22.

Member Information Bulletin

A quarterly Information Bulletin had continued to be emailed to keep Members informed of the latest items of interest, up and coming Fire Authority Committee meeting dates and Member Training and Development news and opportunities. This was valued by Members and was considered by Officers to be the key document for keeping Members up-to-date. Members noted that Government restrictions imposed in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic had meant that the majority of events, such as Prince's Trust Presentations had not taken place during 2020.

Members felt that the Lancashire Resilience Forum Newsletters circulated to all CFA Members were really informative and contained some really useful links to additional details.

Co-ordination of Training

To reassure Members, Democratic Services made regular contact with home authorities to co-ordinate member training and development opportunities and avoid duplication; sharing

Members personal development plans and records with home authorities as appropriate.

TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS 2019/20

The Member Training and Development Working Group was responsible for analysing and agreeing the training needs of Members that linked to the objectives, priorities and vision of the Authority.

Members were updated on the action that had been taken in response to training needs identified from the Training Needs Analysis undertaken in 2019 and the Personal Development sessions that had been held with Members throughout 2019/20.

Members noted that in light of the Covid-19 restrictions the Chairman of the Member Training and Development Working Group had agreed that the 2020 Personal Development Plan (PDP) reviews would be conducted electronically. Democratic Services had started the process of circulating review documentation to all Members.

Following consideration, Members agreed that their training needs were being met and agreed the training needs for 2020/21 as follows:

- To continue to promote fire safety and the work of the Member Champions;
- To continue to attend service area inductions / meetings at stations and information sessions on key issues to support decision-making;
- To maintain good attendance at all Strategy Group meetings, encouraging all Members to attend;
- To continue with the informal buddy system;
- To support the principle to use electronic systems where preferred / available;
- To attend a 'SafeDrive StayAlive' event.

The Director of People & Development referred to the points raised by CC Hennessy at September's Fire Authority in her role as the Fire Authority's Local Government Association (LGA) representative with respect to Pensions. Members agreed that, as the body responsible for the Firefighters Pension Scheme, knowledge of pensions should be added as a Member training need for 2020/21. The Director of People & Development confirmed that this would be taken forward through a presentation by the senior pension adviser of the LGA directly after the next Fire Authority on 14 December 2020.

Members noted that the HMICFRS Inspection in respect of the Service's response to Covid had taken place. It had not been a formal inspection and a letter outlining the overall findings was expected in the coming weeks.

MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

This report provided an update on Member Training and Development activities since the previous meeting of the Group. The report showed opportunities and outcomes of Member Training and Development activity. Members noted the report for information which included:

Visits to Local Fire Stations

Prior to the introduction in March 2020 of restrictions due to the Coronavirus Pandemic,

Members were encouraged to contact area personnel to visit their local fire station to discuss local key issues. Visits were promoted through the handbook and member information bulletin. The Chairman, accompanied where possible by the Vice-Chairman aimed to visit each station on an annual basis.

The Chairman had attended 24 station visits since November 2019 and this had been rolled out to include attendance at Area Management meetings prior to the Covid-19 restrictions.

LGA Annual Fire Conference & Exhibition

Positive feedback had been received from Members who had attended the 2020 Conference in Blackpool, Lancashire. The 2-day conference had included sessions on: climate change, responding to the HMICFRS inspection, finance and funding, risk, standards and protection and building safety.

Involvement at Area Level

Members had been routinely invited to attend local events including Prince's Trust Presentation events prior to the introduction of the Covid-19 restrictions.

Members noted that a number of events and visits normally attended by Members during the course of the year had not taken place following the Government restrictions introduced in March 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, including: The Annual Service-Wide Open Day; the LGA Leadership Essentials Fire and Rescue Programme and Member visits to North West Fire Control in Warrington.

Preparation for CFA Virtual Meetings

Government legislation and guidelines in response to the Coronavirus had led to significant changes to working practices from March 2020. All Fire Authority meetings since July 2020 had been held remotely using Microsoft Teams and made accessible to the press and public via a live webcast on YouTube. Members had taken part in 1-2-1 test sessions using Microsoft Teams in preparation for the virtual meetings.

Members confirmed that they had adapted to the need to access meetings remotely using Microsoft Teams and agreed that connectivity during meetings continued to be the main issue. It was felt that things had improved considerably over time and that ongoing problems seemed largely due to personal broadband bandwidth, the device used to access the meetings and the method used to join the meetings. Members noted that some staff had experienced similar issues when accessing meetings from remote areas. It was agreed that Lancashire County Council moving to Microsoft Teams as the primary product would also assist with Members' access to meetings.

The Director of People & Development confirmed that although the Service had continued to deliver a lot of the work, steps had also been taken to review all activity to support the efforts of the Government and the NHS to reduce the general infection rate in the population by reducing any activity that was not necessary. Meetings were still going ahead remotely where possible. Members were reminded not to visit stations until Covid restrictions were lifted.

The Chairman of the Working Group asked the A/Deputy Chief Fire Officer to write to all staff on behalf of the Member Training and Development Working Group to thank them for continuing to do a very professional job during these unprecedented times.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Group would be held on Thursday, 29 April 2021 at 1000 hours – venue to be confirmed.

A further meeting date was agreed for 4 November 2021 – venue to be confirmed.

B WARREN
Director of People and Development

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 16 November 2020, at 10.00 am - Virtual Meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast).

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

N Hennessy (Chairman)
S Blackburn (Vice-Chair)
I Brown
J Eaton
Jane Hugo
M Khan CBE
T Martin
D O'Toole
M Pattison
J Shedwick

Officers

J Johnston, Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
B Norman, Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
J Charters, Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
Richard Edney, Senior Communications Officer (LFRS)

35/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman, County Councillor Hennessy, thanked County Councillor Parkinson for his dedication and diligence as the former Chairman of this Committee.

County Councillor Hennessy then welcomed Authority Members and members of the press and public to the virtual committee meeting of the Planning Committee. She advised that in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Government had made regulations that enabled virtual meetings. This meeting was accessible for Committee Members via Microsoft Teams and for members of the press and public via a live webcast on YouTube.

The Committee Members individually confirmed their attendance at the start of the meeting.

36/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

37/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

38/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In relation to page 4, regarding the establishment of a wildfire burn team, County Councillor Eaton wanted to express his thanks to the staff team where their successful interventions at several incidents resulted in prevention of further fire spread and no reported injuries.

In relation to page 5, regarding the tools to improve the appraisal conversation, County Councillor Hennessy queried whether the 360° appraisal tool had been launched. In response, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that this had been launched, starting with the senior management and this would be extended throughout the Service over the forthcoming months.

In relation to page 7, regarding collaboration with other public services, County Councillor Hennessy requested an update on site sharing opportunities. In response the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that most of the former, non-covid work had slowed (as detailed later on the agenda) and consideration was currently being given as to whether fire stations could be used in support of the vaccination programme.

In relation to page 9, and County Councillor Shedwick's request at the previous meeting for detail regarding ongoing vacancies across all on-call stations, he confirmed that the information was received immediately and at July there were 43 vacancies across the fleet of 32 on-call pumps. He requested that if there were any significant changes in future that he be advised as a matter of course.

In relation to page 13, County Councillor Hennessy requested a further update on how the Service was preparing for any potential second wave of the pandemic in the winter months, particularly the level of physical and mental wellbeing support provided to staff. In response the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that from a business continuity planning point of view staff absence had been predicted including how best to mitigate this; work continued with representative bodies and health and safety consultation meetings to keep staff absence as low as possible. For example, normal absence rate was around 40 staff at any given time which increased in the winter months due to seasonal flu however, at the moment due to self-isolation this had slightly increased to around 60 staff. He assured Members that the measures that had been put in place ensured pump availability and response to incidents was high. In addition, he confirmed that training for staff on operational fire stations continued where it was safety critical and other training had been reviewed and amended where possible including delivering digital training sessions to new fire safety enforcement staff and the digital delivery of fire safety training in schools. With respect to wellbeing, the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the

core support from Occupational Health and Human Resources continued and there were regular staff dial-ins for staff to discuss concerns or key topics with managers. Feedback on this had been strong in relation to wellbeing provision and there was currently a survey open at the moment which should provide further reassurance once it had concluded.

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 13 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

39/19 SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY & PLANNING DIRECTORATE LEVEL CHANGES

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented the report. At the previous meeting Members discussed a high level of detail with regards to the Fire Safety Bill (due Royal Assent in January 2021) and Building Safety Bill (due Royal Assent in 2021/22) and endorsed the proposed internal restructuring necessary to underpin the transformation plan to ensure that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was well positioned to deliver Fire Protection duties in accordance with the new legislation and associated best practice (resolution 31/19 refers).

This included the introduction of a strategic lead at Head of Department level for Prevention and Protection. It was noted that following an internal and external recruitment and selection process, Group Manager Mark Hutton was successfully appointed to the Area Manager level post and he would commence in role from 1 December 2020. This change enabled the Head of Prevention and Protection sufficient capacity to lead the Prevention and Protection functions in a manner commensurate with the expectations of the Building a Safer Future Report, which would place LFRS in a strong position to deliver the National Fire Chief Council Competency Framework and successfully implement requirements under the new Fire Safety Bill and Building Safety Bill. The Protection Reform related changes provided an opportunity to review the areas of responsibility and associated resources within the Director of Service Delivery and Director of Strategy and Planning portfolios.

It was proposed that the new Area Manager Prevention and Protection would operate within the Director of Service Delivery portfolio which would result in all aspects of Prevention and Protection policy and delivery sitting within the same functional area. This was a change from the current position whereby Protection and Prevention policy was shaped within the Strategy and Planning team and subsequent prevention delivery operated from Service Delivery.

To further strengthen capacity within the Prevention and Protection area it was proposed that LFRS established a new dedicated Group Manager for Protection (with a temporary Protection transformation team) and a repurposing of the Group Manager (GM) (Central Area) to become the GM Prevention, to continue to lead Fire Investigation, Road Safety, Prevention policy plus all Youth Engagement activities.

It was further proposed that the Area Manager, Head of Training and Operational Review be re-aligned to the Director of Strategy and Planning portfolio in order to bring closer alignment between the key areas of training specification, operational

learning and competence, to the operational policy elements delivered by the Response and Emergency Planning team.

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that, subject to Committee approval, it was proposed to move to the new structure with effect from 1 January 2021 which would align with the arrival of the new Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Steve Healey who would have responsibility for this work as Director of Service Delivery. Members considered the diagrams on page 17 and 18 which set out the proposed structure changes and a number of councillors commented that it would have been helpful to have a key to the acronyms used.

In response to a number of queries raised regarding the business risk implications outlined, the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised:

- Although there had been a number of changes and innovations to try and recruit colleagues into working in the fire safety environment over a number of years, and there had been significant progress, this had been challenging given it took between 18 months and 2 years for an experienced fire officer to become a competent inspector. This work was now being extended to deal with the wider risk in Lancashire, as detailed in the report at the last meeting and given that work would then be intensified through the new responsibilities under the joint regulation alongside local authority building regulations and the health and safety regulations therefore, the task had become more difficult and the levels of competence and experience had increased hence the challenge was greater.
- There was an increasing demand across the sector for competent fire sector workers (experienced inspectors and support staff) however, most staff (approximately 90% of 44 staff) were in post although the majority were still in development (ie: those who had newly entered or were newly appointed leaders). There were small numbers of transfers across local fire and rescue services with only one in the last 12 months that had left to work in the commercial sector.
- The Service had undertaken a lot of work and created a 3-year plan to respond to the risks posed to the Service from Dame Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety and the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Report. Work included the anticipation of impacts from the new 2 pieces of legislation and the determination of required structural changes to provide more scrutiny and focus for this work. For example, consideration had been given to the competency framework and workforce development which included work required by staff on wholetime stations to check business premises; increasing the numbers of degree qualified engineers and inspecting officers. Staff had also been signed up to formal qualifications at levels 3, 4 and 5 as appropriate. In its entirety over the time required to fully implement the new framework, and if all the aspects were delivered, all the risks identified would have been addressed to as low a risk as possible.

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer agreed that an update on staff competence would be reported at the July meeting next year and it was noted that should the risk remain it would feature on the corporate risk register.

In response to a question from County Councillor Shedwick, the Chief Fire Officer advised that Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

(HMICFRS) would be looking to see the Service was adjusting the way it staffed, considered and delivered against the changing landscape. It was expected that when HMICFRS undertook the inspection the following year they would be able to see the preparatory work done to ensure that by the time the significant legislative changes were enacted that the Service had already adjusted itself to be able to deliver against it.

RESOLVED: - that the Planning Committee noted and endorsed the internal restructuring plan.

40/19 HMICFRS UPDATE

The Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented the report. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was due to be conducted in April/May 2020. This was suspended due to the recall of staff within HMICFRS returning to their own Fire and Rescue Services to plan and manage the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak.

During this period the Service's Liaison Officer, Charlene Johnston had maintained contact with Service Liaison Lead (SLL), Jo Hayden by having two weekly conversations to update on how the Service was managing the pandemic in Lancashire and to inform her understanding on how the Service operated. Jo Hayden returned to HMICFRS on 29 June this year, however there would be a period of time during which the HMICFRS would continue work to re-populate their inspection teams and a full inspection was not expected to take place until far into 2021.

Covid-19 Thematic Inspection

HMICFRS were legislated to report on Fire and Rescue Services annually and announced, as expected, that they would be conducting a Covid-19 Thematic Inspection of all Fire and Rescue Services. This would be an ungraded sub-diagnostic under the forthcoming but delayed round 2 inspection programme.

The inspection of LFRS took place over two weeks commencing 28 September and involved a data return and self-assessment survey followed by digital interviews with key staff members. The HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead met, via Microsoft Teams, with the Group Manager Prevention and Protection, Group Manager Response and Emergency Planning, Director of People and Development, Director of Corporate Services, Group Manager Training and Operational Review, and Head of Safety, Health and Environment as well as the Chief Fire Officer and Combined Fire Authority Chairman.

The inspection was light touch and looked at how Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service delivered its functions safely and how it worked for the greater good of the community alongside partners.

It was noted that the inspection of other Fire and Rescue Services would conclude in December, at which point the Service would receive a letter from HMICFRS detailing results with a full thematic report covering all Services expected in January 2021.

As yet there were no indications as to when the round two inspections would commence which would depend on the Covid-19 situation nationally.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy, the Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the data return was similar to those submitted on a biannual basis (in spring and autumn) which focussed on the Service's ability to deliver some of its duties (to understand the impact of the pandemic). Throughout the pandemic the Service had dynamically assessed the consequences of both Government and NHS Public Health guidance to ensure a balance between delivering an effective Service (using different technologies and methods where appropriate) and the protection of staff wellbeing. He confirmed that broadly the data set spanned those topics. Since then the autumn data had been submitted which assessed staffing, types of facilities and services offered and looked to assess the impact of covid over the last 12 months when compared with data submitted the previous year.

In addition, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the data return provided was factual in terms of what the Service had undertaken (including the delivery of thousands of PPE items to care homes and 3,500 vulnerable visits to people in the community who were shielding on behalf of the NHS). He confirmed that the informal feedback received had been positive however, all the data returns were yet to be compared.

The Chief Fire Officer also advised that the difficulty at this time was that HMICFRS would not yet have formed a view on what levels of service were being delivered by any particular Fire and Rescue Service which included: staff wellbeing, links into the Local Resilience Forum to deliver additional activities and whether there were any barriers. He confirmed that the narrative feedback at the end of the inspection and the subsequent report, as expected at the end of the year, would show broadly how the Service had looked after its staff (by keeping staff well engaged and well informed) and how the Service had provided significant additional response to the Lancashire Resilience Forum (which included having over 40 officers detached into the forum to deliver its core structures) well beyond traditional fire and rescue service activity.

RESOLVED: - that the Planning Committee noted the report.

41/19 BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer presented the report. The quarterly Blue Light Collaboration (BLC) meetings had largely been placed on hold due to the ongoing support provided by the blue light agencies to Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF) in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the increased internal pressures felt by the three blue light organisations in adapting and responding to the ever-changing and demanding operational landscape. It was noted that there were some exceptions in relation to the progression of some long-term pieces of work (including meeting infrequently in relation to fire investigation and the International Standards Organisation for accreditation alongside the National Fire Chiefs Council and National Police Chiefs Council).

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) and partners had entered into an amended working relationship where areas which were not previously highlighted through the BLC had continued to gather pace, evolve and be delivered to support the multi-agency response to Covid-19.

Many areas of delivery that had been supported (or would be supported if requested) were closely linked with the tripartite agreement (NFCC, Employers and FBU) which was constantly evolving.

To date, LFRS had been involved in the preparations for, or delivery of, the following:

- Face fitting for masks to be used by frontline NHS and clinical care staff working with Covid-19 patients;
- Mass casualty transportation (movement of bodies in support of Coroner functions);
- Vulnerable person contacts and visits (delivery of essential items);
- Delivery of PPE and other medical supplies to NHS and care facilities;
- Lead agency for collating all PPE requirements through the Joint Intelligence and Planning Group.

In terms of support to the LRF, the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer chaired the Response and Containment Group and there were a number of officers embedded within the various LRF sub-groups, delivering leadership and co-ordination to these teams. At present there was an Emergency Planning Watch Manager and Station Manger supporting the county-wide response.

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that there were discussions ongoing currently as to whether any second wave would require the Service to: i) support local authorities to distribute PPE as it had previously (with the Training Centre acting as a distribution centre); ii) retrain staff regarding transportation of the deceased; and, iii) support partners in the provision of the vaccination programme which was expected to start for the most vulnerable in the next few weeks and conclude by spring. In addition, early conversations were being held whether staff who were first aid trained could be upskilled to deliver vaccinations.

All activity was being collated within the collaboration log which would provide an overview of outcomes delivered and benefits realised, and would form a definitive evidence base for any future HMICFRS inspections. The evidence also informed some aspects of a collaboration review report being delivered by Shared Architect Services, through which it was expected that further beneficial collaboration opportunities could be identified and explored.

In conjunction with partners the joint collaboration officer post was being reviewed, with steps being made towards reinstating the post to support future collaboration work. The intention remained that BLC meetings would be restarted when capacity across the blue light partners permitted, however on a day-to-day basis, dialogue and consistent collaborative working remained ongoing across numerous areas of work.

County Councillor Pattison asked for clarification of the best contact where a vulnerable person had been identified as needing support. The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that every Local Authority across Lancashire had established community level hubs (which were stood up throughout the whole pandemic and remained currently in place) and these were intensifying their resources through the winter period. He confirmed that the hubs were the point of contact to support a vulnerable person. He advised that the Service would react as required to a request to support local authorities and the work they were doing via the community hubs. Currently there were no specific requests to deliver food or medicines or check on residents.

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that if Members had any significant concerns regarding residents' fire safety in the home, the Service continued to provide advice over phone and during the last quarter had made interventions in the home on circa 2,000 occasions where the risk of harm to the individual from fire outweighed the risk to staff of transmission of covid while in the home. He confirmed that these interventions did include onward referrals to local authority hubs teams.

County Councillor Hennessy queried whether there had been an increase in Home Fire Safety Checks with people currently staying in the home. The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that the first lockdown period showed a slight shift in call types with an increase in unwanted fire signals in business premises; the quieter roads showed a decrease in road traffic collisions and as more people worked from home there was a slight increase in domestic fires. Referral rates had slowed but those who were at the greatest risk were still being referred at similar rates. The Service continued to undertake door step delivery of equipment ie: replacement smoke alarms for self-installation or as required Prevention colleagues entered premises every day, wearing PPE and keeping socially distanced to place the interventions; thereby reducing the risks from fire and keeping the residents of Lancashire safer.

County Councillor Hennessy queried whether the Service had changed its delivery for those people who had been in hospital and their circumstances had changed. In response, the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that these referrals had continued as there were significant risk factors; the Service still visited people who were referred and provided individual support as required.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy regarding how the Service was reaching local communities, the Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that the winter period (darker nights, shorter days and colder weather) generally created a challenge for the Service and during this time the winter safety campaign would be intensified.

RESOLVED: - that the Planning Committee noted and endorsed the report.

42/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 8 February 2021 at 10:00 hours – venue to be confirmed.

Further meeting dates were agreed for 12 July 2021 and 15 November 2021.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 November 2020 at 10.00 am in Virtual Meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast)

MINUTES

PRESENT:

F De Molfetta (Chairman)

Councillors

L Beavers
S Blackburn
J Hugo
D O'Toole
M Pattison
G Wilkins
T Williams

94/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman, County Councillor F De Molfetta welcomed Authority Members and members of the press and public to the virtual committee meeting of the Audit Committee. He advised that in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Government had made regulations that enabled virtual meetings. This meeting was accessible for Committee Members via Microsoft Teams and for members of the press and public via a live webcast on YouTube.

The Committee Members individually confirmed their attendance at the start of the meeting.

95/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillors Tony Martin and Dave Stansfield.

96/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

97/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

98/19 FINANCIAL MONITORING 2020/21

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report.

Revenue Budget

The overall position as at the end of September showed an underspend of £0.8m, largely as a result of reduced spend during the first quarter, due to the Covid-19 pandemic as planned expenditure was not progressed as previously reported. This position had continued to a large extent into quarter two, and although we were currently discussing with budget holders what impact this could have on their end of year budgetary position, any further lockdown period would have continued impacts on spending. In addition, it was noted that this would have significant impacts on the outturn position for 2020/21, which was estimated to be circa £0.7m after allowing for the virements proposed for Member consideration. This would be updated and reported for the remainder of the financial year, however it was noted that Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had confirmed they would be carrying out the annual National Non-Domestic Rates 3 reconciliation and would be making payments where appropriate to authorities in January 2021. This had not been included in the forecast as there was no guarantee anything would be received.

The year to date positions within individual departments were set out in the report with major variances relating to non-pay spends and variances on the pay budget being shown separately in the table below: -

Area	Overspend / (Under spend) to 30 Sept	Forecast outturn at 31 March	Reason
	£'000	£'000	
Service Delivery	(159)	(369)	The underspend for both the first six months and the outturn position largely related to the reduced activity levels, in particular for car allowances and smoke detector purchases.
Protection Transformation	-	-	The Protection Transformation department had been created as a result of the Authority being able to access £310k in grant from the Home Office to support our protection work in the wake of the Grenfell tragedy. The proposed department structure was approved at July Planning Committee, which incorporated new posts funded by grant, and posts transferred from other existing structures. In addition, we received notification from the Home Office that we would be receiving £150k S31 grant in relation to the Grenfell inquiry outcomes, in particular to ensure that all Fire and Rescue Services have smoke hoods in place as a protection measure in the event of a major fire. We received the funding

			in early November, and the purchase of smoke hoods and smoke curtains was underway, with plans to spend the remainder of the funding (circa £100k) under discussion with Service Delivery.
Covid-19	-	-	As previously reported, we received total funding of £1.4m. We have spent £0.9m to date, with the balance being held in an earmarked reserve. It was expected that any further costs associated with the ongoing pandemic, such as enhanced cleaning, additional staff costs etc. would be met from this fund.
Youth Engagement	(118)	(30)	This budget included both the Prince's Trust activities and the Fire Cadet units. The year to date position arose from the amended delivery model for Prince's Trust teams, where the residential fees and other team running costs were not being incurred. The forecast position anticipated the transfer of the balance of unspent Prince's Trust income into earmarked reserves to meet future running costs, but this would be brought for a decision during year end. Fire cadet units had not been running since March, hence the expected year end underspend.
Training & operational review	(66)	(124)	The year to date and outturn position both reflected training which should have taken place in quarter one being pushed back, and the reduced onsite catering requirement during this period. The outturn was based on an estimated level of training provision (including on-call and wholtime recruits) during the remainder of the year, which would be reviewed and monitored.
Fleet & Technical Services	(88)	(168)	The current underspend largely related to vehicle repairs and maintenance, where the anticipated (and budgeted) increases in the hourly rates charged by Lancashire County Engineering Services had been mitigated thus far by careful

			management and scrutiny of repairs passed to LCES, with use of alternative contractors where cost effective to do so. In addition, we benefitted from free fuel offered by BP to emergency services during the first quarter, and there had also been a general reduction in spend on fuel and tyres.
Digital Transformation	-	-	The digital transformation department was created by moving staff from other departments (mainly Information Technology) to support the digital enhancement of the Service. Currently the department only had pay budgets, but non-pay budgets may be reviewed and moved over in due course.
Property	(140)	(145)	As non-essential maintenance was put on hold in quarter 1, the spend to date showed an underspend. Whilst non-essential maintenance had been re-instated departmental capacity and the ongoing situation meant that we would not catch up from earlier underspends, hence the forecast year end underspend.
Non DFM	195	759	Both the current and outturn positions reflected the £0.4m funding gap identified at the time of setting the budget in February. The tender process for STC workshop and South Shore refurbishment had both resulted in significant increases in costs reflecting a general shift in pricing in the construction industry, as well as additional site overheads to meet new Covid requirements and design amendments. The Member Tender Panel had approved the award of both these contracts and the resultant increase in the capital programme, noting that this could be met from additional in-year revenue contributions due to the existing underspend. As such the outturn also reflected the additional Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay of £0.3m in respect of these projects.

Wholetime Pay (including associate trainers)	(469)	(638)	<p>In anticipation of reduced staffing levels due to the pandemic 16 existing On Call staff who had been successful in the Wholetime recruitment campaign and who were initially due to commence on the recruits' course in September were allowed to commence riding Wholetime appliances in May. This ceased once they commenced the recruits' course in September. The additional cost of this was more than offset by additional 12 early leavers since the budget was initially set. In addition, vacant posts were effectively budgeted at Firefighter rates, however there were a number of vacancies within TOR, Fire Safety and Service Development at higher grades, resulting in a further underspend.</p> <p>The Protection Transformation funding of £310k reported above would be used to fund additional wholetime Protection posts, however there won't be additional recruitment within the year to fill gaps arising within Service Delivery, hence the outturn position reported. The outturn position included the completion of the September course and the anticipated January recruits' course in addition to all of the above.</p>
RDS Pay	212	366	<p>The overspend reflected activity related payments for the first three months, which could be attributed to several moorland fire incidents during the period, a 36% higher activity level than the corresponding quarter last year. Although these payments had reduced in quarter two, they were still 10% higher on average than the previous year. We were currently assuming that these would continue at broadly the same levels for the rest of the year. We would monitor the situation over the coming months and update in due course.</p>
Support staff	(74)	(92)	The underspend to date related to

(less agency staff)			vacant posts across various departments, which were in excess of the vacancy factor built into the budget. Due to the initial cessation of recruitment activity due to the pandemic, and subsequent reduced recruitment activity, it was unknown when some of these posts might be filled, however it was clear there would be an underspend by the end of the financial year. Noted agency staff costs to date of £22k were replacing vacant support staff roles, this accounted for less than 1% of total support staff costs.
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Capital Budget

The Capital budget for 2020/21 stood at £10.9m. Following recent Member Tender Panel approvals, the proposal was to increase this for:

- £275k in respect of the costs for the STC Workshop project;
- £32k in respect of the costs for the South Shore fire station refurbishment and extension.

These changes took the revised total budget to £11.2m.

There had been very little spend against the resultant 2020/21 programme, just £0.7m, largely against vehicles, as departments had been dealing with the impacts of the ongoing pandemic. We continued to review the impact of the pandemic on anticipated in-year spend, and had provided an estimated forecast of slippage in Appendix 2, but it was clear that there would be significant slippage, circa £8.4m, again this year.

The current position against the programme was set out below, with further details provided for consideration by Members in Appendix 2: -

Pumping Appliances	The budget allowed for the remaining stage payments for 7 pumping appliances for the 2018/19 programme, which had all now been built and inspected and were undergoing the pre-delivery process, with anticipated deliveries taking place in December & January. In addition, the budget allowed for the purchase of 3 pumping appliances for the 2019/20 programme, and 2 pumping appliances for the 2020/21 programme, all of which had been delayed pending consideration of the specification and were expected to slip into the next financial year.
Other vehicles	This budget allowed for the replacement of various operational support vehicles, the most significant of which were:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Command Support Units (CSU), the documentation was being prepared in order to begin the procurement exercise in the new year; • One Water Tower; • One Aerial Ladder Platform; • One all-terrain vehicle <p>None of the above items were expected to be progressed to completion within the year, and were included in the slippage.</p> <p>In addition to these, the budget allowed for various support vehicles which were reviewed prior to replacement, but were being progressed with further spend anticipated prior to the year end.</p>
Operational Equipment / Future Firefighting	<p>This budget allowed for completion of the kitting out of three reserve pumping appliances, in addition to providing a £50k budget for innovations in fire-fighting which were still being considered.</p> <p>This budget also allowed for the progression of CCTV on pumping appliances, which was not expected to be spent during the financial year due to capacity issues within Fleet Services department.</p>
Building Modifications	<p>This budget allowed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a new workshop, BA Recovery and Trainer facility at STC. Following completion of the tender process the total budget had been increased to £4.5m. Work would shortly begin on site; however, the majority of the budget would be spent in the next financial year; • NWAS co-location at Morecambe, this depended on arrangements with the PFI provider, but now seemed likely to slip into the next financial year; • Based on the latest stock condition survey, several stations had budgeted upgrades to dormitory and shower facilities. A contract for South Shore refurbishment had been awarded, with works currently on site. However, the majority of spend on other upgrades would move into the following financial year. • We have included budgetary provision for a drill tower replacement plan, and would seek to replace a notional 2 towers per year over the 5-year programme. Work was on-going to agree the specifications and priorities for this programme, and hence spend would slip into next year.
IT systems	<p>The majority of the capital budget related to the national Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP), to replace the Airwave wide area radio system and the replacement of the station end mobilising system. The ESMCP project budget, £1.0m, was offset by anticipated grant, however the timing of both expenditure and grant was dependent upon progress against the</p>

	<p>national project. This national project had suffered lengthy delays to date, hence was included within slippage into the next financial year.</p> <p>The balance of the budget related to the replacement of various systems, in line with the ICT asset management plan. Whilst initial scoping work was on-going to facilitate the replacement of some of these systems in the current year, we were still reviewing the need to replace others. Given the ongoing situation we only expect an outturn spend of circa £100k in the current year.</p>
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The committed costs to date would be met by revenue contributions.

Delivery against savings targets

The current position on savings targets identified during the budget setting process was reported. The performance to date was ahead of target, largely due to savings in respect of smoke detectors and Procurement savings. It was anticipated that we would meet our savings target for the financial year.

In response to a question from County Councillor O'Toole regarding the £900k spend on the covid budget, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed he would send a breakdown of that expenditure to him outside the meeting.

In response to a further question from County Councillor O'Toole regarding the Youth Engagement budget, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the difference between the underspend at the end of September and the forecast underspend at the end of the financial year, £88k would transfer into an earmarked reserve for the Prince's Trust because of the uncertainty of future funding. The Prince's Trust programme had continued during the pandemic but had been delivered digitally rather than on a face-to-face basis. It was noted that the fire cadets had ceased in March which was why the year end underspend was predicted. Councillor Hugo was pleased that the forecast underspend would be earmarked for the Prince's Trust programme as she had been concerned that any drop off in activity would require more effort to regain momentum.

Councillor Hugo asked why the £700k revenue slippage would go into the capital reserve. In response, the Director of Corporate Services advised that at the Strategy Group scheduled for the following week there would be a discussion on the Business Case at Headquarters which may require additional resources being put into the capital programme. Typically, at year end consideration was given to whether to put any underspend into the general fund balance or into an alternative (if deemed appropriate). Should there be a need to put more money into the capital programme, the year-end balance would be transferred thus minimising any need to borrow. He confirmed that any decisions would be taken by the Resources Committee typically in May to feed into the final accounts process.

Councillor Hugo also queried what the impact on the Service was of not filling the support staff vacancies referred to on page 33. In response the Director of Corporate Services advised that some of the posts had been problematic and although the impact was fairly marginal it was hoped the posts would be recruited to over the next 6 months.

RESOLVED: - Given the YouTube live webcast had stopped working which in effect excluded the press and public from the meeting, the public section of the meeting was adjourned. This was prior to the Committee's determination of the recommendations which would now need to be considered (as appropriate) with an update provided to the next meeting of this Committee.

99/19 TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID YEAR REPORT 2020/21

The report and its recommendations would now need to be considered (as appropriate) with an update provided to the next meeting of this Committee.

100/19 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 at 1000 hours – venue to be confirmed.

Further meeting dates were scheduled for 7 July 2021 and 29 September 2021 and agreed for 1 December 2021.

101/19 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.

102/19 SICK PAY PROCEDURES

(Paragraph 3)

Members considered a report that proposed to temporarily alter the processes to enable some support to be given to staff impacted by the Covid emergency and to re-endorse the principles under which the existing discretions were used.

RESOLVED – That the Committee approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

103/19 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 £100,000 and high value procurement projects in excess of £100,000 including: new contract awards, progress of ongoing projects and details of new projects.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted and endorsed the report.

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Friday, 27 November 2020, at 10.00 am - Virtual meeting accessible via MS Teams and YouTube (as a live webcast).

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

H Khan (Chairman)
J Shedwick (Vice-Chair)
S Clarke
S Holgate
A Kay
M Khan CBE
D Smith

Officers

K Mattinson, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS)
J Bowden, Head of Finance (LFRS)
S Collinson, Head of Media and Communications (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)

In attendance

A Smith, External Audit, Grant Thornton
J Taylor, Internal Audit, Lancashire County Council

39/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman, County Councillor H Khan welcomed Authority Members and members of the press and public to the virtual committee meeting of the Audit Committee. She advised that in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Government had made regulations that enabled virtual meetings. This meeting was accessible for Committee Members via Microsoft Teams and for members of the press and public via a live webcast on YouTube.

The Committee Members individually confirmed their attendance at the start of the meeting.

40/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

41/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

42/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 28 July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

43/19 REVISIONS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2019/20

The Director of Corporate Services presented the report.

The draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2020 presented to Resources Committee in September confirmed that: i) the unaudited Statement of Accounts would be 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 2020; ii) this would be subject to review by the Authority's external auditors, Grant Thornton; iii) that a further report would be presented to the Audit Committee in November, following completion of the external audit; and iv) at that meeting the Chair of the Audit Committee would be asked to sign the final statement of accounts, as well as the Treasurer. In light of this the Committee noted and endorsed the report and accounts, based on the various outturn reports presented on the same agenda. Subsequent to that the full set of accounts was submitted for audit to Grant Thornton.

The Statement of Accounts had been updated to reflect the following changes identified during the audit (as reported in the Audit Findings Report – elsewhere on the agenda) and a revised statement of accounts was considered by Members.

Adjusted Misstatements

The following significant adjustments had been made to the accounts, as referred to in the External Audit Findings Report – referred to elsewhere on this agenda: -

- HM Treasury published its consultation on reforms to public sector pension schemes on 16 July 2020. Following this the Authority requested updated IAS 19 calculations for the additional McCloud/Sargeant liability to allow for Authority specific membership data, rather than using data for the Fire scheme as a whole. In line with CIPFAs guidance the Authority had included this change in the remeasurement item. This resulted in a reduction of £4.1m to the Firefighter Pension Scheme liability. Hence the accounts had been adjusted for this.

It was noted that the actual impact of an increase in scheme liabilities that arose from McCloud/Sargeant judgment would be measured through the pension valuation process, which determined employer and employee contribution rates.

- The value of fixed assets had increased by £100k reflecting a discrepancy between the valuer's valuations and the value recorded in the fixed asset register.

- The draft accounts included a provision of £600k for backdating of pensionable allowances to the date of the High Court ruling, March 2019. The Authority was attempting to resolve the issue of further backdating via the collective bargaining arrangements, but this had not yet been concluded. Pending the outcome of those discussions the Authority had now allowed for 6 years of backdating and had adjusted the draft accounts to include £1.8m provision. As the estimated value was material and the obligation related to events prior to the start of the financial year, management had disclosed a prior period adjustment in relation to this matter.

Misclassifications and disclosure changes

A number of misclassifications and disclosure changes were noted.

The Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer advised that there was one further adjustment that had recently come to light. He referred to page 82 of the agenda pack, note 24 to the accounts entitled, 'adjust net surplus (deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements' which were adjustments that did not impact on cash. It was noted that the total for 2019/20 should be 24,420 because of a transposition error and this did not feature anywhere else in the accounts. The Director of Corporate Services confirmed this was not material to the accounts given the scale of the error and advised that after discussing this with the auditors it was proposed that the accounts be re-approved and signed as now presented and the letter of representation (to be discussed later on the agenda) be amended to reflect the change.

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted the following details:

Page 48 of the agenda set out the balance sheet which included 3 years of balance sheet because the prior period adjustment affected years 2018 and 2019 therefore these been re-stated.

Pages 50, 51 and 52 all set out the various adjustments that the prior period adjustment created.

Page 78, note 20 for contingent liability set out the note regarding the potential backdating of pensionable allowances which had been amended following the Norman v Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service to reflect 6 years of backdating in the accounts.

Page 85, note 30 for critical judgements informed the accounts of the interpretation of any large decisions which included the McCloud / Sargeant Judgement and Norman v Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service pensionability of allowances which had already been mentioned.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Smith the Director of Corporate Services advised that the cost of the pensionability of allowances was built into this year's budget however there was nothing in the budget for any backdating, when an agreement on this was reached it would impact on reserves.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee re-approved the revised Statement of Accounts.

44/19 EXTERNAL AUDIT - LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

As part of the year-end process the Authority was required to sign a letter of representation. This letter confirmed that the Authority had disclosed all relevant information in its accounts for the year in question and that all issues which should have been brought to the attention of the auditors had been.

The Director of Corporate Services / Treasurer advised that note 13 had been included regarding the prior period disclosure note. He provided a verbal disclosure note regarding the non-adjustment of accounts for the non-cash transposition error discussed earlier. The following disclosure would be inserted into the final letter of representation from the Treasurer and Chair:

“We have considered the unadjusted misstatements schedule included in your Audit Findings Report Addendum. We have not adjusted the financial statements for these misstatements brought to our attention as they are immaterial to the results of the Authority and its financial position at year end. The financial statements are free of material misstatements including omissions.”

Subject to the additional disclosure the Treasurer confirmed he would sign the letter, as there were no further issues which he felt required disclosure.

RESOLVED: - That the Audit Committee authorised the signing of the letter by the Chair of the Committee.

45/19 EXTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT

Under the statutory Code of Audit Practice for Local Government bodies our external auditors, Grant Thornton were required to issue a report to those charged with governance summarising the conclusions from their audit work. Members considered this report which was presented by Mr Smith.

Mr Smith advised that at the time of writing the report the audit work was substantially complete and there were no issues which they were aware of that would require further modification of the audit opinion or material change to the financial statements.

As such the anticipated audit opinions were: -

- The anticipated audit report opinion would be unqualified;
- The External Auditors anticipated issuing an unqualified value for money conclusion.

As reported earlier on the agenda (Revisions to the Statement of Accounts 2019/) there were three adjusted mis-statements relating to:

- McCloud – IAS 19 adjustment for HM Treasury Consultation remedy;
- the difference between the valuer's report and the fixed asset register; and
- backdating of pension contributions of day crew plus and other allowances.

In addition, there were seven minor disclosure changes which were required (as set out on page 22 of the Audit findings Report).

It was noted that the auditor report highlighted:

- All information and explanations requested from management were provided;
- The financial statements were received on 15 July 2020, and published in advance of the statutory deadline;
- The financial statements were prepared to a good standard with embedded quality review processes in place;
- Working papers were available at the start of the audit and were detailed, and clear to understand;
- The responses to audit samples and queries were comprehensive and timely.

It was noted that a draft audit fee of £28.4k was originally agreed as part of the Audit Plan.

It was noted that additional audit work has been required to review the critical judgement on the backdating of pension contributions on day crew plus allowances.

In addition, Covid-19 had impacted on the audit of the financial statements in several ways, including:

- Revisiting planning – the auditors had needed to revisit their planning and refresh risk assessments, materiality and testing levels. This had driven additional areas of audit work.;
- Management's assumptions and estimates - there was increased uncertainty over many estimates including property, pension and other investment valuations. Many of these valuations were impacted by the reduction in economic activity and the auditors were required to understand and challenge the assumptions applied by management. There were similar challenges for management and the auditors on areas such as credit loss allowances, financial guarantees, and other provisions.
- Financial resilience assessment – the auditors were required to consider the financial resilience of audited bodies. Whilst the impact on the Authority had not been as significant as on other parts of the local government sector, there had been a small increase in the amount of work needed to undertake on going concern and value for money (financial sustainability).
- Remote working – the most significant impact in terms of delivery was the move to remote working. In many instances the delays were caused by the auditor's inability to sit with an officer to discuss a query or working paper. Gaining an understanding via Teams or phone was more time-consuming. The Government's current expectation to work from home as the default position was now likely to make this a greater issue for the audit than if it had been possible to gradually return to offices and Authority premises over the autumn of this year, as originally anticipated.

The auditors were currently reviewing the impact of this on fees, and it was proposed that the Treasurer be authorised to agree an amended fee with the

auditors in due course, and to report this to the subsequent Audit Committee.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee: -

- i) Noted and endorsed the matters raised in the report;
- ii) Noted the unqualified opinion on the financial statements;
- iii) Noted the value for money conclusion;
- iv) Noted that fees would increase as a result of additional work undertaken and authorised the Treasurer to agree and amended fee with the auditors.

46/19 INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING REPORT

The Internal Auditors produced a summary of progress against the annual plan for each Audit Committee meeting, setting out progress to date and any significant findings. The report for the period up to the 6 November 2020 was presented by Mrs J Taylor.

It was noted that as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which had resulted in the re-deployment of the internal audit service onto activities geared towards the pandemic response, no internal audit activity was carried out between April and mid-September 2020. Since the re-commencement of the internal audit activity, focus had been on agreeing a firm timetable for the individual audit assignments and commencing follow up audits and operational reviews.

The report identified that 7 days had been spent this financial year on the completion of the 2020/21 plan, equating to 10% of the total planned audit activity of 70 days. Mrs Taylor advised that currently 15 days had been spent on the audit programme which included work on the key financial systems (account payable, accounts receivable and general ledger). It was noted that the work on treasury management was progressing with payroll the only key system that would not commence until the New Year. An outline of the scope and findings from the work completed was included in the report and considered by Members.

It was noted that Covid-19 had had a significant impact on the delivery of the audit services so far this year however, Mrs Taylor was confident that this would be caught up in the second half of the year.

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

47/19 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. The Director of Corporate Services highlighted the following key areas: -

Risk no. 2 – premises risk information

A key priority through 2020/21 was the maintenance via an agreed position developed with the Fire Brigades Union of a review programme of site-specific risk information plans associated with build environmental risks. Agreement was reached that this aspect of Service delivery remained a core function and should be safeguarded during the Covid-19 pandemic, given the potential that risk sites may very well have reviewed their own operating procedures and policies in light of the impact of the national crisis. The Response and Emergency Planning Department was undertaking assurance of Level 4 PORIS sites and had subsequently developed a series of best practice templates along with a series of proposals to introduce such plans across the organisation.

Risk no. 12 – Ineffective health and safety in the workplace

A further independent audit of Health and Safety and Environmental Management Systems was carried out as part of our ISO 45001 and ISO 14001 certification process. Non-conformances and opportunities for improvement were collated together into the SHE Audit Improvement Action Plan and monitored to conclusion through the Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group. The audit did not identify any non-conformance issues or any opportunities for improvement.

Risk no. 14 – Delayed mobilisation, impacting on service delivery

New road speed algorithms had been deployed at North West Fire Control which ensured a more accurate travel time was factored into mobilisation decisions. The system was also being updated to reflect historic turn-in times. Both of these changes should enhance mobilisation and ensure that the appropriate appliance was deployed to incidents.

Risk no. 21 – Risk of rapid external fire spread in high rise premises resulting in a major incident

National policy reform was underway, involving revised Building Regulations, amendments to the Fire Safety Order in 2012 (giving Fire and Rescue Services enforcement powers for cladding and flat front doors) and the new Building Safety Bill in 2022 (making Fire and Rescue Services a joint regulator with the Health and Safety Executive and Building Controls).

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service Inspectors were undertaking the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government commissioned 'Building Risk Review' of all 75 High Rise residential premises in Lancashire to identify if any hazards exist beyond the use of ACM cladding. Such hazards include other unsatisfactory cladding systems, combustible balconies, and compartmentation breaches etc. Where issues were identified, interim measures were put in place, including an enhanced operational response. All High-Rise owners and managers had been written to, signposting the Government Cladding Remediation Fund.

It was noted that additional funding had been supplied to all Fire and Rescue Authorities to enhance protection arrangements and provide additional equipment. The Service had received approximately £300k of protection transformation funding to review our fire safety protection arrangements to ensure they were fit for the future. Therefore, the Planning Committee had approved a Protection Transformation Team be established which included responsibility to oversee the

Building Risk Review (BRR). Revised governance for Fire Protection would be introduced to drive reform with introduction of dedicated Area Manager and Group Managers for Prevention and Protection. A comprehensive programme was in place to fill all roles and upskill the Protection Workforce to meet the complex demands of the FSO and FSB. Future Risk Based Inspection Programmes would be informed by the findings of the BRR. Inspectors would work with building owners, managers, and residents, to secure appropriate risk mitigation resorting to enforcement only when justified and necessary to do so. In addition, approximately £150k had been received from specific Grenfell related funding which had been used to buy equipment that assisted the evacuation of people from high rise buildings.

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

48/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday, 23 March 2021 at 10:00 hours – venue to be confirmed.

Further meeting dates were agreed for 27 July 2021 and 30 November 2021.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 14 December 2020

NOTES OF STRATEGY GROUP HELD ON MONDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2020

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 virtually by Teams on Monday, 30 November 2020.

Recommendation

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

F De Molfetta (Chairman)

N Hennessy (Vice-Chair)

L Beavers

P Britcliffe

I Brown

J Eaton

S Holgate

J Hugo

A Kay

H Khan

M Khan CBE

T Martin

D O'Toole

M Pattison

A Riggott

J Shedwick

D Smith

D Stansfield

T Williams

Information

8/19 SERVICE HEADQUARTERS BUSINESS CASE

The Director of Corporate Services provided a presentation that outlined a number of suggested options for the potential relocation of Service Headquarters. A full report would be presented to the Authority.

9/19 PROTECTION REFORM

Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Ben Norman outlined to Members the current regulatory position, the drivers for change, its scale and pace and how Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service was adapting to meet the resulting challenges.

10/19 AERIAL APPLIANCE STRATEGY

Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Jon Charters outlined to Members a number of options to ensure the fleet remained versatile, effective and fit for purpose. A full report would be presented to the Authority.

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

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 14 December 2020

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Contact for further information:

Mark Nolan, Clerk and Monitoring Officer - Telephone 01772 86720

Executive Summary

The Chairman has agreed that as appropriate, Members who sit on outside bodies provide a report to the full Authority to feedback on key topics discussed in other forums such as Local Government Association meetings.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note and endorse the report.

That we work with the programme officer at the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) who is taking forward the new Person-Centred approach to Home Fire safety visits with Fire and Rescue Services.

Member development video link to be shared with members.

Information

County Councillor Nikki Hennessy has attended the following Local Government Association (LGA) meetings:

Fire Fighters Pensions Scheme Advisory Board (SAB) - 17th September 2020

Key Points Raised

Discussion on retrospective correction of historic pay mistakes, pension's administration market and complexity and abatement guidance.

The SAB secretariat response to administration strategy consultation.

The Fire Commission - 25th September 2020

Key Points Raised

Home Office - Jonny Bugg, Head of Fire Strategy & Reform Unit

Developments with the fire reform agenda. The Minister's 3 key priorities of people, professionalism and governance. Mr Bugg stated that whilst Covid-19 had been extremely challenging, it had also helped to improve and develop dialogue and collaborative working which had not existed in some areas pre-pandemic.

With regard to the role of Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in the context of fire governance reform. A draft report on the findings was due to be submitted to the Home Secretary in October.

Members raised the following issues and concerns:

- The Government's proposed planning reforms on fire safety, particularly in relation to the extension of permitted development rights.
- Closer working between local and central levels was crucial in the Covid-19 response and in the wider proposed reforms to the sector.
- The need to look again at the issue of revenue-raising by Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) through the council tax precept. 70% of properties in Somerset are below band D and are therefore not able to raise as much revenue as other areas.
- The need to see greater community involvement in decision making around fire sector reforms and Covid-19.
- Unsafe cladding on buildings was still a huge issue. The Minister saw this issue as a top priority and significant funding had been made available to address it.
- The speed of cladding removal was very worrying.
- Concern about the cost to FRAs' revenue budgets of the Fire Pension Scheme and additional liabilities arising from the Sargeant case.
- The issue of capital spending and whether there would be a longer-term capital settlement for FRAs in the Spending Review.

Learning from Covid-19

Members gave feedback on the lessons their Authorities and Services had drawn from responding to Covid-19, the challenges they faced and any issues that they would like the LGA to raise with government in the event of a second wave this autumn.

- Kick-started a culture change in how services operate and in the working patterns of employees. This should be embraced as it should lead to a more diverse, flexible and efficient workforce and at the same time reduce the sector's carbon footprint.
- Improved working relationships with partners dramatically. Covid-19 was a catalyst for positive change.
- How we capture the positivity and maintain it moving forward.
- We really need to know what has not worked.
- The tripartite agreement has worked well in Avon. No staff have been off sick. Working well with local community.
- Embraced virtual meetings but needs more funding.
- Firefighters have been used to support PPE procurement and to support the Ambulance Service. Staff sickness absence reduced during the pandemic. The Authority's decision-making process hasn't been hindered but IT systems need updating.

Building Safety update

It was reported that the pace of remediation of buildings with dangerous cladding remained slow and had not been helped by the Covid situation. The Minister had set a new target to get work started on all buildings with ACM cladding by Christmas. However, data collection on buildings with dangerous non-ACM cladding had stalled.

Other issues of concern including problems with the External Wall Fire Review (EWS1) process preventing people obtaining mortgages, and fire risk assessors being unable to get insurance to carry out assessment of external cladding systems.

Lord Porter had given evidence to the HCLG Select Committee which was carrying out pre-legislative scrutiny of the Building Safety Bill. In its present form, the Bill doesn't deal with the issue of costs of work and who should ultimately pay. The points arising included:

- Extension of permitted development rights, particularly the conversion of offices to flats was a real concern in terms of fire safety.
- Members agreed that the 'locked in equity' issue where residents were effectively trapped in flats that were unsaleable, was the key issue that needed to be addressed.
- The Building Safety Bill contained a mechanism that should prevent further tragedies in new build blocks but it didn't address what to do with the existing stock.
- HMOs in student areas were considered to be a real risk for fire services.
- It was suggested that local authorities should be working more closely with fire services and authorities to achieve more effective fire safety in the planning system as it was in everybody's best interests. The LGA was responding to the Government's planning reform consultations, including outlining the concerns over fire safety. Encourage individual local authorities to do the same. The Building Safety Bill and the Planning White Paper were currently incompatible.

The Fire Service Management Committee (FSMC) - 16th October 2020

Key Points Raised

The Person-Centred approach to the Home Fire Safety Visit

Presentation by Rick Hylton - Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Essex County FRS and Ged Devereux – NFCC Strategic Health.

- Growing understanding in the sector that in order to make further improvements, prevention work should include risk reduction measures developed around the wider needs of the individual, not just the physical structure of their home.

- The Government had recognised that there needed to be greater consistency across the country in this regard and the current NFCC project was designed to address this.
- Variation in the prevalence of risk factors across the country and explained that the Framework identified core data that needed to be collected to understand those risks. This work was closely allied to the NFCC's Community Risk Programme. The NFCC was well placed to deliver the project through the Central Programme Office.
- NFCC had engaged with a range of FRS stakeholders in a series of regional workshops to obtain their views on the programme. All FRSs that participated accepted the rationale for the person-centred approach and there was broad consensus that the fire service prevention pathway needed to be strengthened to put it on an equal footing with protection and response. The new approach to Home Fire Safety Visits sought to amalgamate the best elements of the Home Fire Risk Check and the Safe and Well Visit, with the aim of reducing risk and changing behaviour.

Following the introduction, Members raised the following points:

- It would be important to work with council social care teams on the new approach, but concerns were raised about possible data protection issues.
- Questions were raised about how it can be ensured that the new approach is widely taken up by FRSs. Response was that a programme officer at the NFCC was taking this forward with FRSs. In addition, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services was going to make this part of their inspection process, so it was important that all services embraced it.
- Engagement with Registered Social Landlords was considered key to the success of the new approach.

Police & Crime Commissioner Review

LGA submission to the review was written on behalf of the Safer & Stronger Communities Board and FSMC. The LGA's position is that there should be no mandatory transfers of governance either to PCCs or Mayors. Where there was no local agreement to a proposed transfer of governance, the contested business case should be looked at by a panel with a range of expertise.

Spending Review

A final report has been submitted to the Home Office. Members expressed their support for the work that had been done so far.

Marauding Attacks

Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attacks (MTFA) and knife attacks were becoming an increasing risk for firefighters attending incidents and measures needed to be introduced to protect them from that risk. Some discussions with the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) were

taking place but agreement had not yet been reached with them about the scope of firefighters' response to MTFA's.

Members agreed that it was unacceptable for firefighters potentially to be attending incidents without the training to protect themselves in the event of an MTFA or knife attack.

FSMC update

The Annual Fire Conference would be going ahead as a virtual event next March as a result of the coronavirus restrictions.

The first of member development videos would be uploaded on the LGA website at the end of October. Members requested a link for this to be circulated to the Committee.

Financial Implications

None

Sustainability or Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Human Resource Implications

None

Business Risk Implications

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 14 December 2020

STRATEGIC AERIAL APPLIANCE REVIEW

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman – Tel. 01772 866801

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's (LFRS) aerial appliance provision and details key drivers for change based upon our ability to manage risk in Lancashire and cognisant of learning emerging from the Grenfell Tower inquiry and other incidents of national significance.

The report provides proposals for changes to the current aerial fleet, encompassing options around Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP), Turntable Ladders (TTL) and Water Towers (WT) which aim to strengthen our response arrangements whilst providing an effective and efficient distribution of these assets across the county.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to approve the capital uplift of £661k required to:

- Support the purchase of a TTL to replace the 4th ALP (subject to further evaluation of 32m and 42m options);
- Approve the purchase of 2 further WT appliances aligned to scheduled replacement of 2 B-type fire engines.

Background

In 2003/04 an aerial appliance review was concluded which resulted in Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP) being sited at:

- N12 Morecambe
- W30 Blackpool
- E70 Hyndburn
- C50 Preston

In line with our capital programme, the Service has a rolling replacement schedule which has seen 3 of the 4 vehicles now replaced, with the 4th due in the current financial year. Alongside the ALP's, aerial provision was further strengthened by the more recent purchases of 2 Water Tower (WT) vehicles (aka Stingers) now sited at E71 Blackburn and S56 Skelmersdale.

The strategic review of aerial provision (appendix 1) provides an overview of Lancashire's historic journey around aerial appliance choices and considers our current type and disposition of appliances against a backdrop of emerging risk in the built environment. The impending replacement of the 4th ALP presents a timely

opportunity to consider whether an alternative vehicle(s) may be more suitable for LFRS' future needs given a number of emerging factors, namely:

- learning emerging from the Grenfell Tower inquiry;
- learning from other incidents of national significance such as the Cube in Bolton and Bristol Premier Inn amongst others;
- the increasing attention rightly being paid to occupants of high-rise residential buildings (HRRB);
- expectation that Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) will plan for all foreseeable risks in their area;
- learning from incidents attended within Lancashire where notable successes have been achieved through technological advancements;
- and recognition nationally that the sector can no longer rely on buildings behaving as expected in fire conditions, whether that be due to poor design, poor construction, post-occupancy modifications, inappropriate construction material choices or sub-standard building management.

Grenfell Implications

The Grenfell Tower fire occurred on 14 June 2017 claiming the lives of 72 people at the North Kensington tower block. Over 70 others were injured and 223 people escaped. It is the deadliest structural fire in the UK since the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster and the worst UK residential fire since the Second World War.

Whilst the Inquiry continues, the ramifications emerging are hugely significant and their implications span the full range of LFRS prevention, protection and operational response priorities. Given our focus on organisational learning we track our progress against the various recommendations that have emerged, to ensure we remain best placed to prevent such an incident occurring in Lancashire (in line with national guidance from National Fire Chiefs Council, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) and to ensure that we are prepared, trained and equipped to respond in the event that an incident does occur.

During the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (Phase 1) the relevance of high reach aerial assets was discussed. At the time of the Grenfell incident, London Fire Brigade (LFB) only had 32m ALP's and the Inquiry made comment that it was wholly unacceptable that LFB did not have access to 42m ladders. It questioned whether deployment of such a ladder by LFB at an earlier stage in the incident, would have contained the fire spread on the exterior of the building (GTI, p632). Subsequently, LFB have purchased equipment that can reach to 23 floors.

Whilst this is a significant shift, it should be noted that fires in high rise buildings are usually fought internally which is why a building's fire safety measures are so crucial and why the longest ladders available are rarely the most effective way of responding. Generally, rescues from fires in high rise premises are almost always undertaken by firefighters working within the building yet to fail to factor a consideration such as this into our vehicle replacement strategy would be remiss.

Hackitt Review implications

On 30 August 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Government published the terms of reference for the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. This independent review was led by Dame Judith Hackitt. The two main aims of the review were firstly to develop improved building regulations for the future, with a focus on residential high-rise blocks, and secondly to provide reassurance to residents that their homes are safe.

On 18 December 2017, Dame Hackitt published her initial report. She described the entire building regulatory system as "not fit for purpose" and made interim recommendations for significant change. The final report was published on 17 May 2018, outlining a number of key failings and recommendations, and regulatory change is now being progressed in the form of the Fire Safety Bill and Building Safety Bill.

Building Risk Review implications

LFRS Protection department is currently undertaking a review of all high-rise premises of 18m or above within the county as part of the second Building Risk Review requested by central government. The first review took place in 2017 and focused upon investigating the extent of 'ACM' cladding (as identified at Grenfell Tower), on high rise buildings 18m and above in the UK. All residential buildings 6 storeys and above were inspected in Lancashire as part of this first review and fire safety advice was given where required. At the time of this initial review, no buildings 18m or above were identified as having ACM within Lancashire.

There were however two buildings in Lancashire that were identified as having areas of 'ACM' cladding but both are under 18m and therefore were not in scope for the returns to central government as part of this initial review.

The second part of the Building Risk Review is focused upon identifying which other external wall systems are present upon all residential buildings 18m and above within the UK, and the scope and extent of any remedial works required to external wall systems that are combustible. This review is not focused upon one cladding type (e.g. ACM) but whether the whole of the external wall system from the outer wall or rain skin to the inner wall, could promote fire spread.

To date six premises 18m and above in Lancashire have been identified as having unsafe external wall systems (none of which are ACM) requiring interim measures, which include a wakeful watch and a move to a simultaneous evacuation strategy. Similarly, 3 timber-framed blocks of flats have had the same interim measures introduced due to their poor construction.

Whilst the current focus on combustible cladding or external wall systems is focused solely upon residential type buildings of 18m or above, there are significant numbers of lower rise residential buildings and low and high-rise non-residential buildings in Lancashire that may be fitted with combustible cladding or external wall systems. These are key considerations when considering the evolution of LFRS aerial appliance fleet and in evaluating possible options for future vehicle procurement.

ALP or TTL?

LFRS has a history of ALP preference, but given the opportunity to reflect on sector learning, we must now consider whether an alternative aerial asset, such as a TTL, would best serve our communities' needs based upon our recognition of the risk that does exist within Lancashire's building stock. The Service notes the availability of both 32m and 42m TTL options and evaluations conducted by other FRS (such as GMCFRS) as to their benefits and limitations. Nonetheless, the Cube incident in Bolton, provided evidence of one of the key benefits associated with use of a TTL; the time taken to deploy it. During the Cube incident, an individual was rescued from an upper floor balcony. The rescue was captured on CCTV, showing that in less than 2 minutes after the rescue, the room adjacent to the balcony became fully involved in fire. Although anecdotal, the crew acknowledged that the reach of the TTL, and the swift nature in which it can be set up and deployed, was vital to effecting a swift rescue from height.

Aligned to this first consideration, the review also reflects upon the role played by WT's within the fleet. LFRS acquired the first vehicle in 2017 and following evaluation proceeded with purchase of a second. The WT successfully operated as a B-type fire appliance and achieved acceptable response times. A number of notable incident outcomes have resulted and are cited within the report, but broadly the clear benefits to the Service, our communities and businesses can be summarised as:

- Speed of knock down of the fire (highly impactful);
- Fire damage reduced and buildings saved (due to speed of intervention);
- Incident durations reduced (due to speed and weight of attack on the fire);
- Number of appliances reduced (due to higher pump capacity);
- Reduced appliance numbers providing greater resilience in fire cover across other areas of the county;
- Improved firefighter safety by facilitation of remote WT operation, allowing firefighters to work away from the fire front.

The purchase of 2 WT vehicles whilst innovative was considered to form part of a longer-term strategy which would see the disposition of such vehicles potentially increase (aligned to the B-Type fire engine replacement strategy) over the medium term.

The strategic review concludes with a series of options which are considered viable and which offer the optimum blend of appliance types and capabilities to best position LFRS to respond to the changing life and property risk in Lancashire, based upon a distribution which will balance speed and effectiveness of response against the corresponding capital uplift required.

Business Risk

High – Changes to legislation and regulation of the built environment are significant. Similarly, the emergence of new learning from incidents nationally prompts the Service to consider our current appliance capabilities and disposition. The ability to respond quickly and effectively to life risk incidents in low and high rise premises in

Lancashire is a significant priority and failure to do so may present high reputational risk to the Authority.

In the residential or commercial setting, LFRS has a proven ability to deliver an efficient and effective operational response to larger fires and these proposals seek to ensure that risk arising from such incidents does not increase.

Environmental Impact

Low – replacement of fleet assets may have a slight impact although this is dependent upon any overall uplift in appliance numbers.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

Option 1 – 3 ALP, 1 TTL, 6 WT

There would be an associated approximate maximum uplift in capital spend of £1.237m (total spend £1.827m).

This assumes that each Water Tower would cost an additional £288k (4 x £288k = £1.152m) and an additional £85k for a 42m Turntable Ladder.

If an ALP or 32m TTL was selected, then the existing ALP replacement budget of £590k would require an uplift of £10k representing a total uplift of £1.162m (total spend £1.752m).

Option 2 – 3 ALP, 1 TTL, 4 WT (Recommended)

There would be an associated approximate maximum uplift in capital spend of £661k (total spend £1.251m).

This assumes that each Water Tower would cost an additional £288k (2 x £288k = £576k) and an additional £85k for a 42m Turntable Ladder.

If an ALP or 32m TTL was selected, then the existing ALP replacement budget of £590k would need uplifting by £10k representing a total uplift of £586k (total spend £1.176m).

Option 3 – 4 ALP/TTL and 2 WT

There could potentially be an estimated capital uplift of £85k if it was deemed that the 42m TTL vehicle was the most appropriate replacement.

If an ALP or the 32m TTL was selected then the existing budget of £590k would be broadly sufficient.

There is no scope to utilise existing capital reserves to meet these additional costs.

As such the Authority would need to either:

- increase the annual revenue contribution to capital, this currently stands at £2m and therefore there is limited scope to do this;
- reduce the existing capital programme to provide additional funding for this, however the existing programme already has a significant shortfall and therefore there is limited scope to reduce it sufficiently to fund this expenditure;
- take out additional borrowing to meet the cost, with each £1m of borrowing equating to a revenue charge of approx. £110k per annum over 12 years.

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

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

*Lancashire
Fire and
Rescue Service*

Strategic Aerial Provision Review

November 2020

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Introduction

History of Aerial Provision in Lancashire

The current LFRS provision of four specialist aerial appliances i.e. dedicated vehicles which are provided specifically for their high-rise capability, is based on a review conducted by LFRS in 2003/04, and which is still considered to be valid. The provision and maintenance of aerial appliances represents a major ongoing financial investment in the LFRS emergency response strategy, due to high capital and revenue costs; in particular, the recurring revenue costs of staffing the vehicles.

The outcome of the 2003/04 review resulted in specialist Aerial Ladder Platforms (ALP) being sited at:

- N12 Morecambe
- W30 Blackpool
- E70 Hyndburn
- C50 Preston

As part of this process, consideration was given to the introduction of Aerial Rescue Pumps (ARP) i.e. a combined vehicle offering both the functionality of a pumping appliance with that of an aerial ladder platform. The technology at the time did not provide sufficient capability or reassurance and therefore it was not taken forward. It was later revisited in a review in 2008.

This review acknowledged that ARP's were now a proven concept and highlighted how they might be introduced into Service. A further review of the ALP replacement strategy in 2015/16 again highlighted the potential benefit of Combined Aerial Rescue Pumps (CARP). The result of this report was the renewal of 3 out of 4 ALP's and the extension of the 4th whilst further review work was undertaken. Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service alongside Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) completed a tender process to establish a framework which the region could use to procure aerial appliances; LFRS established the most suitable as being the ALP and GMFRS the TTL. This framework recently expired but the research work completed provides a detailed evaluation of the vehicles reviewed and will inform future decisions in both Services.

The Executive Board approved a report in March 2016 to hire a Rosenbauer Water Tower Fire Appliance (WT) (aka 'Stinger' due to its ability to penetrate compartments) for 12-months to evaluate the new concept vehicle. The appliance was commissioned into Service at Blackburn fire station in February 2017. The Head of Fleet and Engineering Services produced a briefing report in August 2017 which details incidents that evidences the benefits and successes of the concept vehicle.

The WT successfully operated as a B-type fire appliance and achieved acceptable response times. Having water tower capability on first arrival at the incident proved to be very beneficial, particularly when fed from open water. The WT remote control function enables firefighters to work away from the fire front, enhancing their safety. The speed of fire knock down and higher pump capability has reduced the need for additional support, which achieves efficiency savings from resources employed

and maintains emergency cover elsewhere. As a result of this, a second WT vehicle was approved and is now positioned at S56 Skelmersdale.

A mid-term evaluation of the Stingers was written and shared with Executive Board in 2019 detailing a case for a further number of combined vehicles but any decision delayed pending a Strategic Aerial Review across the various appliance types. As such this review considers some of the elements of that earlier report.

National/Regional Direction of Travel

In 2016/17, GMFRS completed a tender process that created a framework for the procurement of Turntable Ladders (TTL). At that point GMFRS had 6 Hydraulic Platform Vehicles (HPV) that were all getting close to end of life and due replacement. Through that framework GMFRS procured 2 TTL's (1 x 32m and 1 x 42m). After these vehicles had been in service for just over 12 months, an evaluation was conducted on both, which has led to an order for a further 1 x 32m and 1 x 42m TTL.

During the evaluation, despite the 10m height advantage that the 42m gives, the 32m was found to be a more versatile vehicle. It is more manoeuvrable, only having one rear axle, as opposed to the 42m which has two rear axles. Also, due to the weight of the additional ladder extension on the 42m, the 32m actually has a better horizontal reach. The other clear performance advantage that we have seen with the TTL's, over the HPVs, is the time it takes to get to work. This was especially important at the Cube incident in Bolton, during which an individual was rescued from a balcony. The rescue was captured on CCTV, showing that in less than 2 minutes after the rescue, the room adjacent to the balcony became fully involved in fire. Although anecdotal, the crew who performed the rescue stated that the HPV would probably not have reached the balcony and the speed of the TTL was vital to effecting a swift rescue from height.

GMFRS have taken some learning from the initial two vehicles procured and made some small design changes with Emergency One (E1) for the two they currently have on order.

London Fire Brigade has recently purchased 3 x 64m TTL and 15 x 32m TTL's in response to criticism after the Grenfell Tower incident.

Current Provision

The Service replaced an ALP in 2019/2020 and has another due for replacement in 2020/2021. Two ALP's are due for replacement in 2031/32.

ALP's are presently sited at N12 Morecambe, W30 Blackpool, E70 Hyndburn and C50 Preston. Water Towers (WT) are at E71 Blackburn (due for replacement in 2029/30) and S56 Skelmersdale (due for replacement in 2031/32).

Following several evaluations on WT usage since initial purchase in 2017, a mid-term report has been produced which highlights the benefits of increasing the uplift of WT provision. In doing so it briefly acknowledges the benefits of WT's in terms of their ability to supply large volumes of water to appliances such as ALP's.

“Several tests have been carried out which show ALP's that are provided water from the Stinger can deliver much higher quantities of water allowing

for further throw, optimising the benefits of a base pump and fireground aerial appliance where a suitable water supply can be found”

Drivers for Change

Grenfell

The Grenfell Tower fire occurred on 14 June 2017 claiming the lives of 72 people at the North Kensington tower block. Over 70 others were injured and 223 people escaped. It is the deadliest structural fire in the U.K. since the 1988 Piper Alpha disaster and the worst U.K. residential fire since the Second World War. The fire is currently subject to a Public Inquiry, police investigation and Coroner’s inquests.

Building regulations are currently under review in the light of the fire due to concerns with the rules and their enforcement, and concern has spread to fire safety issues with many other buildings.

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 discusses the relevance of high reach aerials. At the time of the Grenfell incident, London Fire Brigade (LFB) only had 32m ALPs. The Inquiry made comment that it was wholly unacceptable that LFB did not have access to 42m ladders and poses the open question as to if LFB had deployed a 42m ladder earlier into the incident, whether it could have contained the earlier spread of the fire on the exterior of the building (Grenfell Inquiry: Phase 1, p.632).

Subsequently LFB have purchased equipment that can reach up to 23 floors.¹ A spokesperson for LFB regards the procurement noted that:

“Exactly which aerial appliance the brigade would benefit from is still being reviewed. The final decision will take into account the range of crucial tasks aerial ladders perform at incidents which include providing high level lighting, for use as observation platforms and as a way of delivering water from height onto a fire. It should be noted that fires in high rise buildings are usually fought internally which is why the building’s fire safety measures are so crucial and why the longest ladders available are rarely the most effective way of responding. Rescues from fires in high rise premises are almost always undertaken by firefighters working within the building”

A key factor in ‘firefighting at height’ is delivery of water pressure at the height required. ALP’s, TTL’s and WT’s are all key components in this evaluation but it is worth noting that the delivery of ‘litres per minute’ (lpm) at the branch is dependent on the supply. In LFRS, the standard firefighting pumps deliver 2000 lpm at 10 bars of pressure. Unless an aerial appliance has an independent pump it can only deliver the amount that is supplied, less the friction loss applied by the hose and elevation. Therefore in Lancashire, the ALP’s can only supply a theoretical maximum of 2000 lpm unless they are supplied by a WT appliance, which can deliver far greater volumes. There is ongoing

¹ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/grenfell-tower-london-fire-brigade-aerial-ladders-block-flats-upper-floors-reach-a8142431.html>

work within Fleet and Engineering Services to gauge the achievements that can be made by supplying the ALP via the WT appliance.

Hackitt Review

On 30 August 2017, the Department for Communities and Local Government published the terms of reference for the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. This independent review was led by Dame Judith Hackitt, who is a senior engineer and civil servant with experience as the Chair of the Health and Safety Executive. The two main aims of the review were firstly to develop improved building regulations for the future, with a focus on residential high-rise blocks, and secondly to provide reassurance to residents that their homes are safe.

On 18 December 2017, Dame Hackitt published her initial report. She described the entire building regulatory system as "not fit for purpose" and made interim recommendations for significant change. The final report was published on 17 May 2018, outlining a number of key failings and recommendations. Those recommendations will be reconsidered at the conclusion of the public inquiry.

Currently running parallel to the Hackitt review is the Industry Response Group (IRG) that is tasked with assuring competence across the sector of those involved with high rise buildings. This ranges from product procurement (cladding, building materials etc.) to architects and designers to fire safety officers. There is a wide range of working groups established to analyse the competencies required within each area.

Building Risk Review

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) Protection department is currently undertaking a review of all high-rise premises of 18m or above within the county as part of the second Building Risk Review requested by central government. The first review took place in 2017 and focused upon investigating the extent of Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) cladding (as identified at Grenfell Tower), on high rise buildings 18m and above in the UK. All residential buildings six storeys and above were inspected in Lancashire as part of this first review and fire safety advice was given where required. At the time of the initial review, no buildings 18m or above were identified as having ACM within Lancashire. There were however two buildings that were identified as having areas of ACM cladding, but both are under 18m and therefore were not in scope for the returns to central government (as part of the initial review).

The second part of the Building Risk Review is focused upon identifying which other external wall systems are present upon all residential buildings 18m and above within the UK, and what the scope and extent is of any remedial works required to remediate external wall systems that are combustible. This review is not focused upon one cladding type (such as ACM) but whether the whole of the external wall system from the outer wall or rain skin, to the inner wall, contains combustible elements within it which will promote fire spread. This review therefore covers all cladding types e.g. High-Pressure Laminate (HPL), brick slip, render etc.

The information obtained will not only be utilised to report back to central government, but will be utilised in Site Specific Risk Information plans (SSRI's)² where appropriate to assist in service delivery preparedness activities.

To date, six premises 18m and above in Lancashire have been identified as having unsafe external wall systems (none of which are ACM) requiring interim measures, which include a wakeful watch and a move to simultaneous evacuation. In addition, in the last two months, three timber framed blocks of flats in the western area of the county, have had the same interim measures introduced due to their poor construction (choice of materials including the cladding system fitted to them).

It should be noted that the current focus on combustible cladding or external wall systems is focused solely upon residential type buildings of 18m or above. There are therefore significant numbers of lower rise residential buildings and low and high-rise non-residential buildings in Lancashire that may be fitted with combustible cladding or external wall systems.

Built Environment Assessment Team (BEAT)

There have been several subsequent incidents where buildings have not performed as expected when a fire occurred. Therefore, LFRS established a team that would look holistically at the built environment from protection, operational and training perspectives. This team is known as the Built Environment Assessment Team.

The team has been tasked with looking at the risk profile from the built environment in Lancashire, both at present and in the future, and to make recommendations that encompass the three thematic areas of operational response and preparedness, training of personnel and the provision of prevention and protection functions. The initial report has been submitted for consideration of the Executive Board and highlights a number of areas that are essential considerations for the strategic future-proofing of aerial response resourcing in Lancashire.

Building Regulations

It is the responsibility of those carrying out building works to meet the requirements of the Building Regulations. The first building regulations were introduced in 1966 and they have been updated regularly since. The current building regulations for fire focus upon the need to meet the functional requirements in Schedule 1, B1 to B5 of the Building Regulations 2010³, which cover all aspects of the 'building fire safety' provisions required.

B5 of these functional requirements covers access and facilities for firefighters and requires that fire appliances can get to the building and that firefighters have facilities such as dry risers, protected staircases and lifts where necessary, in order to fight fires and undertake rescues.

In order to comply with these functional requirements, guidance documents have been produced over the years which provided solutions to meeting the Building Regulations requirements. The most recognisable of these is Approved Document B, produced by HM Government.⁴

² SSRIs are a type of response plan for buildings with a more complex firefighting response. They typically identify isolation points for electricity and gas and water provision for firefighting purposes.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/2214/contents/made>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-approved-document-b>

Approved Document B guidance on access and facilities for firefighters, is in its simplest form, either to provide access to a certain percentage of the external envelope of the building for fire appliances and aerial appliances, or failing this, due to height or use of the building, provide internal firefighting facilities. Where internal firefighting facilities are provided e.g. dry risers, protected staircases, firefighting lifts etc., the only access required to the external part of the building for pumping appliances is to within 18m of the dry riser inlet. This standard has been consistent since the early 1960's when building regulations were first introduced.

The result of this is that most of the buildings over 18m have limited or no access for fire appliances next to the building on most sides, due to there being no requirement for it. There are also numerous other sleeping accommodation buildings from hotels to low rise flats that have internal firefighting facilities and therefore may have limited vehicular access next to the building.

There may however be roads, hard standing or open green field areas near to the building that would enable the pitching of an aerial appliance, but may require consideration of features such as off-road capability, greater outreach and greater height than is currently available in LFRS.



Figure 1 - Surrey Fire and Rescue Rosenbaur 43m ALP pitched on grass at Grenfell⁵

Buildings with Protection deficiencies and amendments to the Fire Safety Order (FSO)

The Fire Safety Order will be amended early in 2021 to give FRS' the legal power to require building owners, leaseholders and management entities to remediate unsatisfactory external cladding systems. Enforcement in this area is complex and time-consuming as the costs are often significant and not fully covered by Government remediation schemes. In addition, the non-compliance being

⁵ <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/grenfell-tower-fire-death-toll-16960095>

found in high rise buildings is not limited to combustible cladding. Other non-compliance is continually being found in terms of the [absence of] fire resisting cavity barriers, combustible balconies or in-filling of balconies (the practice of fitting windows to enclose a balcony but leaving in place the original flooring material which may not be designed to prevent the spread of fire between floors). The relevance of these issues to the aerial appliance review is that there may be an assumption that, given enough time and enforcement action, the external fire spread risk in the high-rise built environment could be eradicated by Protection methods alone. History tells us that new flaws in building construction will continue to be identified and existing buildings [despite the new Building Safety Bill in 2022] may still be illegally modified, and consequently it is recommended that this review does not consider Protection legislation alone as the sole control measure to mitigate high rise fire risk in Lancashire. Having the capability to firefight externally at high levels remains a capability LFRS should have at its disposal.

Risk Profile in Lancashire

The history of Lancashire is steeped in a varied assortment of industries; from the boom of the textile industry and cotton manufacturing which saw the birthplace of the industrial revolution, to coal mining and fishing; the county's industrial heritage is rich.

Whilst much has changed with many of the traditional cotton mills and coal mines no longer operating, the county is still home to a vast variety of industries including manufacturing, aerospace, agriculture and a thriving tourism industry.

As the county is home to such diversity, the risk for LFRS is varied, meaning that the Service has to have in place a multitude of resources to enable our crews to respond to any eventuality. The county has many older buildings that were historically used as mills or for manufacturing purposes and whilst some have been converted and will have had fire safety measures incorporated, others have sadly fallen into disrepair. Older buildings were not subject to the stringent fire safety regulations that apply today, meaning that fire separation and other safety measures are not necessarily in place. This may not pose so much of a risk to those who use the building on a day to day basis but should a fire occur, an older building may present a greater fire risk due to the way the building was constructed.

In 2016, there were over 2.8 million active VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises in the U.K., of which 276,520 (9.8%) were in the North West. The Lancashire-14 area accounted for 19.5% of the regional total with 54,045 active enterprises. The Lancashire-12 area had 44,775 active VAT and/or PAYE registered enterprises.

Preston had the largest number of active VAT/PAYE registered enterprises (5,565) in the Lancashire-14 area in 2016; Hyndburn (2,455) had the lowest.

Statistics show that over the period of the last 10 years, LFRS has responded to twice as many accidental dwelling fires (ADF'S) than commercial building fires. However, commercial buildings still pose a significant risk as they have the potential to be larger than domestic fires, requiring significantly more resources, and with the possibility of inflicting a massive impact on the communities to which they belong.

The 2016 Joint Lancashire Structure plan supports the re-use of existing buildings and areas of concentrated development investment in Fleetwood, and areas around Preston.

In response to this, LFRS identifies these risks and undertakes SSRI's in addition to work undertaken by Protection teams. Where previously LFRS may have responded to typical mill fires or conventional commercial fires, the growing risk from change of use of buildings and/or buildings no longer performing as expected, requires LFRS to be resourced effectively in order to plan and respond to more complex and demanding situations.

Key Risk and Location

Currently, Lancashire has 72 high-rise residential blocks that are 6 floors or above. Within our information system (CFRMIS) however, there are 150 further building types (hotels, offices, university teaching blocks etc.) that are six floors or above in Lancashire. These further building types may have external wall systems that are combustible but are currently not in scope of the governments Building Risk Review or remediation funds. They typically centre on the urbanised conurbations such as Preston, Blackburn and Lancaster.

According to the Office for National Statistics, between mid-2001 and mid-2017, Preston had an increase in population of 8.4%. This is higher than the region which has a rate of 7.2%. There has been significant investment in the University campuses at UCLAN and Lancaster; UCLAN has a £200m 5-year master plan⁶ whilst Lancaster University, having already invested £170m, plans to invest a further £20m in the next 5 years.⁷ Many buildings are being erected in these districts to accommodate the increase in student numbers, many falling under high rise building regulations and being under 6 storeys but still posing a significant firefighting risk. The highest residential buildings in the county are currently Avenham 1 & 2 in Preston at 18 floors and 54m. Furthermore, there are plans for a 15-storey high-rise (45m), 20-storey (60m) and 21-storey high-rise (63m) apartment block in Preston⁸.

Aerial Appliances

Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP)

An 'Aerials Review' was conducted in 2015 due to the planned replacement of 2 ALP's in 2015/16 and a further two in 2019/20, one of which has been delayed until 2020/2021.

A working group was tasked to research the market to identify suitable aerial appliances to replace the Bronto 32m ALP operated by LFRS at the time. The group considered all aerial products and different permutations of water towers (WT) in the market or in concept design.

⁶ <http://www.visitpreston.com/invest/key-projects/current-investment-and-projects/uclan-masterplan/>

⁷ <https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/facilities/about/masterplan/>

⁸ <https://www.lep.co.uk/news/people/designs-ps26m-21-storey-high-rise-apartment-block-lofthaus-would-provide-299-flats-preston-957643> and further developments listed at <https://www.lancs.live/news/lancashire-news/projects-completely-change-preston-next-16866434>

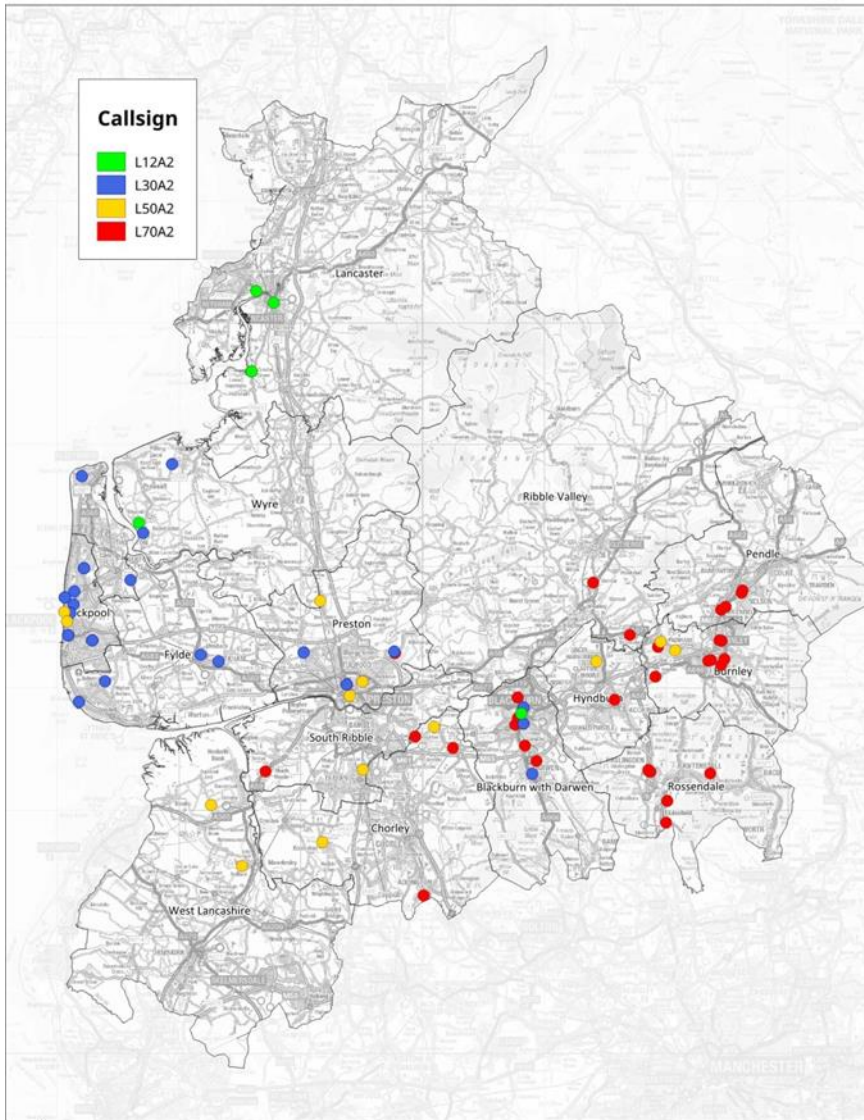
A total of five suppliers received an invitation to tender. Tender bids were received from three suppliers, Rosenbaur UK, WH Bence and Emergency One. No bids were submitted for CARP's or 18 tonne ALP's. It is also important to note that LFRS current ALP provider did not bid.

GMFRS evaluated submissions for lot 1 (WT products) and LFRS evaluated submissions for lot 3 (TTL and ALP products). Selection of the most suitable appliance for each lot and category was a joint decision.

Ultimately, due to functionality, the Metz ALP's won the bid and a total of 3 have subsequently been brought into service in LFRS.

ALP's have been the preferred choice in LFRS for a number of years. An ALP by definition has an aerial ladder, elevating platform, or water tower that is designed and equipped to support firefighting and rescue operations by positioning personnel, handling materials, providing continuous egress, or discharging water at positions elevated from the ground. They are not designed specifically for the FRS sector and therefore have associated set up times.

The current fleet of ALP's in Lancashire typically have a reach of 32m, an outreach of 20m, a lower reach of 5m and can deliver a water tower of 3800lpm. They are used for a variety of reasons (see Figure 10) but can be summarily defined into two uses; for use as a water tower and for use as a high access vehicle whether it be for rescue or scene safety.



Approximate Scale = 1:360000
(when printed at A4)

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Figure 2 - Mobilisation of ALP as a Water Tower 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2020

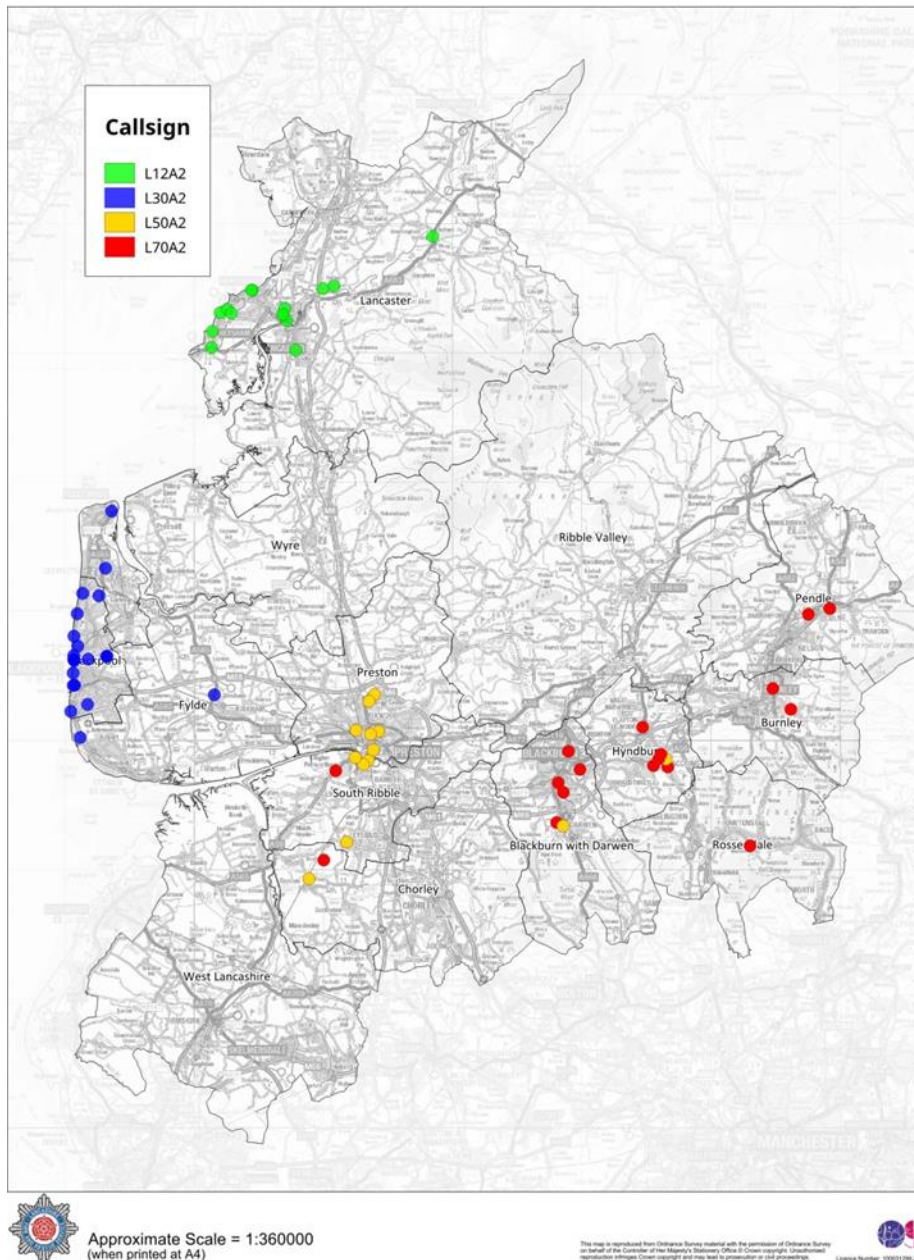


Figure 3 - Mobilisation of ALP as a high access asset 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2020

Currently, the ALP appears on the pre-determined attendance (PDA) for several incident types such as rescues from height, high rise buildings, buildings with a thatched roof, or as a high anchor point for incidents where access is confined or subterranean. Typically, station areas that have an aerial appliance use one more than those that don't. This is commonly attributed to 'convenience' and increased knowledge of the ALP in those stations. This is demonstrated in the data where the use of ALP's as a high access vehicle tends to be in the local station area as opposed to water tower usage where the vehicle is more likely to be requested in addition to appearing on PDA's.

LFRS operates a degradation model for ALP cover around the county. When all 4 ALP's are available, one can usually be in attendance at an incident within 30 minutes. Once at an incident, positioning and establishing the appliance typically takes around 20 minutes.

There are distinct advantages to ALP vehicles. The first being that they provide a stable working platform for above ground operations. This is particularly important for long duration incidents. They also provide transportation and storage area for tools needed to perform above ground operations and can provide a good water tower function of up to 3800lpm, dependent upon water supply.

Water Tower (WT) (AT Stinger)

The AT Stinger (WT) was introduced into LFRS in February 2017 and has operated successfully as a standard fire appliance, a higher volume pump and as a water tower. The Head of Fleet & Engineering Services produced a report following 6 months of use which highlighted 11 fire incidents (protracted in nature) during which the appliance had made a positive impact. During the subsequent period, the concept of operations was tested and proven, and the Combined Fire Authority determined that a second AT Stinger appliance should be brought into Service in September 2019, sited at S56 Skelmersdale.

Utilisation of a WT as a Higher Volume Pump

This is evidentially the area least known about by operational crews currently; staff tend to associate the AT Stinger with its water tower capability and not necessarily the 5500 lpm major pump. Yet where the appliance has been used to provide water to firegrounds, or indeed pump water from flooded areas, the value can be quickly seen. This is a key feature which requires promulgation around the county to be considered alongside or instead of the high volume pump (HVP) which can move 7000 lpm.

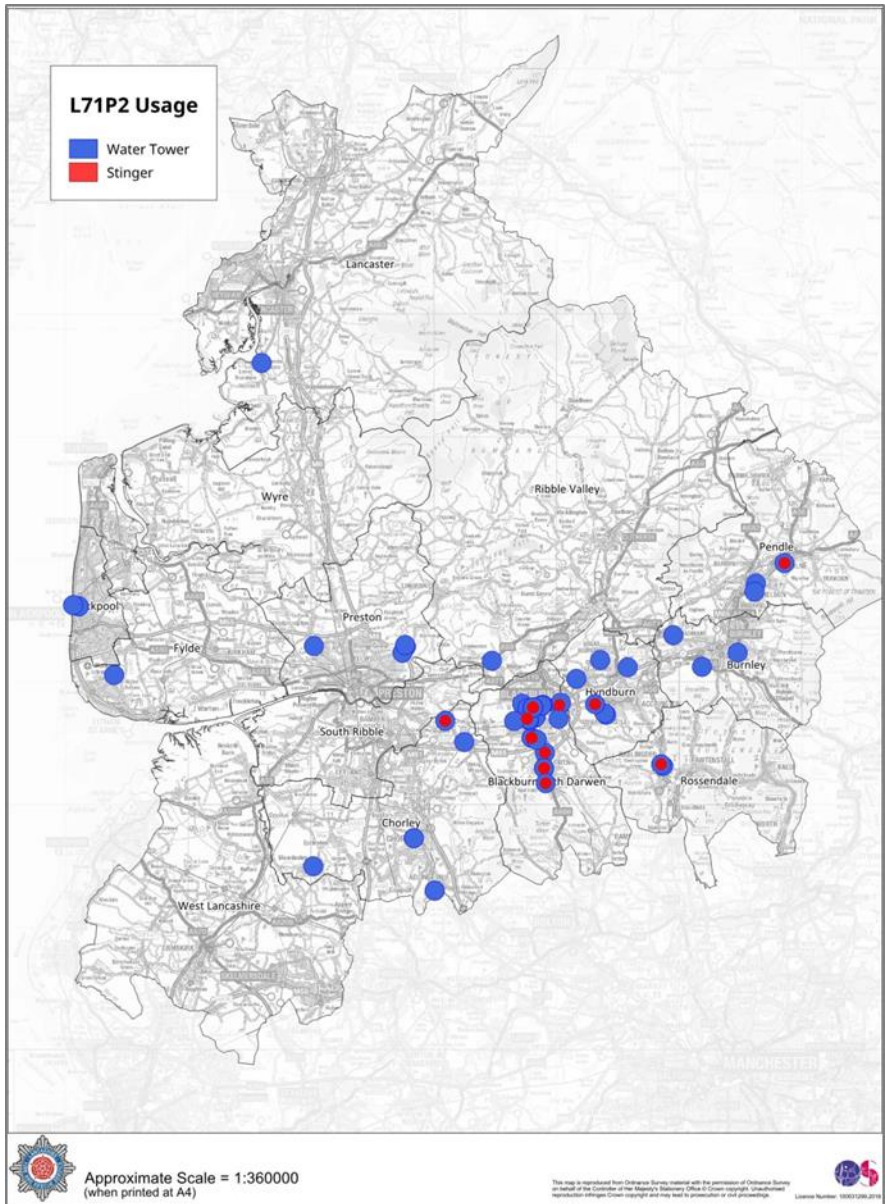


Figure 4 - Mobilisations of the AT Stinger 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2020

As indicated in Figure 4 - Mobilisations of the AT Stinger 1st April 2017 - 31st March 2020, the appliances are more effectively used with the ‘Stinger’ function in their immediate turn out areas. Between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2020, the Stinger function has been used a total of 18 times. Whilst this in part is due to local knowledge of the Stinger by those crews, the speed and weight of attack that it provides is most effective when it is on the initial attendance. When in use as a WT, this is often on incident make-up’s and when firefighting is likely to be protracted. In the same time period, the vehicle was used as a WT on 62 occasions.

It has been proven that the AT Stinger is an effective vehicle as a WT in its own right, or as a base pump for the ALP due to its higher pumping capacity. Furthermore, the vehicle was mobilised as a standard appliance a total of 4946 times in the same period, highlighting its practical and effective role within the fleet.

Given the above, an interim report was prepared for Executive Board, and made the case that due to the effectiveness of the AT Stinger appliances, replacement of wholetime type B appliances with WT type vehicles could be made.

Consideration of the paper was delayed pending a more strategic review of LFRS' aerial capability, incorporating both WT and ALP's, in terms of water towers and high access vehicles. As such this paper incorporates the options from that earlier paper which proposed the following:

- 1) Increase the fleet of AT Stingers from 2 to 4. In addition to the 2 already in place, propose one to be based in Western Area and one in Northern Area.
- 2) Increase the fleet of Stingers from 2 to 6, with one located in each service area. In addition to the 2 already in place, propose one in Pennine Area, one in Central Area, one in Western Area and one in Northern Area.

A further Emergency One (E1) WT/Type B vehicle is due to be reviewed by Fleet and Engineering Services Department within the coming months and can further inform any potential uplift of WT's in Lancashire.

Turntable Ladder (TTL)

Since the report concluded in 2016 there have been significant improvements in the sector in terms of technology in addition to the impacts and implications in a post-Grenfell firefighting landscape. Fleet and Engineering Department have been investigating TTL's with a view to adding one to the fleet.

Despite LFRS preference for ALP's, TTL's do have advantages. They can generally be placed in tighter situations because of the narrower width and typically weigh less and cost less. The foot print of the jacking system is typically smaller on a TTL and they are easier to operate and maintain.

The 2015/16 report also discusses the advantages of TTL's over ALP's commenting that they are generally safer for driving performance due to stability and agility. The report concludes that access to incidents is greatly improved as well as the speed of the equipment getting to work making the TTL a better 'rescue' option but less successful as a water tower.

GMFRS Operations Support Manager, also made comments that the TTL was adequate as a WT and that they were looking towards vehicles such as the Scorpion (similar to the AT Stinger) to improve their WT function.

Where TTL's do excel is in their reach; a greater reach is obtainable with some appliances able to access up to 68m. Furthermore, the speed of operation is significantly improved in comparison to ALP's, taking moments to site and deploy.

Figure 5 - The Magirus M42L-AS Turntable Ladder.

This particular model has a ladder of 42m and a water tower capable of delivering 2500 lpm. The jacks are lower than our existing ALP's and allow for set up in tighter spaces.



Case Studies

The Cube – Bolton

Figure 6 - The Cube, Bolton, 15th November 2019



On 15 November 2019, a fire occurred at 'The Cube', a multi-occupied residential building in Bolton, Greater Manchester. Rapid and unexpected fire spread was evident from the outset, severely affecting the building which featured a High-Pressure Laminate (HPL) external wall cladding system.

The incident was subsequently declared a Major Incident and at its peak had an attendance of 27 fire engines and special appliances. GMFRS have both a 32m and 42m TTL's in addition to ALP's.

A TTL was working to rescue persons in the evacuation sector of the building. In addition to that a further full PDA was sent to an adjacent building, 'Picture House' which included 5 appliances and a TTL. A person was subsequently rescued from the 6th floor via a window using the 42m TTL.

Anecdotally GMFRS have said that the CCTV footage from the incident shows the adjoining balcony becoming fully involved in fire 2-minutes after the rescue, and that had the ALP been used, the set-up time would likely have meant an unsuccessful rescue.



Figure 7 - TTL at The Cube, Bolton, 15th November 2019

V10 Polymers - Blackburn

The Environment Agency has cited successes in regards to the AT Stinger use at V10 Polymers in Blackburn in November 2017. Following an incident in September 2017, a multi-agency approach was undertaken to respond to the site including making access for the AT Stinger. When a second fire broke out in November, the AT Stinger was on the initial PDA and the fire was confined to one building. Our attendance at the incident lasted for 3 days. At a similar incident elsewhere in the U.K., the local FRS maintained a presence for 30 days, which is not uncommon for waste fires.⁹



Figure 8 - Stinger and ALP at V10 Polymers

The AT Stinger based at E71 Blackburn has been used as a WT/Stinger on 62 occasions up to September 2019, however it has been mobilised to over 4946 incidents in the same period, as a standard fire appliance. Operators at Blackburn cite the increased water tank size and pumping capability, the larger diameter hose reels and the more agile and powerful, battery operated RTC equipment as very useful at incidents they have attended.

⁹ Incident was in Staffordshire in the same year <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-38878262> Both Staffordshire and Lancashire FRS have trained Waste Fire Tactical Advisors. Due to the prevalence of waste fires being notoriously difficult to extinguish, the SM Waste Fire Tac Ad along with EA agreed to implementing several recommendations at V10 to break up stacks of waste, move them away from the building and identify access points for the AT Stinger.

Analysis

The 2015/16 review took into consideration a range of factors in considering ALP's and TTL's but in terms of functionality concluded that:

“Throughout the demonstrations and research undertaken by the working group over the twelve months, it has been difficult to underpin the benefits of the TTL against the ALP. The opinion and choice of other FRS varies and many different products have been used in the past, particularly within LFRS. In summary the TTL was designed for FRS and the ALP for the construction industry. The benefits of both aerials are summarised below which reflect the view of the working group;

TTL benefits

- *Driving performance safer due to better stability and agility*
 - *Access to incidents improved due to reduced size and weight*
 - *Speed of equipment is much faster to operate*
 - *Greater ability to work on gradients (up to 14°)*
 - *Lower purchase price*
-

ALP benefits

- *Best water tower performance*
 - *Greater reach over apex roofs (longer boom articulation)*
 - *Cage slewing improves functionality*
 - *Larger cage with drop down platform*
 - *Closer in-reach to place cage at vehicle sides*
-

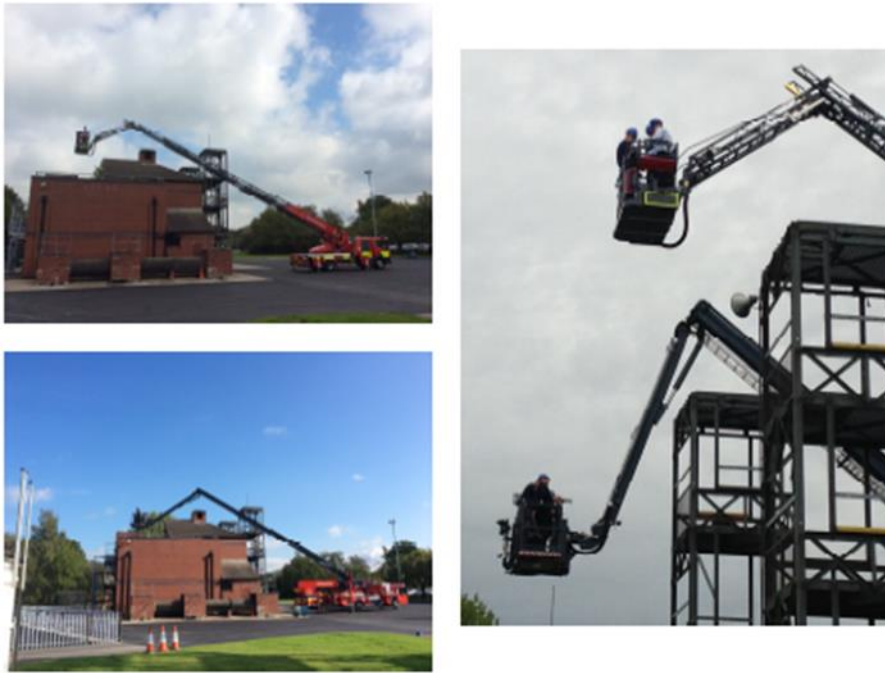


Figure 9 - Photos showing ALP and TTL reach over an apex roof

Whilst the ALP's clearly demonstrate the manoeuvrability and ability to work over an apex roof the direction of the built environment in the next 30 years indicates a greater high rise risk. The studentification of Preston and Lancaster has also seen a rise in buildings that are 6 floors or under, falling just short of high rise building regulations. Whilst some of these buildings have access on multiple sides, many only have access on one side, meaning that an appliance with a greater outreach should be considered to complement the existing fleet.

The capabilities of each model are summarised below.

	WT (AT Stinger)	ALP (Metz)	TTL (eg Magirus)
Water Delivery from boom (lpm)	4500	3800	2500 (on the 42m model but 4500 available)
Reach	16.5	32	42 (63 option from other suppliers)
Typical time to work	Fast	Slow	Moderate
High Access	No	Yes	Yes
Platform	No	Yes	Cage options exist

In short, the addition of a TTL would complement the high access function of the existing ALP's. The following chart considers the uses of ALP's at incidents from 2017/18 - 2019/20; use as a WT accounts for 99 of the total number of incidents (573 that arrived on scene). Rescues from height/below ground account for 81 and other uses such as lighting or making safe 127, meaning that the TTL could be as effective as the ALP in 68% of these incidents.

Data from the period 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2020 indicate that there has been a total of 16 high rise incidents, 3 of which were 'Persons Reported'. Since the incident at Grenfell, an ALP has been added to the PDA of all high rise incidents as a 'high access' vehicle. LFB has subsequently uplifted their fleet of TTL's to include (3x) 63m ladders. LFRS should not underestimate the requirement of

an aerial appliance to have a significant reach, be it out reach or height, in order to effect a rescue from not only a high rise but from buildings of 6 floors or under that have limited access to the side elevations due to urbanisation.

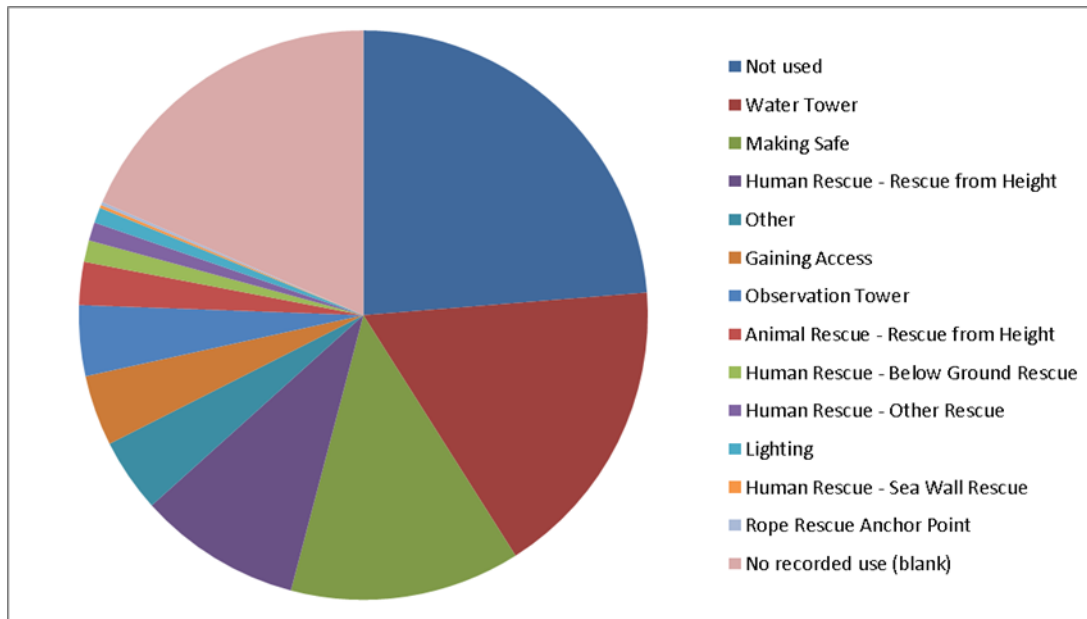


Figure 10 - Pie Chart showing ALP use between 2017 and 2020

Degradation Model

A degradation model exists for the current ALP distribution in LFRS. At present, there are 3 Metz ALP's in service at W30 Blackpool, N12 Morecambe and E70 Hyndburn. There is one Bronto ALP based at C50 Preston. The crews do not cross train due to complexity in maintaining skills. Should a new ALP be purchased, the training implications should be considered. However, if a TTL is purchased, the degradation model would not be impacted insomuch as the remaining distribution of the three ALP's would be consistent with the current model.

LFRS ALP Availability - Degradation Planning					
Bronto ALP	Metz (Rosenbauer) ALP	C50 Preston L50A2 (Bronto)	E70 Hyndburn L70A2 (Metz)	N12 Morecambe L12A2 (Metz)	W30 Blackpool L30A2 (Metz)
1 available	3 available	1	1	1	1
4 ALP's available – no requirement for primary crewing but if staffing permits it should be considered					

0 available	3 available	0	1	1	1
1 available	2 available	1	1		1
<i>3 ALP's available – no requirement for primary crewing but if staffing permits it should be considered</i>					
0 available	2 available	0	1	0	1
1 available	1 available	1	0	0	1
<i>Only 2 ALP's available across any of the 4 locations – Primary Crewing required at the above locations</i>					
1 available	0 available	1	0	0	0
0 available	1 available	0	1		
<i>Only 1 ALP available across the service – Primary Crewing required and the available ALP is to be relocated to C52 Fulwood (welfare considerations to be agreed)</i>					

Finance

Fleet Asset Management Plan

The Fleet Asset Management Plan projects vehicle and equipment asset replacement over a 20-year period. The plan is reviewed every 3-years to ensure it reflects business needs and that sufficient capital funding is available to continue with replacement as planned. LFRS operate four ALP's, two of which were replaced in the financial years of 2015/16, one was replaced in 2019/20 and the fourth is due for replacement in 2020/21 and has been allocated a budget of £590k.

When the work was completed on the aerial and water tower framework, Rosenbaur was awarded for the ALP and Magirus for the 32m TTL.

Although this framework has recently expired, costs provided by the supplier would be similar to other estimates for comparative vehicles and therefore a 42m TTL would cost in the region of £675k and a 32m articulating TTL around £600k.¹⁰

There exists a CFOA framework, completed by Devon and Somerset FRS, that can be used. This is the Framework Agreement for U.K. Fire and Rescue Emergency Response Vehicles DS183-15, Lot 6 Aerial Appliances (which includes TTL's).

The suppliers listed on the Framework are:

- Angloco Ltd
- Emergency One (UK) Ltd
- John Dennis Coachbuilders Ltd
- Rosenbauer UK Ltd
- W H Bence Coachbuilders Ltd

This covers the vehicles listed on the expired LFRS / GMFRS framework and could be awarded after a competition for bids.

In summary, the purchase of the 32m TTL would likely require an uplift in capital of £10k. The provision of a 42m TTL would likely require the uplift of approximately £85k.

A WT appliance cost is currently projected at £500k with standard B-type appliances at £212k (an uplift of £288k per standard B-type).

It is worth considering the impact of BREXIT as all suppliers are anticipating an additional increase in cost due to the impact of the U.K. leaving the E.U.

Strategic Provision of Aerial Function

The value of the Stinger function of a WT is in getting it to work early and offensively in order to increase firefighter safety, minimise loss to commercial business and reduce resource requirements on the incident ground. The current provision of two AT Stingers is yielding an operational benefit to the organisation and whilst practically offering additional capability to Incident Commanders, the provision currently centres operational response in the east and south of the county.

It is also worth considering the value in increased pumping capability. The TTL and ALP having no internal pump are limited by their supply, which currently is provided by the pumps on the B-type appliance whose supply is limited to 2000 lpm at 10 bars if supplied from open water. This means that whilst they are capable of more, they perform at their optimum when there is a sufficient supply.

In order to strengthen operational response capabilities from both an aerial WT perspective and provide additional 'higher volume pump' capability in support of an ALP or a TTL, the Service must

¹⁰ These figures are based on estimations requested from the existing suppliers in the recently expired framework and depend on specification

consider the most cost-effective distribution of such assets and how we effectively apply this disposition across Lancashire to provide the best response for our public. Evidentially, it is recognised that WT's support successful firefighting strategies both in their own right, and when used as a support pump for aerial appliances and to be able to site such assets in key risk locations around the county would further enhance the provision and speed and weight of attack to most significant building fires. The favoured solution would therefore be to uplift the number of WT's as part of our fleet strategy and geographically distribute them across the county.

The WT/B type appliances are significantly quicker to set up and alongside the existing ALP will shorten attendance times for a WT function as described above. There are no attendance time requirements for ALP's and as such, the attendance time depends largely on their availability and distribution across the county.

There is no doubt that the recommendations put forward to uplift the WT capability would require significant capital investment. However, considering the benefits realised from the current AT Stinger provision, such operational gains would be replicated across the geographical expanse of Lancashire which do not currently have the speed of response from such an asset (without a specific request for mobilisation onto the incident ground). This paper therefore recommends three options for distribution of aerial assets, including WT's, across Lancashire.

Alongside WT's, the replacement of the 4th ALP permits further consideration of the other emergent issues highlighted in this report. Those include the requirement to have an aerial appliance that provides a greater degree of accessibility and outreach, alongside the potential for shorter set up times to facilitate rescues from height in rapidly developing incidents. Given the impact of changes to the built environment and how this affects firefighting and rescue requirements, the replacement of the fourth aerial appliance should take into consideration the following:

1. The requirement for further 'aerial reach' due to restrictions to external firefighting in circumstances where there exists access to only one external side of the building.
2. Faster ability to conduct a rescue at height.
3. The potential for increased off-road capability for pitching, such as where crews may be reliant upon hard standing off-road or a grass covered court yard.
4. A greater reach function than currently provided by the 32m ALP's.
5. The training implications associated with the replacement vehicle.

By replacing the 4th ALP with a TTL the considerations above can be met with greater effect. This would be at the potential cost of a decrease in litres per minute (lpm) water delivery, however, the existing proposals to uplift WT provision in the county compensates for this loss and provides a greater provision across the county. The potential of a TTL means that in certain circumstances, as demonstrated at the Cube incident, an aerial that is quicker to set up and provides greater accessibility can be an essential asset. Ideally the Service would procure an appliance which will be able to carry out rescues at all floor levels in a way that the ALP's currently cannot.

It is therefore a recommendation of this paper to re-establish a working group with suitable persons to review provision of the 4th aerial appliance formed around the above considerations. The working group would also establish the precise costs of procurement, alongside the training implications and ongoing maintenance costs of the vehicle, presenting the best options.

Primary Crewing

There is currently a trial in place at C50 Preston, wherein the Bronto ALP is primary crewed. Primary crewing as opposed to switch crewing ensures that provision is always available by moving the minimum ridership on each Watch from 9 to 10. In accordance with the degradation model, a decrease of ALP's available in LFRS means that the most strategic position in the service is in central area, as from here it has direct access to large areas of the county via the M6, M55 and M65.

This paper recommends that should the TTL be purchased, the primary crewing model at C50 Preston be made a permanent arrangement. This would ensure that the availability of the TTL is maximised; this is particularly significant in relation to speed of response to life critical incidents. Should the replacement vehicle be an ALP then the existing degradation model would suffice.

Conclusion

To date, ALP's have provided a versatile option in regards to aerial provision in Lancashire. They are effective as both a water tower and a platform, however, the time taken to set up is lengthy and requires space. Whilst provision for firefighting within a roof cavity was provided in 2016 by the introduction of Fog Spikes (a manual means of punching through into a loft space) the equipment has low usage being used 3 times in a roof cavity since 1st April 2017 and has a significant set up time. The ALP is often used well into the incident after full or partial collapse. Furthermore, LFRS strives to introduce mechanical means to manual jobs, similar in comparing beaters to a branch, a manual fog spike has to be hammered through a wall and therefore has limitations. It is more effectively used against softer surfaces such as thatch, hay bales and waste.

In 2017, the AT Stinger was introduced in to the fleet and used not only as an effective WT but has provided evidence that it has prevented fire spread through speed and weight of the initial firefighting attack. There are examples from both S56 Skelmersdale and E71 Blackburn demonstrating this. A letter from a resident in Skelmersdale details how LFRS saved her property. Conversations with the crew detail how integral the Stinger functionality was in this incident. Further incidents are cited in the mid-term report.

The additional benefit of the increased pumping capability ensures that the aerial provision that we have alongside the WT vehicles is fully realised and optimised.

TTL's were designed for firefighting use and continuously demonstrate their worth in getting to work in challenging and time-constrained environments, something the ALP is not able to do as effectively. The benefits of TTL's have been documented in previous reports and considering recent developments in technology and recommendations and learning from incidents such as Grenfell and the Cube, this paper recommends the further investigation of TTL options to ensure that the Service procures an appliance which will be able to carry out rescues at all floor levels even at a height which currently exceeds the capability of ALP's.

In conclusion, a combination of high access aerial appliances that can be used as either a working platform or rescue function, or as a water tower in conjunction with a water tower type appliance that also functions as a B type appliance, provides the county with versatile assets and fleet options which can be flexibly deployed to achieve the swiftest and safest incident outcomes.

Relationship with other work areas in Service

Major Rescue Unit (MRU)

There is a current working group established, looking at the replacement of the Polaris at C50. This review also considers the potential replacement of the vehicle and a full review of its ancillary equipment. The MRU is sited at C50 Preston along with the BA Unit, ALP and boat.

Bronto Replacement Working Group

A working group was due to be established but due to a number of the previous group retiring and Covid-19 related delays this has yet to be established. This paper recommends that a working group be established with the specifications decided upon from this paper to investigate options for the replacement vehicle.

Options

This review proposes the uplift of the provision of WT's in the county alongside the provision of a TTL in replacement of the 4th ALP, using one of the following options:

Option 1 – 3 ALP, 1 TTL, 6 WT

Maintain 3 ALP's at N12 Morecambe, W30 Blackpool and E70 Hyndburn (based on coverage provided by a 30-minute attendance).

Increase the fleet of WT's from 2 to 6, one located in each service area. The proposed uplift in provision should be for one within each of the following Areas – Pennine, Central, Western and Northern alongside the existing WT's at E71 Blackburn and S56 Skelmersdale.

The procurement of 1 TTL to C50 Preston on a primary crewed basis to ensure optimum availability. It would be on the pre-determined attendances (PDA) for all incidents that the ALP's are presently on and could be added to specific risk sites within the county such as high rise buildings and life risk calls.

This distribution of appliances would mean that the attendance of a WT would have a high likelihood of being on the attendance of the initial make-up request with ALP's or a TTL on request as per the existing degradation model.

There would be an associated approximate maximum uplift in capital spend of £1.237m (total spend £1.827m). This assumes that each Water Tower would cost an additional £288k (4 x £288k = £1.152m) and an additional £85k for a 42m Turntable Ladder.

If an ALP or 32m TTL was selected, then the existing ALP replacement budget of £590k would require an uplift of £10k representing a total uplift of £1.162m (total spend £1.752m).

Option 2 – 3 ALP, 1 TTL, 4 WT – Recommended.

Maintain 3 ALP's at N12 Morecambe, W30 Blackpool and E70 Hyndburn (based on coverage provided by a 30-minute attendance).

Increase the fleet of WT's from 2 to 4, located mainly by paired areas. The proposed uplift in provision should be for one within Western and Northern Areas, in addition to those already placed at E71 Blackburn and S56 Skelmersdale.

The procurement of 1 TTL to C50 Preston, on a primary crewed basis to ensure optimum availability. It would be on the PDA's for all incidents that the ALP's are presently on and could be added to specific risk sites within the county such as high rise buildings and life risk calls.

This distribution of appliances would mean that the attendance of a WT would have a moderate likelihood of being on the attendance of the initial make-up request with ALP's or a TTL on request as per the existing degradation model.

There would be an associated approximate maximum uplift in capital spend of £661k (total spend £1.251m). This assumes that each Water Tower would cost an additional £288k (2 x £288k = £576k) and an additional £85k for a 42m Turntable Ladder.

If an ALP or 32m TTL was selected, then the existing ALP replacement budget of £590k would need uplifting by £10k representing a total uplift of £586k (total spend £1.176m).

Option 3 – 4 ALP/TTL and 2 WT

Maintain existing arrangements, replacing the ALP at C50 Preston with an ALP or TTL deemed suitable by a working group based upon the above considerations. Maintain 2 WT appliances at E71 Blackburn and S56 Skelmersdale. The existing trial of primary crewing the ALP should be taken into consideration on procurement of the replacement vehicle¹¹.

There could potentially be an estimated capital uplift of £85k if it was deemed that the 42m TTL vehicle was the most appropriate replacement. If an ALP or the 32m TTL was selected then the existing budget of £590k would be broadly sufficient.

Recommendation

The recommended option from this report is to uplift the WT provision by 2 and investigate the procurement of a TTL. Such a distribution would mean that a WT is likely to be included in the initial resource requirements for an incident, facilitating both exceptional firefighting capabilities, alongside increased water pumping capability for use with other aerial assets. Such a blended approach towards LFRS aerial provision is deemed to provide the most cost effective arrangements in terms of balancing resources to risk and further developing our fleet in terms of versatility in response to the changing risk in our built environment.

Papers

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Aerial Ladder Platform Replacement 2015-2016	
Lancashire Fire and rescue Service AT Stinger – Mid-term evaluation	
Water Tower Briefing Report 2017	
Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Risk management Plan 2008/11 “The Deployment of Aerial Rescue Pumps in Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service”	
Executive Board Paper – Aerial and Water Tower Appliance Strategy 2017	
Executive Board Paper – The Deployment of Aerial Rescue Pumps in Lancashire Fire and rescue Service July 2008	
Strategic Assessment of Risk 2019	

Reports

The Cube Incident Report and Key observations accessed at

https://www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/media/2118/cube_report_v11_tagged.pdf on 25/09/2020

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Oct 2019 accessed at

<https://assets.grenfelltowerinquiry.org.uk/GTI%20-%20Phase%201%20full%20report%20-%20volume%204.pdf> on 25/09/2020

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on Monday 14 December 2020

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2019-20

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information: Justin Johnston – Chief Fire Officer

Telephone: 01772 866800

Executive Summary

The Fire & Rescue National Framework for England (2018) sets out the Government's high level expectations, priorities and objectives for Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA's) in England. Included within the framework is the requirement that all FRA's must provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters.

The attached Annual Statement of Assurance aims to provide the required accountability and transparency to our communities and the Government that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) continues to deliver efficient, effective, value for money services.

This statement sits alongside our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), Statement of Accounts, the Annual Governance Statement, the Annual Service Plan and Annual Service Report. It details what measures are in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance is efficient, economic and effective and provides further evidence that LFRS continues to deliver under the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and our own IRMP.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to approve the Annual Statement of Assurance 2019-20 as presented and approve the signing of this by the Chairman of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer.

Information

The attached Annual Statement of Assurance 2019-20 provides assurance in three core areas:-

- Financial Assurance;
- Assurance on Governance;
- Operational Assurance.

“The statement sets out how we demonstrate assurance in these areas, culminating in the following declaration: -

The Chairman of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and Chief Fire Officer of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service are satisfied that the Authority's financial, governance and operational assurance arrangements are adequate and operating effectively and meet the requirements detailed within the Fire and Rescue National Framework.”

Business Risk

None arising from this report.

Environmental Impact

None arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None arising from this report.

HR Implications

None arising from this report.

Financial Implications

None arising from this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

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



Annual Statement of Assurance 2019-20

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1. Introduction

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018) provides overall strategic direction to English Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA). It sets out the Government's priorities and objectives and places a requirement on all FRA's to provide assurance to their communities and to Government on financial, governance and operational matters.

This Statement of Assurance aims to provide the necessary accountability and transparency to the people of Lancashire and evidence that their Fire and Rescue Service continues to deliver under the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and our own Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

This statement sits alongside our IRMP, Statement of Accounts, the Annual Governance Statement and recently re-designed Annual Service Plan and Annual Service Report. It details what measures are in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance is efficient, economic and effective.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority (CFA) is made up of 25 elected councillors drawn from Lancashire County Council (19) and the unitary authorities of Blackburn-with-Darwen (3) and Blackpool (3). The CFA is responsible under the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 for providing a Fire and Rescue Service in Lancashire. This involves the provision, training and equipping our staff to undertake firefighting operations, fire safety work, rescue of persons from road traffic collisions and preparing for our response to other emergency situations. The CFA is the body legally responsible for enforcing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and is a designated Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The CFA ensures that the work of the Fire and Rescue Service is efficient, effective and provides best value for money. To achieve this, they operate under a framework of five full meetings each year which are supplemented by a number of smaller committees focusing upon Planning, Performance, Resources, Audit and Appeals.

Further information on the afore-mentioned committees is accessible via our website at <https://cfa.lancsfireandrescue.org.uk/>

The County of Lancashire

Lancashire comprises of 14 districts, 12 of which are within the Lancashire County Council area (Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Wyre, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire and Preston) and 2 unitary authorities of Blackpool and Blackburn-with-Darwen. The area is home to a resident population of circa 1.46 million people (Census 2011) and is one of the most populated and urbanised shire counties within Great Britain, with a legacy of historical, industrial heritage.

Lancashire covers just over 3,000 square kilometres including 123 kilometres of coastline stretching from Morecambe Bay in the north of the county, down to the sands of West Lancashire in the south. The County has an extensive motorway network, port facilities, nuclear installations and airports and is home to a diverse demographic, with almost 20% of our population being over retirement age and 10% representing Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

The County is bordered by Cumbria to the north and North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside moving from east to south. The major conurbations are Lancaster, Preston, Burnley, Blackburn, Accrington, Chorley and the seasonal town of Blackpool which receives around 18 million visitors per year.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS)

LFRS is the service provider on behalf of the CFA. We currently operate from 39 locations (with 58 front-line fire engines and a fleet of specialist vehicles), a specialist Urban Search and Rescue unit, Service Headquarters in Fulwood and our Service Training Centre in Euxton, Chorley. LFRS staff deliver an extensive range of prevention, protection and emergency response services throughout Lancashire.

To deliver these services, we employ circa 950 operational staff in a wide variety of roles using a variety of shift systems; Whole-time, On-Call, Day Crewed, Day Crewing Plus and Day Duty.

Our Mobilising and Control Centre moved to North West Fire Control (NWFC), Warrington in 2014. We work collaboratively with Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services.

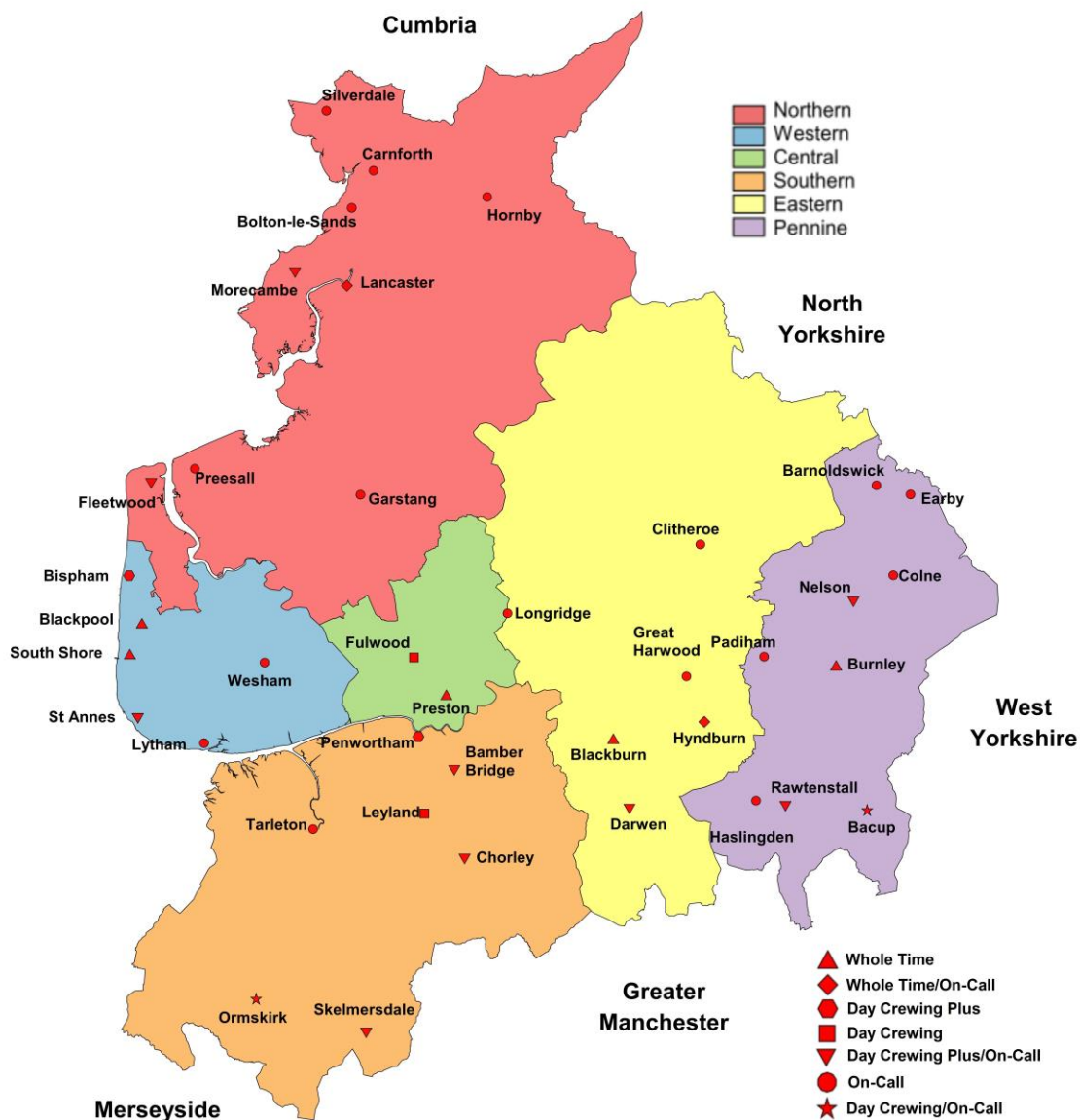


Figure 1 - Service Delivery Areas and Fire Station locations

2. Financial Assurance

All local authority accounts are required to adopt 'proper accounting practice' based on either statutory requirements or the code of practice on local authority accounting. These specify the principles and practices of accounting required to prepare a Statement of Accounts that 'present a true and fair view'.

The Treasurer to the CFA provides publicly available annual accounts which are approved by the Resources Committee.

An independent audit of the accounts is undertaken by an external auditing body, Grant Thornton. The external auditor undertakes a review of the accounts and forms an overall opinion which is published in September of each year. The audit for 2019/20 was conducted in accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and provided the following –

- An unqualified opinion on the accounts which gives a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as at 31 March 2020 and its income and expenditure for the year.
- An unqualified conclusion in respect of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

A copy of the [Audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20](#) is available on our website.

3. Assurance on Governance

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the CFA to publish an Annual Governance Statement along with the Authority's financial statements, following a review of the effectiveness of the internal controls in place. It sets out the key elements of the Authority's governance framework, how these have been evaluated, the outcome of the assessment of effectiveness and any areas for improvement.

The Audit Committee has approved and adopted an updated 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). The Code defines corporate governance as the way an authority ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.

Included within the Code are the following core principles: -

1. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law;
2. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement;
3. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits;
4. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes;
5. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the

- individuals within it;
6. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management;
 7. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

The code also sets out the principles which support each of these core elements, as well as how the Authority will address each of these.

The Authority has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The 2019/20 review was supported and informed by the work of both internal audit, which is undertaken by Lancashire County Council, and external audit, which is undertaken by Grant Thornton. This self-assessment formed the basis of the Authority's [Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20](#), which concluded that Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service has in place a satisfactory system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk, and that no significant governance issues were identified.

4. Operational Assurance

The National Framework outlines the requirement placed upon FRA's to provide assurance on operational matters which are determined locally by them in partnership with their local communities; citizens, businesses and others.

FRA's function within a clearly defined statutory and policy framework of which the key legislative documents defining these responsibilities are:

- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
- Fire and Rescue Services (Emergencies) (England) Order 2007
- Localism Act 2011
- Fire and Rescue National Framework for England
- The Policing and Crime Act 2017

This section aims to provide assurance that our service is delivered in line with our statutory responsibilities and with due regard to the expectations set out in our IRMP including cross-border, multi-authority and national incident arrangements.

Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)

Our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is a public facing document covering the period 2017-22. This plan is in place to provide the opportunity for LFRS to demonstrate how, we as an organisation, identify and assess all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks and challenges that could affect our communities over the 5-year period and how we plan to mitigate such risks or reduce their potential impact.

Key to the successful identification and management of risk is our ability to maintain a clear and current understanding of the present and future threats to Lancashire's communities. Risk in Lancashire remains dynamic, constantly changing and differs between districts, which requires varying preventative activities. As a result, no single activity to reduce risk is adequate in all circumstances and a mix of prevention, protection and response activities delivered by a range of organisations is needed to reduce the likelihood of the risk event occurring or to lessen its consequences. This depth of understanding underpins everything we do, driving our governance and planning arrangements; our findings are published within the [Strategic Assessment of Risk](#).

Planning & Performance

To meet the requirements of the IRMP the Service reviews its priorities and targets annually, this supports continual improvement and provides the opportunity to ensure that we undertake activities dependent on the requirements of our environment. Our Corporate planning process has been developed to provide a rigorous yet flexible process that allows the Service to assess and respond to opportunities and threats as and when they emerge. Whilst the IRMP is in place to set out the strategic direction of the Service in the medium term, the Service also has in place a forward-looking [Annual Service Plan](#) which clearly sets out what we will deliver over the coming 12 months, this is complimented by the [Annual Service Report](#) which reflects our achievement against those objectives at the year end.

In addition to this on a quarterly basis, we produce a performance management report known as '[Measuring Progress](#)'. The content of this report is considered at Senior Management Team meetings and by the Performance Committee of the CFA.

Consultation

External and internal consultation is an essential part of the development of the IRMP and subsequent reviews, and as such we have a clearly defined [Consultation Strategy](#). We use a variety of methods for engaging with community members and for every consultation exercise completed, a summary report is provided to the relevant committee of the CFA.

This process ensures that potential stakeholders are consulted, involved and informed of the proposals to ensure that their input is considered within the final plans.

Community Risk Management

Our approach to integrated risk management is supported by the use of modelling. The Office of National Statistics categorises every part of the UK into a small neighbourhood called a Lower Layer Super Output Area (SOA). There are 941 SOA's in Lancashire, containing an average of 1,500 people. We use information about where fires have taken place in the past and combine this with various social deprivation data to give each area a risk grade.

The information is then used to identify geographic areas at higher risk where a combination of Prevention, Protection and Response activities can have the greatest impact.

This is utilised alongside the provision of a tailored Home Fire Safety Check service (HFSC) which is geared towards occupant risk and importantly, to those in greatest need and at greatest risk of fire.

We update the risk model on a regular basis and use the outcomes to direct and reprioritise our activities. Risk reduction progress over the last 11 years is depicted in the table below.

	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	OVERALL SCORE
	SOA Count	SOA Count	SOA Count	SOA Count	Risk Score Change
2010	60	118	310	452	36,532
2011	60	114	303	463	36,238
2012	53	100	313	474	35,558
2013	40	93	301	507	34,228
2014	32	95	306	508	33,648
2015	41	86	281	533	33,268
2016	32	76	314	519	32,990
2017	25	74	321	521	32,398
2018	22	74	321	524	32,114
2019	21	68	310	524	31,816
2020	23	74	324	520	32,448
OVERALL CHANGE	-62% ↓	-37% ↓	5% ↑	15% ↑	-11% ↓
	OVERALL REDUCTION IN VERY HIGH RISK SOAs	OVERALL REDUCTION IN HIGH RISK SOAs	OVERALL INCREASE IN MEDIUM RISK SOAs	OVERALL INCREASE IN LOW RISK SOAs	OVERALL REDUCTION IN RISK SCORE

Figure 2 - Changes in Fire Risk 2010-2020

Prevention, Protection and Response

Prevention activities continue to evolve in line with changing societal risk and remain focussed around four strategic themes helping people to Start Safe, Live Safe, Age Safe and be Safe on our roads with a continued focus on working collaboratively with other organisations. Our Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) Service continues to include a Safe & Well brief interventions including, where appropriate, falls risk assessments, alcohol and mental health advice, and promoting access to other services. This provides the gateway for further collaboration with colleagues in health and social care with a joint aim to improve the health and quality of life for those most at risk in our communities, which in turn reduces fire risk. LFRS remains focussed on identifying those most at risk from fire and continues to refine thematic campaign and referral generation approaches to achieve this e.g. our dementia cafes. The Service currently has over two hundred approved partners ranging from Lancashire wide collaborations with health trusts and home oxygen providers, to local third sector organisations. District based Community Safety teams work with Early Action and Multi-Disciplinary teams to ensure that the fire risk component of complex cases is recognised. Education continues to be a priority and the Service has fire, water and road safety packages tailored for all Key Stages of education. Significant work has been undertaken with utility provider and owners of open water to support the introduction of throw lines and water safety boards at high risk locations and work is continuing, with key partners, to promote water safety as a vital component of young person's education. LFRS remains a member of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership and plays a key part in the delivery of Road Safe, Wasted Lives and Safe Drive Stay Alive education sessions to Lancashire's young people as well as running and supporting a wide range of campaigns for all road users based on the National Police Chiefs Council campaign calendar.

The Grenfell Tragedy in 2017, and the resultant public enquiries and technical reviews, has initiated the most far reaching and fundamental changes to Building Regulations and Fire Safety legislation seen in decades. The enquiries have exposed root and branch failures in the way the built environment has been designed, constructed and regulated over the past two decades and the requirements to address these historical failings now extend to all aspects of the construction industry. Following a period of review and consultation, legislative change is starting to take place and LFRS has invested in a Protection Transformation Team to ensure it is well placed to meet future challenges. Specifically, the Service is preparing to receive additional regulatory powers in 2021 with respect to existing residential buildings and the suitability of their fire safety management systems, fire doors and external walls (including cladding). In 2022 the Service will also become a joint regulator with the Health and Safety Executive and Building Controls at all stages of the

design, construction, occupation and operation of future High-Risk Residential Buildings. These advances will be undertaken alongside complimentary improvements in Building Regulations and increasing competence expectations of everyone in the construction sector. LFRS is investing in developing a highly skilled Protection workforce to ensure we are equipped to deal with these challenges. Whilst this increased focus on the safety of residential buildings is welcome, such buildings make up only a proportion of Lancashire's built environment, and the Service will continue to utilise a Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) to identify the wider range of premises at risk from fire and undertake fire safety audits to assure compliance. Whilst support to business and commerce remains a priority, we will maintain the ability to enforce and indeed prosecute where fire safety law has been ignored or flouted. Business support will continue to be provided by our Business Safety Advisors and we will continue to contribute to the principles of better regulation through our Primary Authority Schemes. Whilst specialist and highly skilled Fire Safety Inspectors will undertake 'audits' we will increase our ability to 'check' compliance by introducing Business Fire Safety Checks which will be undertaken by our Operational Crews (in businesses) and Community Safety Advisors (in House of Multiple Occupation). These visits will evaluate simple measures linked to effective fire safety management and where there are failings that cannot be addressed at the time these will be referred on to specialist inspectors. These visits will also be an opportunity to collect risk information and impart arson risk reduction advice. Applying these improvements, and how we use technology to support our activities, LFRS is committed to taking a detailed and holistic approach to transforming Protection Services and adapting to regulatory change.

Mutual Aid Agreements

The National Framework states that Fire and Rescue Authorities must make provision to respond to incidents such as fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies within their area and in other areas in line with mutual aid agreements. LFRS maintain mutual agreements for reinforcements with our five bordering Fire and Rescue Authorities - Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire. These agreements are periodically reviewed to maintain currency and provide optimal response arrangements.

National Resilience

For the purposes of this document, National Resilience (NR) is defined as the capacity and capability of Fire and Rescue Authorities to work together and with other Category 1 and 2 responders to deliver a sustained, effective response to major incidents, emergencies and disruptive challenges, such as (but not limited to) those identified in the National Risk Register of Civil Emergencies. It refers to risks that need to be planned for on a strategic,

national basis because their impacts and consequences would be of such scale and / or complexity that local resources would be insufficient, even when considering mutual aid arrangements.

LFRS is a signatory to the National Mutual Aid protocol and has deployed assets to major incidents outside the region. The costs of such mobilisations are borne by the FRA within whose area the incident occurs and are therefore re-claimed by LFRS.

We remain subject to the National Resilience audit processes which test the various aspects of our NR capabilities. National Resilience has transferred from The Home Office to Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service as the Primary Authority.

Business Continuity

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is an integral part of our corporate risk management process. In relation to BCM processes and procedures, all FRA's have to satisfy the requirements of both the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004.

We are required to 'write and maintain plans for the purpose of ensuring, so far as reasonably practicable, that if an emergency occurs the Authority is able to continue its functions'. This includes periods of industrial action.

In order to ensure that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service comply with both pieces of legislation, our BCM complies with the Business Continuity Institutes' Best Practice Guidelines. This provides a framework through which:

- Critical processes are identified
- Assessments of both internal and external risks which may impact on business continuity are made;
- Strategic and Tactical Plans have been produced to ensure an acceptable level of service can be maintained following disruption;
- Procedures are developed to invoke the BCP;
- Arrangements are made to test the BCP;
- All key personnel are trained to understand their role within the plan;
- Responsibilities are clearly identified and assigned.

Each year the plans are reviewed and tested to ensure our plans are fit for purpose. The protracted Coronavirus pandemic demonstrated the Service's ability to deal with a Major Incident, whilst at the same time responding to other emergencies in a timely manner and continuing with business as usual, as much as reasonably practicable.

Safety, Health & Environment

The Combined Fire Authority meets regularly to consider local and national Safety, Health and Environment issues and to provide strategic political leadership to the Service. The Authority has overall responsibility for the effective governance of Safety, Health and Environment (SHE), including:

- Agreeing the [SHE Policy](#) which outlines their commitments and ensuring adequate resources is available for the establishment, ongoing implementation and control of a Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) and Environmental Management System (EMS).
- Providing a clear direction for the Executive Board and Senior Management Team to establish policies and manage health and safety and environmental performance effectively.
- Monitoring performance through receipt of the Annual SHE Report, to provide governance and assurance that an effective HSMS and EMS is operational within LFRS.

Our HSMS is based on the model Plan, Do, Check, Act laid down in the Health and Safety Executive publication HS(G)65 – Successful Health and Safety Management and written and implemented to the International Standard for Health and Safety Management Systems, ISO 45001:2018. The EMS is written and implemented to the International Standard ISO 14001:2015. Certification for both standards has been in place since 2011/12 with re-certification taking place every 3 years followed by annual surveillance audits. The last successful audit took place in 2020, where certification was extended with no non-conformances or opportunities for improvement. As part of the audit process, the auditors visit a range of stations and departments and examine the ‘Full provision of fire, rescue and supporting services across Lancashire’ delivered by the Combined Fire Authority from a health and safety and environmental perspective.

Each year a performance review of Safety, Health and Environment is carried out and reported to the Combined Fire Authority in the [Annual SHE Report](#). Part of business-as-usual is the review of all policies, procedures, instructions, support for staff wellbeing and guidance to ensure that we continue to meet our legal obligations in respect of safety, health and environment and we validate this by a system of internal and external audits. To ensure continuous improvement is made in both the HSMS and EMS, we have developed an action plan to assist in delivering future improvements.

Training and Development

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Training and Operational Review policy is designed to provide training and development to personnel to enable the organisation to fulfil its vision of 'Making Lancashire Safer'. Training is based on the needs of the organisation with a strong focus on ensuring that personnel are safe and competent in the delivery of the prevention, protection and response services we provide.

The training programme takes into account learning identified through our own operational review processes as well as from reports describing learning from events of national significance. The Training and Operational Review department supports continual learning and organisational development through a wide range of programmes tailored to role and responsibility, as well as managing the selection processes which identify managers for advancement. Ongoing development and maintenance of competence is a key focus and this is facilitated through a robust maintenance of skills programme linked to an e-learning system which is continually updated.

Trainers are selected and developed across an extremely diverse variety of specialisms ranging from the intricacies of boat handling and rope rescue through to the complexities of mounting a successful fire safety prosecution. Where necessary, support is commissioned from specialist providers.

The Training and Operational Review Department work in conjunction with other Departments within the Service, such as Human Resources and the Safety, Health and Environment Department, to provide training and development for all members of the Service. There is a particular focus on the Leadership Development across the Service.

5. Assurance Declaration

The Chairman of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and Chief Fire Officer of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service are satisfied that the Authority's financial, governance and operational assurance arrangements are adequate and operating effectively and meet the requirements detailed within the Fire and Rescue National Framework.

Justin Johnston - Chief Fire Officer

Frank De Molfetta – CFA Chairman

Date:

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 14 December 2020

FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

Contact for further information:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman – Tel. 01772 866801

Executive Summary

This report updates the Authority with respect to significant fire safety prosecutions, arson convictions and relevant changes to Fire Protection policy and delivery.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS

Prosecutions

Sentencing of the Plaza Beach Hotel, Albert Road Blackpool at Preston Crown Court was due to take place on 23/10/2020 however was adjourned due to ill health of the defendant. Sentencing is due to be rescheduled in 2021. Prosecution case files continue to be prepared for five further premises.

FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP)

Throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, as government, Public Health England (PHE) and National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) guidance continued to change and evolve, fire safety staff have been applying a modified inspection programme. The programme focusses on the types of premises still trading under the different phases of restrictions and as well as the usual range of fire hazards also considers new risks which have emerged due to changes premises continually make to manage their unique Covid circumstances.

In a separate piece of work, development continues on a refined Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) which will be used when Protection activities return to business as usual. The new RBIP will use a range of data including building use, height, incident history, proximity to fire station etc and, based on the potential for harm to occur as a consequence of fire, will present this in a dashboard which will enable fire safety inspectors to pre-plan their inspection activity effectively. The approach remains sufficiently flexible to enable specific inspections to be planned based on known or emerging risk (eg premises with cladding).

Business Safety

Business Safety Advisors continue to undertake a range of activities including Unwanted Fire Signal reduction and Post Fire incident analysis.

Throughout Covid the LFRS Business Safety webpage has continually been refined as government, PHE and NFCC guidance developed. Although government guidance focusses on how to manage Covid risk, the measures advocated often have knock-on effects which can increase the risk from fire if suitable control measures are not considered and introduced. The web page is intended to highlight these impacts and help businesses to meet their Covid Secure requirements without reducing fire safety standards. The web page signposts readers to an e-mail address which is monitored continually during office hours and Business Safety Advisors have been responding to the resultant requests for advice.

The page can be viewed at www.lancsfirerescue.org.uk/safety/business-safety/business-fire-safety-during-coronavirus-outbreak/

Specific sectors including schools, hospitals and care homes have been written to individually as significant issues relating to their sector arose.

Primary Authority Scheme

Primary Authority advice continue to be provided to support businesses as they continue to adapt to Covid hazards and navigate the challenging commercial circumstances created by lockdown restrictions.

A process has commenced to review all existing LFRS partnerships to ensure Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) principles are being adhered to.

Due to use of software like MS Teams and webinar approaches fire sector and business representatives have continued to network and progress PAS benefits including workshop events hosted by NFCC and the Office of Products and Safety Standards (OPSS) considering:

- The regulatory framework after Covid, looking at innovation and flexibility.
- Fire safety in specialised housing.
- The establishment of Expert Panels

Protection Transformation Team

The transformation team has been concentrating on the Building Risk Review Programme and has identified 72 High Rise premises in Lancashire (upper floors over 18m in height) which are in scope. These premises are being inspected to facilitate detailed returns on External Wall System to the NFCC Protection Policy & Reform Unit. In addition to gathering this information Inspectors are ensuring all matters within the current scope of LFRS regulation are being complied with. To date 22 premises have been inspected and the Service is on track to complete all audits by next Summer, well ahead of the Dec 2021 project completion date. The process has been accompanied by a suite of letters to Responsible Persons (including building owners, managing agents, tenants associations etc) to ensure the process is as transparent as possible. Prior to the review, letters were sent highlighting how to access Government remediation funding before the application window closed.

Work continues to develop the Services new 'Operational Fire Safety Check' capability which in future will enable operational crews to undertake fire safety checks in certain types of commercial premises. This approach will enable a greater number of businesses to be checked / supported and allow fully trained inspectors to focus their attention on higher risk and more complex premises. Although Coronavirus restrictions have caused the pilot phase to be suspended, work continues to develop the iPad based form which will be used to underpin the approach which will relaunch when a suitable recovery phase is reached.

ARSON RISK REDUCTION

R v Kevin FRAZER and 2 others not named.

2 Glenmore Clayton Le Woods PR6 7TA.
Incident – 1808007330.

Date and Time of call – 18/08/2018 23:00.

This Incident involved a domestic property where the front door glass had been smashed and a bottle of what appeared to contain petrol had been set alight, on the floor next to the front door, spreading to the house.

Kevin FRAZER and 2 others were charged.

One male who carried out the attack pleaded guilty, and received a suspended sentence. One male who planned the attack pleaded not guilty, he was later found guilty and received a 6 1/2 year prison sentence.

R v Lewis CLOUGH and Thomas BANK

104 ROTHESAY ROAD BLACKBURN BB1 2ER.
Incident – 1911008145

Date and Time of call – 21/11/2019 06:23.

This Incident involved a fire in a 1st floor flat which was believed to have been started deliberately. The Tenant escaped through the front bedroom window. The Tenant stated that somebody had thrown a petrol bomb through the front door of the side entrance to the property. Male casualty received precautionary check up by North West Ambulance Service.

CLOUGH and BANK attended Burnley Crown Court to be sentenced on 14TH February 2020. Both pleaded guilty.

Lewis Clough was sentenced to 6 years and Thomas Bank 4 1/2 years imprisonment.

R v Paul HOWORTH.

30 Coulthurst Gardens, Darwen BB3 3FB
Incident- 2003006493

Date and Time of call - 21/03/2020 00:48.

This Incident involved the rescue of 3 occupants by fire service personnel. At the scene a male was arrested for causing the fire. The male lived at the property with the 3 occupants and deliberately set fire to a fur jacket and rucksack located at the bottom of the stairs.

The guilty plea of simple arson was accepted. Paul HOWARTH was given a community-based sentence, therefore released from custody. He was convicted of arson and an assault. His sentence was a community order for two years, programme requirement and 25 days of rehabilitation activity requirement.

All outstanding court hearings have been delayed until 2021, partly due to Covid 19.

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, 14 December 2020

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Ben Norman, Director of Strategy & Planning

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

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	BLACKBURN-WITH-DARWEN
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSCs)</u>	
<p>During the period and in line with COVID guidelines community safety engagement has been reduced, however fire safety enforcement staff have continued to liaise with and deliver advice via telephone consultation and plans put in place for re visits to be conducted when normal business return.</p> <p>HFSC Revisit follow up calls have now started to take place which are also being used to reassure and provide an opportunity for these vulnerable people who are living alone to have a conversation and to be signposted to new support groups within their communities</p>	
<u>Brightspax</u>	
<p>All high schools within the borough were targeted to take up our online BrightSparx package offer which was subsequently extended to cover primary schools and faith groups. This new style of delivery was via Teams and has received very positive feedback from schools and staff.</p> <p>Partnership work with Blackburn with Darwen enabled Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) to report any waste / bonfires for removal by two council teams.</p> <p>Multi-agency initial assessment team vehicles directly targeted known “hotspot” areas in the district over the bonfire period which greatly reduced the amount of exposure to liveried LFRS vehicles, therefore reducing risk / injuries to LFRS staff.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	09 September 2020
Time:	06:03
<p>Three appliances, two from Blackburn and one from Darwen were mobilised to a ‘Persons Reported’ house fire.</p> <p>On route, it was confirmed by North West Fire Control (NWFC) that four people were trapped in the rear bedroom of a house. Two appliances from Blackburn were first on scene. Firefighters quickly made their way to the rear of the property where four occupants could be seen at a rear bedroom window. There was a well-</p>	

developed fire in the downstairs kitchen. The officer in charge made the rescue of the casualties a priority, a short extension ladder was pitched to the rear of the property and four casualties were rescued.

The fire was then tackled with the assistance of the third appliance from Darwen. Firefighters provided first aid to the casualties until the arrival of North West Ambulance Service. All casualties made a full recovery.

This incident highlighted the importance of fire safety advice provided by the fire service, as one of the occupants had previously visited the crews at Blackburn fire station where they had spent the day with firefighters and remembered the lifesaving advice given in case of an emergency - especially the advice to get all the occupants into one room and place bedding at the bottom of the door to stop smoke ingress. The occupant felt that the information given at the fire station that day had undoubtedly saved the lives of the family.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	BLACKPOOL
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Brightsparx</u>	
<p>As a response to the ever-changing Pandemic, the Brightsparx educational package for the bonfire period was delivered via virtual sessions to schools across the Blackpool District. A total of 10 Schools responded to the offer of a Brightsparx input for their pupils. This was done by Community Safety Advisors and received a positive response. The pupils were able to have safety information delivered to them in a safe yet informative way.</p>	
<u>Partnership Working</u>	
<p>The Western Area Community Safety Advisors are entering into a pilot for the delivery of virtual partnership training with Blackpool Police. The training will involve a Fire Safety input and how to make a referral for a Home Fire Safety Check. The pilot is currently in the development phase and the hope is to roll out the training once all the team have received 'Teams' training to enable them to effectively utilise technology to engage with our partners.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	30 September 2020
Time:	19:53
<p>North West Fire Control received a call from the occupier of a property on Dickson Road, Blackpool reporting that he could smell smoke in the building. As the caller was the occupier of a commercial building, mobilising control dispatched the pre-determined attendance of four fire appliances from Blackpool, Bispham and South Shore Fire Stations. In addition, a station manager was also sent to the scene.</p>	
<p>On arrival, the crews found the roof of a 3-storey building alight. The building consisted of a commercial unit of the ground floor, with the upper floors being residential accommodation. The location of the fire prompted a request for an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) to aid firefighting.</p>	
<p>Fire crews spent three hours at the scene; used six Breathing Apparatus sets and two high pressure hose reel jets to bring the fire under control. The ALP was used to enable fire crews to gain access to the roof in order to strip away damaged roof</p>	

timber. Fire crews also used a thermal imaging camera to ensure no hot spots remained and the fire was fully extinguished. Fire crews used a plastic sheet to cover the damaged roof. This work was undertaken as a temporary measure to mitigate further water damage caused by rain fall whilst the property owner arranged for full repairs.

There is a requirement for fire crews to undertake an investigation to determine the cause of fire. This work is important as the findings support the Service with the development of Prevention and Protection strategies. In this instance, the fire was caused by roofing contractors who used a blow torch to repair a flat roof, accidentally causing timber roof joists to slowly smoulder and develop before finally fully igniting.

Details of the incident were passed to Protection and Prevention departments so follow-up activities could be undertaken. This is standard practice and aimed at ensuring victims of fire in residential settings are supported post fire, that prevention equipment is installed and working and education becomes embedded. In commercial settings, the follow-up work is to ensure the building meets the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire safety) Order; where not, so that appropriate enforcement action can be taken. This follow-up activity has been completed with no issues being identified.

Date: 25 October 2020
Time: 09:47

Major water flooding from flat roof of three storey building. Major water damage was caused to 18 flats and contents. LFRS made the scene safe and assisted in salvage operations,

Date: 15 October 2020
Time: 15:56

One male casualty with both hands trapped in sheet metal power press. First aid given to casualty at scene by fire service personnel. Power press raised by on-site engineers and casualty conveyed to hospital by ambulance.

**LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT**

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	BURNLEY
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Brightspax</u>	
<p>Pennine prevention teams have been part of the hugely successful delivery of the annual campaign by adapting to online virtual sessions using Microsoft teams as a media platform to deliver Bright Spark`s. The intention is to influence young people about the dangers of mis-using fireworks and how to have a safer Bonfire night. Usually the annual intervention would take place within schools in the Burnley area. The schools were invited to log into the virtual sessions and were able to partake in questions and answers between members of the team with teachers alongside them. Over 10 schools in the area signed up in Pennine and over 62 more through-out Lancashire.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	CHORLEY
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Virtual Bonfire</u>	
<p>This year's annual Service Training Centre Bonfire was cancelled and replaced with a safer virtual bonfire where families could still enjoy a traditional bonfire and firework display but from the comfort of their own homes. The display was broadcast over Facebook with 103,000 people viewing. It had 3900 likes, 3577 comments and was shared 871 times.</p> <p>As well as the bonfire, members of the public got to see some of the work our Urban Search and Rescue Colleagues do, including a demonstration by Sid the Fire and Rescue Service Search Dog. They also got to look around a fire engine, received information on what it's like to be an On-Call Firefighter and were treated to a story from Firefighter Clough, the Service's resident story teller.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	31 October 2020
Time:	20:08
<p>Three fire engines from Ormskirk and Skelmersdale attended a persons' reported incident in Ormskirk. The incident involved the basement of a property and was heavily smoke logged. Firefighters rescued one casualty by using four breathing apparatus, one hose reel jet, one thermal imaging camera, ventilation unit, lighting and breaking in gear.</p> <p>The casualty was suffering the effects of smoke inhalation and was treated at the scene by paramedics. Firefighters were at the scene for almost three hours and the cause of the fire is subject to an investigation.</p>	

**LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT**

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	FYLDE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Brightspax Educational Package</u>	
<p>As a response to the ever-changing Pandemic, the Brightspax Educational package for the Bonfire period was delivered via virtual sessions to schools across the Fylde District. One school responded to the offer of a Brightspax input for their pupils. This was done by Community Safety Advisors and received a positive response. The pupils were able to have safety information delivered to them in a safe yet informative way.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	HYNDBURN
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Home Fire Safety Checks</u>	
<p>During the period and in line with COVID guidelines community safety engagement has been reduced, however fire safety enforcement staff have continued to liaise with and deliver advice via telephone consultation and plans put in place for re visits to be conducted when normal business return.</p> <p>HFSC Revisit follow up calls have now started to take place which are also being used to reassure and provide an opportunity for these vulnerable people who are living alone to have a conversation and to be signposted to new support groups within their communities.</p>	
<u>Brightspax</u>	
<p>All high schools within the borough were targeted to take up our online BrightSparx package offer which was subsequently extended to cover primary schools and faith groups. This new style of delivery was via Teams and has received very positive feedback from schools and staff.</p> <p>Partnership work with Hyndburn Borough Council enabled us to report any waste / bonfires for removal by a council team.</p> <p>Multi-agency initial assessment team vehicles directly targeted known “hotspot” areas in the district over the bonfire period which greatly reduced the amount of exposure to liveried LFRS vehicles, therefore reducing risk / injuries to LFRS staff.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	LANCASTER
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Winter Safety</u>	
<p>The Community Fire Safety team were contacted by The Fire Safety Manager from University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay (UHMB), who wished to produce a departmental fire training package for UHMB staff working from home.</p> <p>The format of the presentation was an e-learning package forwarded to all UHMB staff who were working from home. The aim of the package was to give the staff a greater understanding of the associated fire risks when working from home and to be aware of the advice to mitigate these risks and hazards.</p> <p>Included in the presentation was the importance of having smoke detection in the property and advice on regular testing. Having an escape plan, advice regarding cooking safely and electrical safety with emphasis on the importance of not overloading sockets was also covered.</p> <p>The package had links to the LFRS on line referral process for a Home Fire Safety Check and the Fire Safety in the Home booklet. The presentation has been distributed to approximately 400 UHMB staff working from home.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	05 August 2020 & 11 August 2020
Time:	05:25 & 03:08
<p>Lancashire Fire and Rescue was called to reports of flooding at Hala, Lancaster. This was due to Burrow Beck having burst its banks, partially due to a blockage and an increase in garden waste disposed into the Beck during lockdown. Crews on scene quickly made up for additional resources from all across Lancashire including a number of swift water rescue teams and a high-volume pump. Life risk was priority and nearly 30 people were successfully evacuated to a place of safety and the high-volume pump used to reduce water levels. The substation was also flooded causing power outage to a number of properties. Lancashire Fire and Rescue assisted Electricity Northwest to remove the flood water to enable power to be safely restored. Lancashire Fire and Rescue led a comprehensive multi-agency response to ensure the resolution of this event and then handed over to Lancaster City Council for the recovery phase.</p>	

Unfortunately, due to a significant storm with a large amount of rainfall, Burrow Beck again burst its banks on 11 August 2020. As much pre-planning as possible was carried out and careful monitoring of the river gauge levels meant that Lancashire Fire and Rescue were quickly on scene, alongside Lancaster City Council and the Environment Agency. This meant that we could again rapidly bring a large amount of resources in to affect rescues and pump away flood water.

Further work is now being carried out to try and protect the area from flooding. Currently a temporary bund is in place and a narrow bridge restriction removed from the Beck.

Date: 12 August 2020

Time: 04:48

Six appliances, one command unit and support pump, one hazardous material unit and support pump, two station managers, one group manager and one drone attended the above incident.

The incident was a leak of Nitric acid approximately 69% from an articulated lorry trailer within a trailer park of the port. As a result of the incident, Operation Merlin was declared and a 50m cordon established. Information from a specialist was utilised to ascertain the nature of the incident and how this had occurred.

A number of multi-agency meetings were established between the police, the fire and rescue service and the port staff. Fire and rescue operations saw the deployment of four Gas Tight Suit (GTS) wearers, in order to isolate the valves which prevented any further spillage. The GTS wearers were then decontaminated. No offsite effects were caused and the incident was handed back to port officials to arrange specialist clean up.

Date: 11 August 2020

Time: 10:18

Two appliances, one of which had Swift Water Rescue capability, one drone and one station manager attended the above incident.

The initial call was to a female stuck in quick sand with a dog, a considerable distance from the Bolton-le-Sands coastline. On attendance, confirmation via North West Fire Control and the Coastguard confirmed that one female had self-rescued from quicksand and the dog remained trapped within the quick sand. It was uncertain whether or not the female would attempt to rescue the dog prior to the arrival of any emergency services.

The Fire and Rescue service utilised qualified Swift Water Rescue Technicians to proceed and utilise specialist equipment in order to affectively rescue the dog from quick sand.

The incident required a multi-agency approach, involving North West Ambulance Service, the coastguard the Fire Service to ensure a safe rescue of the dog.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	PENDLE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Hoarding Support</u>	
<p>Hoarding is a very common theme to many people in Lancashire and many LFRS staff are familiar with many individuals in their area. The people are deemed as very high risk for both staff and the residents in terms of fire and safe evacuation. Compulsive hoarding, also known as hoarding disorder, is a pattern of behaviour that is characterised by excessive acquisition and unwillingness to discard large quantities of objects which cover living areas of their home. Prevention staff are always looking to work with new organisations and additional teams have been developed who will also support hoarders in Pendle. They will now work alongside council departments who assist in the clearance of the site. The hoarder will almost certainly try to work with them to help them move forward, unless their psychological state will affect them and they have become so far behind in dealing with it becomes incredibly daunting. Working collaboratively with partners to glean a safer environment for the resident is the outcome we aim to achieve.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	PRESTON
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Brightspax Campaign</u>	
<p>Central Community Fire Safety staff have been exploring different ways to share essential educational messages and engage with the local community over the Brightspax period. A loop presentation which provides various safety messages on fireworks, COVID-19 restrictions/advice and bonfires has been devised, with information from both LFRS and the Police, which has been shared with all local high schools for displaying on LCD screens within the entrance foyers.</p> <p>This information can then be played continuously and allows students and visitors, the opportunity to receive key safety messages and advice. This presentation has also been shared with all local mosques within Central Area and Eastern Area.</p> <p>In addition to this, Central CFS staff, have also assisted the delivery of 38 online MS Teams Brightspax assemblies to over 70 schools across Lancashire, to a total of 10,815 pupils.</p> <p>A full evaluation of all Central Brightspax activities will take place and findings/actions will be recorded on the Service Campaigns folder on RADAR.</p>	
<u>Diwali Celebrations for 2020 – Central CFS & Race & Religion Employee Voice Group</u>	
<p>This year's Diwali celebrations took place from 14 November 2020. Due to current COVID-19 guidance/restrictions and household rules, more families celebrated at home, so more cooking with oils, more tea lights and candles will be visible and more incense sticks were predicted to be burnt. Also, due to the suspension of organised firework events at key registered venues, more families purchased fireworks so could celebrate at home.</p> <p>With this in mind, Central CFS staff devised and circulated a PowerPoint presentation to advise the community of the risks associated with the celebration period. In addition to this, further information on cooking safety, candles and correct firework use has been shared with retailers and through utilising social media with local partners.</p> <p>The Race & Religion Group with assistance from Corporate Communications have also devised the following information:</p>	

We'd like to wish happy Diwali to everyone celebrating the Hindu festival of lights. We know festivities are different this year but we hope Diwali brings happiness, prosperity and joy to you and your families.

Household mixing and public events are not permitted to limit the spread of coronavirus in Lancashire and help keep people safe.

Celebrate Diwali safely with our tips and advice

Cooking family feasts and tasty treats

- Almost half of all accidental fires in the home in Lancashire are cooking related.
- Keep it clean, keep it clear – your cooker and hob
- Distractions could be disastrous – don't leave pans unattended
- Don't fill your pan with more than one third of oil
- If the oil starts to smoke, turn off the heat and leave it to cool
- Clothing ignites quicker than you think – keep scarves and long sleeves tied back
- Only use appliances like pressure cookers if they were purchased from the UK and carry the CE mark
- If a fire does start, don't try to fight it yourself. Get out stay out, and call 999

Lighting up your home

- Secure candles and diyas in a proper holder and at a safe distance from curtains, decorations and clothing
- Keep them out of reach for children
- Consider swapping candles for battery-operated LED tea lights
- Use only enough ghee or oil for a diya to last your puja
- It is common practice during Diwali to leave candles burning all day but please extinguish candles and diyas when you leave the room, the house or go to bed
- Be careful if using incense sticks

Fireworks and festivities

You can read more about fireworks safety here however we encourage people to follow the fireworks code:

- Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time
- Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
- Place on a stable surface, light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back

- Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
- Never return to a firework once it has been lit
- Dispose of fireworks by soaking in a bucket of water for several hours, bag it and bin in your usual black bin once completely cool
- Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
- Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
- Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
- Keep pets indoors and ensure children are safe and a good distance away from the fireworks
- If using sparklers ensure they are held in a gloved hand at arm's length and there is a bucket of water to put them in once the sparkler is out

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)

Date: 02 October 2020

Time: 04:19

Fire involving a large amount of rubbish outside a block of flats. The fire spread from the secondary fire to the plastic cladding on the building. The fire spread rapidly up the front of the building and upon arrival of the fire service, the whole building was smoke logged and fire was spreading quickly due to the cladding.

Fire Service Crews evacuated the building but North West Fire Control confirmed that one family, including two children, were trapped on the third floor unable to get out. Breathing apparatus teams consisting of four Firefighters were deployed into the building for search and rescue. A 10.5m ladder was pitched to the rear window and a baby was carried to safety via the ladder, however the other occupants could not be rescued due to the size of the window. The order to deploy the escape hoods was given and BA teams located the family and all four occupants were carried to safety by BA rescue teams. The fire was extinguished using two hose reel jets and positive pressure ventilations fans were used to clear smoke and fire gases. Everyone was given a check on the scene by NWAS and the two children and Mother were taken to hospital with minor smoke inhalation. The cause was deliberate ignition to a large amount of rubbish outside the property. Damage was severe by fire and smoke to the whole building. The cause of the fire is subject to a joint Police and Fire investigation.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	RIBBLE VALLEY
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Home Fire Safety Checks</u>	
<p>During the period and in line with COVID guidelines, community safety engagement has been reduced, however fire safety enforcement staff have continued to liaise with and deliver advice via telephone consultation and put plans in place for re visits to be conducted when normal business return.</p> <p>HFSC Revisit follow up calls have now started to take place which are also being used to reassure and provide an opportunity for these vulnerable people who are living alone to have a conversation and to be signposted to new support groups within their communities.</p>	
<u>Brightspax</u>	
<p>All high schools within the borough were targeted to take up our online BrightSparx package offer which was subsequently extended to cover primary schools and faith groups. This new style of delivery was via Teams and has received very positive feedback from schools and staff.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	06 August 2020
Time:	08:10
<p>A lift developed a fault causing the lift to jam against the framework, trapping a number of people inside. LFRS staff requested the attendance of a lift engineer however due to the engineers estimated time of arrival being prolonged the occupants started to become distressed. Due to the occupants distress the officer in charge took the decision to force the lift doors, which then enabled LFRS staff to carry the occupants to safety. An unusual rescue, where the calmness and professionalism of the crew from E59 assisted in maintaining the safety of everyone involved whilst undertaking the rescue.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	ROSSENDALE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Successful Ending to a Safeguarding Referral</u>	
<p>After a successful winter campaign in 2019 whereby prevention staff targeted the most vulnerable members of the community assisted by MOSAIC data which helps them determine the demographics of the people living in a specific area. During one of the campaigns an elderly gentleman was discovered in the Bacup area of Rossendale. The man was only just getting by but on the brink of a social crisis. At this point teams identified that he would benefit from a Safeguarding referral to adult social care due to his isolation, lack of support, mobility needs amongst various other factors. A safeguarding referral was made as well as a full Safe & Well visit which again was very high risk due to his smoking habits. Various interventions were put in place by a host of agencies. 1 year on and the gentleman received a re-visit from prevention staff to his new address. The success behind the signposting and safeguarding was that he was relocated to a more suitable home, which has a warden support system in place. He also has carers which visit him twice a day too. This is just one instance of the incredible work which goes on behind the scenes with Community fire safety.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	SOUTH RIBBLE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Brightspax</u>	
<p>This year, our Brightspax Education Package was delivered to both Primary and Secondary Schools in South Ribble via Microsoft Teams. All Schools were approached via the Lancashire Resilience Forum and were asked to book onto sessions in the two week lead up to half term.</p> <p>In South Ribble, six schools dialled into the sessions which saw 2,126 young people receiving advice on staying safe over the bonfire period. Delivering the package in this way was new to members of the Community Safety Team so the positive feedback received was very encouraging.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	02 November 2020
Time:	12:42
<p>Four fire engines from Skelmersdale and Ormskirk attended a fire at a commercial property in Parbold, Wigan. Crews used four breathing apparatus, two hose reels and a positive pressure ventilation unit to control the fire. They then used small tools to remove debris and make the location safe.</p> <p>One casualty was treated at the scene. Firefighters were in attendance for approximately two hours.</p>	

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	WEST LANCASHIRE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Student Safe</u>	
<p>This year's annual Student Safe campaign at Edge Hill University looked a little different for the 2020/2021 academic year. Traditionally, the Community Safety Team would deliver a fire safety package specifically for students to all new first years living on Campus.</p> <p>This year, a video was produced which featured a fire fighter from Ormskirk who is also a student at Edge Hill University. They spoke about general fire safety as well as giving advice specific to students and halls of residence including discouraging cooking whilst under the influence of alcohol, cleaning kitchens to reduce the amount of potential fires, not spraying deodorant too close to detectors and the sanctions the university could impose if any students tampered with fire related equipment.</p> <p>The film was sent out to all first-year students which is over 2000 as well as being shared on social media for all students to view.</p>	
<u>Community Days of Action</u>	
<p>The Community Safety Team and Crews from Skelmersdale and Ormskirk assisted West Lancashire Borough Council as well as other agencies such as the Police in distributing leaflets advertising upcoming Community Days of Action. These Community Days of Action provide local householders the opportunity to dispose of any waste in the lead up to Mischief Night, Halloween and Bonfire Night. The sites were chosen specifically as places that see the most amounts of anti-social behaviour and deliberate secondary fires over the Bonfire Period. 120 tons of rubbish was removed over the period.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	10 October 2020
Time:	18:38
<p>Fire involving a canal cruiser boat. The vessel was fully involved in fire by the time LFRS arrived on the scene. Enquiries were made to see if the boat owner could be located, to no avail at the time of the incident. Damage was severe by flame and heat to the entire vessel. The vessel was almost fully sunk at the conclusion of the incident with the hull only being kept partially afloat by an improvised</p>	

mooring line. Due to the severity of the damage it was not possible to determine a cause, ascertain an item first ignited or even state with any certainty which item/s were responsible for fire spread. Due to the instability of the boat and the fact that it was sinking, a detailed excavation was impossible. Once the fire was extinguished, the incident was handed over to the Police.

Date: 12 August 2020

Time: 14:21

Several cars had become trapped with occupants in road surface flood water. LFRS assisted drivers with their vehicles pushing them to a dry area. Advice was given about driving through flood water.

LANCASHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER 2020 – DECEMBER 2020

SUMMARY REPORT FOR:	WYRE
LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY ACTIVITIES (brief details)	
<u>Brightspax</u>	
<p>Due to the current pandemic, there are fewer opportunities for face to face/direct public engagement, particularly in terms of education sessions in schools. There will also be far fewer, if any, organised displays in particular the annual Fleetwood Firework Extravaganza, which traditionally LFRS advise the public to attend, rather than having home bonfire parties. It is now anticipated there will be a significant increase in home bonfires and ad-hoc/unauthorised 'community' ones. This means that there is a potential for increased anti-social behaviour during the period and so this year different measures have been instigated and a greater emphasis on multi-agency working.</p> <p>These measures included:-</p> <p>Delivery of Brightspax educational package by Community Safety Advisors via Microsoft Teams.</p> <p>Increased Environmental Visual Audits (EVA) in known high activity areas/wards, any accumulation of waste to be reported to Wyre Cleansing Team Hot Line.</p> <p>EVA's to cover known derelict properties in areas of high Anti-Social Behaviour to prevent fire setting.</p> <p>Staffing of a Multi-Agency Initial Assessment Team (MAIAT) vehicle, objective being to identify and assess the requirement to commit resources from partner agencies at strategic times and dates.</p>	

INCIDENTS OF OPERATIONAL INTEREST (brief details)	
Date:	24 September 2020
Time:	17:57
<p>Three appliances were mobilised to reports of a multi-car collision on the Southbound Carriage way of the M6.</p> <p>The accident involved one small domestic vehicle and one commercial van. The collision occurred as a result of the small vehicle suffering a blowout, which caused it to collide with the van, which in turn collided with the central reservation barrier.</p>	

The Police instigated a full closure of the motorway and informed LFRS crews that the Van had multiple cans of petrol and a race motor bike in the rear which had begun to leak.

Crews used environmental protection techniques to mitigate damage to the environment from the leaking fuel, in addition to assisting the Police with the removal of the vehicle so that the M6 could be re-opened.

Date: 22 September 2020
Time: 00:30

On arrival crews were faced with a building fire that was well alight, the North/West side of the building was completely engulfed in fire with flames reaching up to approximately six metres high.

The fire had been started deliberately on the external North/West side of the building, where a wheelie bin was placed up against a door and set alight. Fire-fighting operations started immediately but the fire had already spread up the North/West side of the building and into the roof space. The fire caused severe fire damage to the door where the fire started and the roof in its entirety.

The Incident was subsequently referred to the Police and investigations are ongoing into this incident.

Crews have increased the frequency in which environmental visual audits are being carried out to deter further anti-social behaviour fires and partnership work is ongoing with the local council and Police to reduce further incidents.

Date: 14 August 2020
Time: 15:42

One fire appliance from Fleetwood was mobilised to reports of a small animal entrapped at a domestic property.

On arrival it became apparent that a domestic tortoise had become trapped behind a soil pipe connected to the property.

Gavin the tortoise, aged five, had been playing out in the garden whilst doing this he went for a wander and became wedged behind the soil pipe. Crews used a crow bar to lever the soil pipe away from the wall which freed Gavin.

This incident was referred to Corporate Communications who published an article on the incident. This subsequently attracted national media interest in the story (the BBC).

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