

Public Document Pack

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 27 June 2022 in Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton commencing at 10.00 am.

Car parking is available on the Main Drill Ground.

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

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

Conservative Group – Pendle Room
Labour Group – Lancaster House 3

<u>AGENDA</u>	
<u>PART 1 (open to press and public)</u>	

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

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

1.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR</u>
2.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR</u>
3.	<u>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION</u> Standing item.
4.	<u>COMPOSITION OF THE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY (Pages 1 - 2)</u>
5.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>
6.	<u>DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u> 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.
7.	<u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES (Pages 3 - 4)</u>
8.	<u>REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Pages 5 - 6)</u>

9.	<u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</u> (Pages 7 - 14)
10.	<u>PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS FOR 2022/23 AND 2023/24</u> (Pages 15 - 16)
11.	<u>MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 28 APRIL 2022 OF MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP</u> (Pages 17 - 24)
12.	<u>REFORMING OUR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE WHITE PAPER</u> Verbal Report.
13.	<u>ANNUAL HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT REPORT</u> (Pages 25 - 46)
14.	<u>POLICY ON DEALING WITH HABITUAL AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS - ANNUAL UPDATE</u> (Pages 47 - 54)
15.	<u>MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY REPORT</u> (Pages 55 - 58)
16.	<u>FIRE PROTECTION REPORT</u> (Pages 59 - 64)
17.	<u>OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS OF INTEREST</u> (Pages 65 - 72)
18.	<u>MEMBER COMPLAINTS</u> Standing item.
19.	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Authority will be held on <u>Monday 19 September 2022</u> at 1000 hours at Washington Hall Training Centre, Euxton.
20.	<u>URGENT BUSINESS</u> 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.	<u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u> 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.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Composition of the Combined Fire Authority

Contact for further information:

Diane Brooks - Principal Member Services Officer - Tel No. 01772 866720

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

The composition of the Combined Fire Authority for 2022/23.

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is asked to note/endorse the report.

Information

The composition approved by the Constituent Authorities for the Combined Fire Authority for 2022/23 is as follows:-

25 members: (19 x County Councillors) (11 x Con / 7 x Lab / 1 x L/D)
(3 x Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Members) (2 x Lab 1 x Con)
(3 x Blackpool Council Members) (2 x Lab / 1 x Con)

Lancashire County Council Members

- 1) L Beavers (Lab)
- 2) S Clarke (Con)
- 3) M Dad BEM (Lab)
- 4) N Hennessy (Lab)
- 5) D Howarth (L/D)
- 6) A Kay (Con)
- 7) H Khan (Lab)
- 8) J Mein (Lab)
- 9) S Morris (Con)
- 10) D O'Toole (Con)
- 11) M Pattison (Lab)
- 12) P Rigby (Con)
- 13) S Rigby (Con)
- 14) S Serridge (Lab)
- 15) J Shedwick (Con)
- 16) J Singleton JP (Con)
- 17) A Sutcliffe (Con)
- 18) R Woollam (Con)
- 19) B Yates (Con)

Blackburn with Darwen Council Members

- 1) Z Khan (Lab)
- 2) J Rigby (Con)
- 3) D Smith (Lab)

Blackpool Council Members

- 1) F Jackson (Lab)
- 2) J Hugo (Lab)
- 3) T Williams (Con)

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
Report to County Council Full Council	26 May 2022	Diane Brooks Principal Member Services Officer

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

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees

Contact for further information – Diane Brooks – Principal Member Services Officer –
Tel No 01772 866720

Executive Summary

The appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees and Working Groups of the Combined Fire Authority and the appointment of Member Champions for the year 2022/23.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to: -

1. Confirm appointments of Chairs and Vice-Chairs to the Authority's Committees and Working Groups for 2022/23; and
2. Confirm the appointment of the four Member Champions for 2022/23.

Information

Standing Order 5.1 (b) of the Authority requires the Authority at its annual meeting to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for each Committee created under Standing Order 4.1(a).

The Authority is asked to consider Chair and Vice-Chair appointments for its Committees and Working Groups for 2022/23 as set out below:

Committee/Working Group	Proposed Chair	Proposed Vice-Chair
Appeals Committee	Cllr Jean Rigby	CC Margaret Pattison
Audit Committee	CC John Shedwick	CC Nikki Hennessy
Performance Committee	CC Ron Woollam	CC Paul Rigby
Planning Committee	CC Stephen Clarke	CC John Singleton
Resources Committee	Cllr Tony Williams	CC David O'Toole
Strategy Group	CFA Chairman	CFA Vice-Chairman
Member Training and Development Working Group	CC Stuart Morris	Cllr Dave Smith
Resources Sub-Committee for Injury Pensions	CC Sean Serridge	
Service HQ Relocation Working Group	CC David O'Toole	

The Authority is also asked to consider appointments to Member Champion roles as set out below:

Champion Role	Proposed CFA Member
Community Safety	Cllr Jean Rigby
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Cllr Zamir Khan
Health and Wellbeing	CC Andrea Kay
Road Safety	CC Ron Woollam

Business Risk

The Authority's Standing Orders require the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each of its committees.

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

Payment of Allowances is in accordance with the Combined Fire Authority's Members' Allowance Scheme.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper	Date	Contact
CFA Constitutional Standing Orders	22 February 2021	Diane Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer
Members' Allowance Scheme	1 April 2022	Diane Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: N/A

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Representation on Outside Bodies 2022/23

Contact for further information - Diane Brooks – Principal Member Services Officer –
Tel No 01772 866720

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

The Authority is requested to determine its representation on outside bodies for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to consider and approve the representatives as set out in the report for 2022/23.

Information

The Authority is requested to determine its representation on outside bodies for the 2022/23 municipal year. Detailed below is the membership for the 2021/22 municipal year: -

Appointment	Membership
LGA Annual General Assembly	Fire Commission representative (Chairman is authorised to cast the Authority's vote)
LGA Fire Commission	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority
Additional political group appointment(s)	County Councillor Nikki Hennessy and Councillor Jane Hugo
North West Fire and Rescue Forum	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
North West Fire Control Board of Directors	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority

Proposed representation for 2022/23

LGA Annual General Assembly 2022/23

The Authority is requested to appoint the Chairman as its representative to cast the Authority's vote.

LGA Fire Commission representatives 2022/23

The Authority is requested to appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be its representatives on the Local Government Association (LGA) Fire Commission.

In addition, the Authority has delegated authority to the Chairman of the Authority (resolution 9/17 refers) to authorise as an 'approved duty' any additional representation(s) to either the LGA Fire Commission or the Fire Services Management Committee.

North West Fire & Rescue Forum

The Authority is requested to appoint representatives for 2022/23 in accordance with political balance rules as: -

- Chairman of the Authority;
- Vice-Chairman of the Authority;
- Main Opposition Spokesperson.

Directors of North West Fire Control Company

Political balance rules do not apply in relation to the appointment of Directors.

The Authority is requested to appoint as Directors for 2022/23: -

- Chairman of the Authority;
- Vice-Chairman of the Authority.

Business Risk

None

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

Payment of relevant Allowances are in accordance with the Combined Fire Authority's Members' Allowance Scheme.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper	Date	Contact
CFA minutes	28 June 2021	Diane Brooks Principal Member Services Officer

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

Agenda Item 9

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 25 April 2022 at 10.00 am in Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton

MINUTES

PRESENT:

D O'Toole (Chairman)

Councillors

J Shedwick (Vice-Chair)

L Beavers

P Britcliffe

S Clarke

M Dad

N Hennessy

J Hugo

K Iddon

F Jackson

A Kay

H Khan

Z Khan

J Mein

G Mirfin

S Morris

M Pattison

J Rigby

P Rigby

S Serridge

J Singleton

D Smith

T Williams

R Woollam

84-20/21 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman advised that the recruitment and selection process had concluded for the post of Assistant Chief Fire Officer and that Jon Charters had been appointed to the role.

85-20/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor David Howarth.

86-20/21 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

87-20/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the CFA held on 21 February 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

88-20/21 MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2022 OF PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

In response to a question from County Councillor O'Toole regarding the key performance indicators that were in negative exception, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that a point of focus for the forthcoming year would be to return to the pre-pandemic levels of delivery for home fire safety checks. In addition, to address the challenges faced both locally and nationally regarding the decreasing

availability of fire engines crewed by the on-call duty system, he advised that a project would be undertaken this year to formally review many aspects of the on-call duty system to ensure it remained fit for purpose and enable the Service to provide the best retained availability over the years to come.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Performance Committee held on 16 March 2022 be noted and endorsed.

89-20/21 MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022 OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on 29 March 2022 be noted and endorsed.

90-20/21 MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH 2022 OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Resources Committee held on 30 March 2022 be noted and endorsed.

91-20/21 ANNUAL SERVICE PLAN

Members were presented with a video that accompanied the approved Annual Service Plan which set out the activities intend to be delivered during the next 12 months. The Plan was built around the Service's four corporate priorities of: i) valuing people; ii) preventing fire and other emergencies from happening and protecting people and property when fires happened; iii) responding to fire and other emergencies quickly and competently and iv) delivering value for money in how we use our resources.

Councillor Jane Hugo commented that the work the Service undertook regarding flood preparation was excellent. She advised that herself and County Councillor Clarke sat on local and regional flood committees. They had recently attended a demonstration in Manchester to view regeneration initiatives including the use of fire breaks which was very interesting. Councillor Hugo queried whether the Authority could support the strategic work undertaken with partners across the county to tackle climate change as Members had specialisms (from other roles held in public service) which could contribute towards the development of future improvements. In response, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that later on the agenda Members would be provided with a presentation on the Climate Change Operational Response Plan which included plans to respond to climate change. He confirmed that the Service did already engage with a number of partners and as other agencies became as advanced with their plans and preparations around climate change there may be further opportunities to explore; confirming that Members would be kept updated and their views welcomed.

The Chairman confirmed that Lancashire County Council was very much involved in working with local authorities and other groups regarding climate change. County Councillor Kay added that work continued with children and young people providing education for early intervention.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

92-20/21 MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY REPORT

The concept of Member Champions was introduced in December 2007. A review of the areas of focus for Member Champions was considered at the Authority meeting held in June 2017 where new areas of responsibility were agreed. The current Member Champions and their areas of responsibility were:

- Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan;
- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay;
- Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam.

Reports relating to the activity of the Member Champions were provided on a regular basis to the Authority. This report related to activity for the period up to February 2022. During this period all had undertaken their respective role in accordance with the defined terms of reference.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority noted the report and acknowledged the work of the respective Champions.

93-20/21 FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

The report summarised Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) led prosecutions with respect to fire safety offences and set out convictions resulting from arson incidents for which Officers had contributed evidence to the Police led criminal justice process. Fire Protection and Business Support information were also included in the report to provide Members with an update on the continually evolving regulatory position and how the Service was developing and adapting both its services and workforce to ensure it kept pace with the changes to keep public and firefighters safe in the built environment.

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

94-20/21 OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS OF INTEREST

The report provided Members with information relating to operational incidents of note over the period 1 February 2022 – 31 March 2022.

County Councillor Shedwick expressed gratitude to staff who attended the incident in Fleetwood, as detailed on page 80 of the agenda pack.

County Councillor Mirfin also expressed gratitude to staff who attended the incident in Whalley, as detailed on page 81 of the agenda pack. He requested whether a report could be presented to committee which looked at lessons learned from fires in terraced houses (particularly those that started in shared roof spaces where the property occupier was a known hoarder who may potentially be suffering from mental health problems) and for the report to include the potential risk to neighbouring properties. In response, County Councillor Iddon, as Chairman of the Performance Committee agreed to consider this. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that he would be happy to provide information in due course, but the incident referred to was currently subject to coroner proceedings and therefore it was important not to undermine or conflict with those legal

proceedings. He confirmed that all significant incidents were subject to a full debrief and through that process the Service determined any learning for operational response, community safety activity and any interactions with partners, all of which were followed up post-incident.

County Councillor Mirfin congratulated staff for their rapid response time to an incident in Sawley, which was a difficult location to get to in the countryside (as detailed on page 82 of the agenda pack).

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer introduced Group Manager Liam Wilson who provided a short presentation on a wildfire incident in Rossendale (as detailed on page 83 of the agenda pack). The incident response demonstrated why the Authority's support for and investment in climate change response was important to the ongoing organisational evolution and success in dealing with some of the emerging risks around flooding and wildfire response.

Group Manager Wilson, tactical advisor for LFRS and national wildfire tactical advisor advised that the aim of the presentation was to provide an overview of the launch of the Climate Change Operational Response Plan and the benefits that the Authority's investment in new capabilities had had in supporting the swift and safe resolution of a recently attended wildfire incident.

GM Wilson advised that in 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggested that continued global warming was projected to further intensify the global water cycle, including its variability, precipitation, and the severity of wet and dry periods. LFRS incident data from the last 10 years showed an increasing trend relating to flooding and wildfire events. The figures provided in the presentation identified that the Service had attended 838 flooding incidents and 350 wildfire related incidents over the last 3 years, each of which had a clear risk of impacting on local communities and placed significant resource demands upon the fire service and its partners.

LFRS' strategic assessment of risk identified the increasing impacts and consequences of climate change in terms of both prevalence and the duration of large-scale flooding and wildfire events within the county. In response to this increased risk, LFRS had recently published a Climate Change Operational Response Plan to be delivered over the next 5 years. The Plan looked to reduce the risk to communities by planning and delivering a range of Prevention, Protection and Operational Response aspirations relating to flooding and wildfire incidents. A brief video on the Plan was presented. As part of the Plan, investment had been made in the provision of two Hagglund all-terrain vehicles for use in both flooding and wildfire environments and the Service looked to continually learn from experience. Post-incident and training exercise debriefs were held to identify opportunities for improvement to practices, policies and equipment. An example of this was that operational staff had already been issued with flood suits and had recently been provided with dedicated wildfire PPE.

GM Wilson presented to Members an incident in Scout Moor, Rossendale which he had attended as tactical advisor. The initial time of call was 14:43 into North West Fire Control who mobilised: 4 fire appliances 1 Hagglund vehicle, the Burn Team, an Argo cat from West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and 2 tactical advisors. At the time the weather was warm, dry and sunny with a very strong

easterly wind. Due to conditions the officer in charge sent an assistance message to increase the fire appliances to 8 pumps; the initial 4 appliances, Hagglund, Argo cat and Burn Team engaged in wildfire fighting operations and the additional 4 undertook defensive firefighting operations given the local proximity to a farm house and forestry plantation.

The duration of the incident was just over 4 hours. The damage to the moorland was approximately 1.5 square kilometres. Historically, similar incidents had involved at least 10 pumping appliances engaged in active firefighting operations with additional resources involved for defensive operations at nearby properties and plantations. Incident data also suggested that resources were often engaged at such incidents for period of up to 36-48 hours in a similar area. The use of the Hagglund and burn team had a very positive impact on the success of the firefighting operations during this incident with less fire spread resulting in far less environmental damage, less impact on the local community and less demand on Service resources.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy GM Wilson confirmed that the Burn Team was a crew of 14 firefighters based in Bacup. This was a very effective method (from a toolbox of methods) used to extinguish a fire.

County Councillor Mein asked for an explanation of the term 'tactical burn'. In response, GM Wilson confirmed that once deployed the Burn Team would undertake reconnaissance, put a risk assessment in place and, to ensure the fire would not get out of control (for example where it was burning towards properties or forestry plantations) the Burn Team would apply fire to the ground (referred to as a tactical burn) to put a control line across the moorland or reinforce a path or road with the aim of preventing the fire from developing further.

In response to a question raised by Councillor Williams, GM Wilson advised that the Service, in partnership with Lancashire Police rural task force was engaged in the undertaking of investigations into the causes of wildfires and there were a significant number caused by deliberate ignition from antisocial behaviour or old agricultural practices.

County Councillor Shedwick stated that wildfires could happen in a very short period of dry weather. He was pleased to see the positive impact of the Hagglund vehicle and suggested it would be beneficial for new Members to receive a demonstration of the burns team.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Morris regarding how the Hagglund vehicle was transported, GM Wilson confirmed that it was pre-loaded on a small low-loader type vehicle for immediate response as required.

Councillor Williams commented on the complexity of incidents dealt with by the Service. He felt there should be a judicial strategy in relation to the level of sentences applied for arson convictions, which included those for the deliberate setting of wildfires, as the sentences handed down were so varied.

County Councillor Singleton queried whether there was a public space protection order in relation to disposable barbeques. In response GM Wilson advised that within climate change operational plan, one of the aspirations for the prevention

strategy formed an introduction of public space protection orders (such as the one in existence for the sand dunes in Blackpool). Partnership work was ongoing to scope out the potential for implementing public space protection orders on Darwen Moor, Anglezarke and Winter Hill.

In response to a question from County Councillor Hennessy the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the use of disposable barbeques was discouraged and there had been some success nationally with some supermarkets no longer stocking them. The challenge was that people rarely thought about what to do with them when they had finished their barbeque and people were unlikely to take them away as they were still warm; which was unfortunately probably the cause of most of the wildfires.

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

95-20/21 MEMBER COMPLAINTS

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

RESOLVED: - That the current position be noted.

96-20/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority would be held on Monday 27 June 2022 at 10:00am in Washington Hall at the Training Centre, Euxton.

97-20/21 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.

98-20/21 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

(Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3)

Members considered a report prepared by the Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority concerning the appointment of Independent Person(s) in line with the Localism Act 2011.

RESOLVED: - that the Authority:

- i) noted and endorsed the recommendations arising from the recruitment process;
- ii) approved the appointment of 2 Independent Persons with one appointment being for 4 years and the other for 2 years (with the option for renewal); and
- iii) approved an increase to the annual allowance per Independent Person to £1,000 per annum, as set out in the Members' Allowance Scheme.

99-20/21 REPRESENTATIVE BODY RECOGNITION

(Paragraph 4)

Members considered a report received by the Director of People and Development regarding representative body recognition. Following discussion and a vote taken by the Clerk it was:

RESOLVED: - That the Authority approved the requests from both the Fire and Rescue Services Association and the Fire Officers Association for full recognition for collective bargaining purposes in respect of all grey book staff.

100-20/21 GREEN BOOK SUPPORT STAFF SUSTAINABILITY

(Paragraph 4)

The Director of People and Development presented a report on green book support staff sustainability. Following discussion, Members agreed to remove the requirement "from within the existing structure" from the final recommendation as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: - That the recommendations outlined in the report be approved with the agreed amendment.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Programme of Meetings for 2023/24

Contact for further information – Diane Brooks – Principal Member Services Officer –
Tel No 01772 866720

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

A programme of meetings for the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) for 2023/24.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to agree the programme of meetings for 2023/24 as set out in the report now presented.

Information

At the meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held 28 June 2021, the CFA agreed a programme of Meetings for 2022/23. It is now necessary to agree a programme of dates for 2023/24.

In considering suitable dates, the following points have been taken into consideration: -

- i. A preference previously expressed that meetings of the CFA be held on Mondays commencing at 1000 hours at the Training Centre, Euxton.
- ii. Standing Order No 2.2 of the CFA which states that the Authority must hold an Annual Meeting between 1st April and the 30th June each year.
- iii. Standing Order 2.3a of the CFA, which states that a programme of meetings for the Authority should be determined annually by the Authority and additional meetings of the Authority held as determined by the Authority or at the discretion of the Chairman.
- iv. Approval to undertake consultation on the budget was delegated to the Chairman in consultation with the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer (resolution 10/18 refers) enabling one budget meeting to be held in February, at which Members will consider and agree a final budget and the resultant council tax implications.

For information, the following dates have previously been agreed for 2022/23: -

25 April 2022
27 June 2022 (Annual Meeting of the CFA)
19 September 2022
19 December 2022

*27 February 2023 (Budget Meeting)

Proposed dates for 2023/24 are: -

*Revised date for budget meeting of 20 February 2023

24 April 2023

26 June 2023 (Annual Meeting of the CFA)

18 September 2023

18 December 2023

19 February 2024 (Budget Meeting)

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
CFA Constitutional Standing Orders	22 February 2021	Diane Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer
CFA Minutes	28 June 2021	Diane Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: N/A

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Proceedings of Member Training & Development Working Group held 28 April 2022

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Diane Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer - Tel: 01772 866720

Executive Summary

The proceedings of Member Training and Development Working Group meeting held 28 April 2022.

Recommendation(s)

To note the proceedings of Member Training and Development Working Group as set out at appendix 1 now presented.

Information

Attached at Appendix 1 are the proceedings of the Member Training and Development Working Group meeting held on 28 April 2022.

Business Risk

Nil

Environmental Impact

Nil

Equality & Diversity Implications

Nil

Financial Risk

Nil

HR Implications

Nil

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate:

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

Notes of meeting held via 'Teams', on Thursday, 28 April 2022.

PRESENT:

Councillors

S Morris (Chairman)
D Smith (Vice-Chair)
Z Khan
J Rigby
J Singleton (Substitute)

Officers

B Warren, Director of People and Development (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
L Barr, Member Services Officer (LFRS)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from County Councillor Andrea Kay and County Councillor Nikki Hennessy.

NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The notes of the previous meeting held on 04 November 2021 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 reviewed and approved the revised Strategy as presented, which included minor revisions to the Personal Development Plan (PDP).

It was acknowledged that the views of new Members were useful in assessing whether the Member training and development strategy was effective.

Members agreed that the training and development process was effective and new Members were supported by the process.

Members inquired about the possibility of undertaking physical experience of fire training which they felt would help their understanding of the work of firefighters which would be beneficial in their role. The Director of People and Development explained that experience of physical training may not be possible due to health and safety concerns and policy, however, practical demonstrations by firefighters in a safe environment had been routinely provided pre-pandemic which may possibly now be reinstated. In addition, training and development opportunities for Members included meeting with Heads of Departments and/or Principal Officers who could explain the work of the service in detail.

The Director of People advised, in response to a question raised by County Councillor Singleton, that it was hoped that open days would return to the Service in the current year although dates for these events had not been announced.

RESOLVED:- That Members reviewed and approved the Member Training and Development Strategy.

MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT - UPDATE REPORT

The Director of People and Development presented the report which detailed the various means available for elected Members for the Combined Fire Authority to access training and development opportunities.

Personal Development Plans

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, Personal Development Plans (PDPs) had returned to being held face to face. Ten new Councillors had joined the CFA since the April 2021 meeting of which all had received an Initial PDP and induction discussion. Of the 25 elected Members of the Authority, 100% had met with a Democratic Services Officer to draw up or review their Personal Development Plan.

e-Learning

Members were encouraged through the Member Information Bulletin, to view North West Employers Organisation and the Local Government Association websites to access training opportunities.

Members' Handbook

The handbook for the municipal year 2021/22 had been issued to all Members. The handbook for the municipal year 2022/23 would be produced following the local elections and any subsequent changes to the Authority's Membership.

Member Information Bulletin

Further to Member discussions at previous meetings, the Member Information Bulletin had now been reformatted to web-based and was accessed via an electronic link with tabs for information. Although development was ongoing, the link to the first digital Bulletin had been emailed to Members on 01 April 2022. The Bulletin would now be issued more frequently, on a monthly basis.

In addition to providing meeting dates, Member Training and Development opportunities, news and events, it was intended that the Bulletin would also provide upcoming safety campaign information for Members to forward as appropriate to their constituents and key partners using their social media channels together with reporting to Members on the success of these campaigns in subsequent issues. Members were also actively encouraged to provide information to officers for inclusion in the Bulletin and provide feedback on any improvements they would like to see. An analysis of Member use / engagement with the Bulletin would be presented to the next meeting of the Member Training and Development Working Group.

Co-ordination of Training

Democratic Services continued to contact home authorities where relevant to co-ordinate member training and development opportunities and avoid duplication.

The Chairman and Councillor Smith commented that the Members' Handbook was a helpful tool for reference and information.

Thanks were given to Lynsey for ensuring Members had a Personal Development Plan in place and guiding members through the mileage claims process.

RESOLVED:- That Members noted and endorsed the content of the report.

MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

The report provided an update on Member Training and Development activities since the previous meeting. The report showed opportunities and outcomes of activity taken by Members to support the achievement of Service objectives or positive outcomes for communities. Some activities such as visits to local stations, involvement at local open days and other leadership events had been curtailed due to the pandemic and were now open to Members.

Attended Local Fire Stations

Members were now encouraged to contact area personnel to arrange a visit to their local fire stations to discuss local key issues. Members had undertaken local station visits since the last meeting which had included a local area induction.

Involvement at Area Level

Prince's Trust presentations had now resumed in local communities and had been attended by Members. Future dates of Prince's Trust presentations were provided to Members through the Member Information Bulletin. The Road Safety Champion along with another Member had attended Biker Down sessions, and the Health and Wellbeing Champion had taken part in climate change discussions with schools and LFRS personnel as well as attending a wellbeing dog training event.

LGA Annual Fire Conference 2021

One Member had attended the LGA Fire Conference, which had now returned to being held in-person, in Gateshead on 15 and 16 March 2022. Conference activity had included four plenaries consisting of presentations and two workshops consisting of presentations.

Events and Visits

- Visit to Safety Central, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service:
The arranged visit to Safety Central on 18 April 2022 did not take place and was the second time the visit had not taken place due to low interest.

- Annual LFRS Open Day
Open Days would return to the Service in 2022 although dates for these had not yet been confirmed. Once dates had been issued, they would be given to Members through the Member Information Bulletin.

In response to a query raised by the Chairman regarding the development of inclusivity and diversity in the Service, the Director of People & Development advised that the Service had a constant drive to improve inclusivity and diversity in the workforce which had seen positive results although there was still progress to be made. Diversity was improved through recruitment with many incentives being offered, engagement in communities being carried out and following the STRIVE values.

Members raised the issue of the date of the visit to Safety Central as it was the day before Good Friday and mid-April was a prime time for canvassing residents prior to the local elections. The Principal Members Services Officer explained that schools were given priority for visits by Safety Central following the Covid-19 pandemic leaving limited dates for Member visits.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Singleton in relation to an annual open day this year, the Director of People & Development stated that an open day would be taking place although a date had not yet been confirmed. He would speak to TOR, (Training & Operation Review), regarding plans for the day and Members would then be advised.

The Chairman asked about the recruitment of firefighters and the length of time it took to train a firefighter before they were fully competent. The Director of People & Development explained that the Service recruited trainees ahead of vacancies to ensure sufficient cover and minimise overtime costs and holidays. The training time for Wholetime firefighters was 15 weeks at the Service Training Centre, although On-call recruits initial training was 2 weeks and they would be on an appliance following the initial training. An apprentice firefighter would be in training for up to 2 years, however, they would join an appliance from the initial 15 weeks and develop their skills on the run.

RESOLVED:- That the Group noted and endorsed the content of the report as presented.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on Thursday 03 November 2022. A further meeting date was agreed for Thursday 20 April 2023.

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

B WARREN
Director of People and Development

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Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report 2021/22

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information – Bob Warren, Director of People and Development
Tel: 01772 866804

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

Attached in full at Appendix 1 is the Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report for Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service (LFRS) covering the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

As the body with ultimate responsibility for staff health and safety and environmental compliance it is important that all CFA Members are aware of performance of the Service in this respect. The report therefore provides a summary of key actions, overall progress and performance in respect of accidents and near misses, carbon emissions together with a look forward to planned improvement areas for 2022/23.

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is asked to note the report and associated safety, health and environment performance outcomes.

This report includes performance information for health and safety and the environment.

Business Risk

Significant - From a legal, economic and moral standpoint, several health and safety and environmental obligations are imposed on the Authority, whilst the Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency will readily take enforcement action where significant or recurring failures are identified.

Environmental Impact

LFRS continues to manage the environmental risks and issues with impact directly on the Service through the externally accredited ISO14001 Environmental Management System which details our environmental aspects and impacts together with the measures taken to control and mitigate risks. The changing climate continues to impact on the Service response activities, particularly in relation to increasing attendance at flooding and wildfire incidents. Carbon management within the LFRS estate and vehicle fleet is a growing issue, with the impact on utility and energy use which the Service is seeking to mitigate through the Carbon Management Plan.

Equality and Diversity implications

None

Financial Implications

None

HR Implications

Significant – The Authority is committed to providing a safe and healthy workforce which is particularly important in the context of emergency service operations, and which requires ongoing and effective health and safety management arrangements.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Annual Health and Safety Report 2009/10 LFRS Sustainability Report 2009/10	20 th September 2010	Director of People and Development Bob Warren Telephone 01772 866804
Annual Health and Safety Report 2010/11 LFRS Sustainability Report 2010/11	20 th June 2011	
Annual Health and Safety Report 2011/12 LFRS Sustainability Report 2011/12	18 th June 2012	
Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report 2012/13	17 th June 2013	
Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report 2013/14	23 rd June 2014	
Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report 2014/15	22 nd June 2015	
Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report 2015/16	20 th June 2016	

Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report 2016/17	19 th June 2017	
Safety, Health and Environment Annual Review Report 2017/18	18 th June 2018	
Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report 2018/19	17 th June 2019	
Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report 2019/20	14 th September 2020	
Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report 2020/21	28 June 2021	

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: N/A

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Lancashire Fire
and Rescue Service

Annual Safety, Health and Environment Report 2021-2022

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Lancashire Fire and
Rescue Service

FIRE & RESCUE

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making Lancashire safer

Introduction

This report summarises the arrangements in place to deliver the Service's Safety, Health and Environment Policy and provides a summary of safety, health and environment performance data.

It includes the reporting on occupational safety, health and environmental issues that have arisen during the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) Safety, Health and Environment Management Arrangements

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority (CFA) has overall responsibility for the effective governance of health, safety and environment. The CFA is responsible for agreeing the safety, health and environment policy and for ensuring adequate resources are available for safety, health and environment purposes. The CFA will provide a clear direction for the Executive Board and Senior Management Team to establish policies and procedures and manage safety, health and environment performance effectively.

Whilst individual members of staff, supervisors and managers all have responsibility for safety, health and environment, the Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Department coordinates and oversees the day-to-day management of health and safety activities and at the same time continues to provide competent professional advice.

The Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) is based on the Health and Safety Executive model HS (G) 65 – Successful Health and Safety Management and written and implemented to the International Standard for a Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) ISO 45001:2018. The Environment Management System (EMS) is written and implemented to the International Standard ISO 14001:2015.

During 2021/2022 we have continued to enjoy a positive working relationship with the Representative Bodies on health and safety issues. The Service consults formally on a quarterly basis working together to ensure safety, health and environmental concerns are resolved. Safety Representatives play a vital role in achieving a healthier and safer workplace and improving our health and safety culture whilst reducing our impacts on the environment.



Controlling Risk within LFRS

The varied nature of the Service's work activities and working environments inevitably means that there is a broad range of risks to manage, sometimes in challenging high hazard environments. The level of risk to both employees and service users can be identified from several of the Service's performance measures including the:

- total number of accidents reported by employees and non LFRS employees.
- number of safety events reported to the Health and Safety Executive under the RIDDOR regulations.
- number of near miss events reported.
- number of days lost following an accident at work.
- type of events that are being reported.
- risks being managed effectively through the development and implementation of policies and procedures contained within the Service's HSMS and EMS.
- carbon emissions from LFRS premises and activities; and
- fitness assessments for operational staff.

The HSMS and EMS and associated policies and procedures are designed to promote safe systems of work and minimise the risk of injury to employees and visitors and reduce the impact to the environment. The SHE Department develops bespoke and proportionate procedures for LFRS, minimising 'red tape' and focusing on controlling the real risks in LFRS workplaces. Managers, through devolved safety, health and environment responsibilities, ensure that recognised safe systems of work are being applied 'as far as is reasonably practicable'.

To ensure that the Service continues to meet its legal obligations in respect of safety, health and environment we ensure that all policies, procedures, instructions and guidance are regularly reviewed and updated. SHE training is refreshed every three years together with any specific training required by role.

Safety, health and environment performance is reviewed on a regular basis, through high level scrutiny via the CFA Performance Committee and at Director Level through the LFRS Health, Safety & Environment Advisory Group (HSEAG) chaired by the Director of People and Development and the Health and Safety Consultation Committee chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.



External Audit of the Health and Safety and Environment Management Systems

LFRS utilises a UKAS accredited external audit process to provide assurance of the effectiveness of safety, health and environment management systems to the internationally recognised ISO standards. Since initial certification in November 2011, surveillance visits have been conducted annually and re-certification every three years to maintain external certification for our HSMS and EMS. In March 2022, the auditor from British Assessment Bureau (BAB) carried out a surveillance audit against the international standards for health and safety ISO 45001:2018 and environment ISO 14001:2015.

The audit scope for both standards was '**The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire**'. This broad scope encompasses all LFRS activities with audit visits to five fire stations operating different duty systems together with several supporting departments including Safety, Health and Environment, Fleet and Engineering Services, Procurement, Training and Operational Review, Human Resources and Property. Continued certification has been granted for ISO 45001:2018 and ISO14001:2015. LFRS received no non-conformances (minor or major) for this audit. One opportunity for improvement was identified related to duplication of information between our environmental and health and safety documentation.

The report from BAB concluded:

Based on the evidence seen throughout the audit it was noted that the organisation has implemented a robust and effective management system, this being in line with the strategic direction of the organisation and the intended results of the Management System.

System effectiveness is monitored on an on-going basis by the internal and external audit process, Management review, Monitoring objectives, KPI's and through the consultation and participation process. Mechanisms for communication are in place to enable the cascade of information to interested parties.

Commitment to continual improvement in health and safety and environmental performance was evident in the discussions held with the management team and the various staff assessed through the audit. The organisation was noted to be maintaining and improving their processes effectively and this is evidenced throughout the report.

As part of the audit, additional areas for improvement were also identified by LFRS staff and these have been taken forward through the Service's Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group meeting.

Improvement Actions during 2021/22

LFRS ensures continuous improvement is made in both the HSMS and EMS each year. During 2021/22 the Service has continued to manage the risks from COVID-19, whilst returning to all activities that had been modified or paused during the pandemic. Below are some highlights of the improvements carried out during 2021/22:

- Managed the suite of risk assessments for LFRS activities, reviewing existing assessments to the schedule in place and producing new documents to support new activities, equipment or other identified risk areas.
- Continued to maintain and develop the safety, health and environment management system by carrying out programmed reviews of policies and Service Order documents to ensure their currency and continued suitability.
- Provided our staff with workplace guidance and information to manage the risks from COVID-19, implementing the revised requirements from Government and the Health and Safety Executive.
- Continued to provide improved PPE for attending operational incidents, including the roll out of personal issue P3 half mask respirators to protect staff from particulate hazards.
- Continued to implement National Operational Guidance into the Service.
- Undertook a detailed review of the firefighter PPE contamination interim best practice report document which was published by the University of Central Lancashire in partnership with the FBU. Due to early adoption of a pool PPE system and professional laundry for firefighting PPE, LFRS is in a good place overall to mitigate this developing risk as more becomes known following scientific studies in this area. To assist continual improvement, the review of the document has highlighted action points which are being progressed through the Service HSEAG meeting.
- Opened a new facility at Service Training Centre which provides state of the art facilities to mitigate contamination risks during breathing apparatus training, together with a new Fleet and Engineering Service Workshop, fitness suite and welfare facilities for training centre instructors.
- Planned for commencing a replacement programme for Drill Towers on fire stations which are at the end of their lifespan.
- Reviewed and monitored our waste management arrangements across several sites to increase recycling.
- Reviewed and strengthened our assurance monitoring systems for operational activity to ensure continual learning within LFRS and the operational environment to ensure firefighter safety.
- Continued to develop our approach to managing psychological risks within the workplace and improving health and wellbeing support to LFRS (See section below for additional information on this aspect).

Health and Safety Performance

Active Monitoring of our health and safety performance is integrated into day-to-day work within the Service. This includes a Service wide approach to workplace inspections at station and department level for both health and safety and environmental hazards and risks.

In addition to day-to-day monitoring of health and safety by managers, active monitoring features extensively during operational incidents and forms an essential part of the Incident Command System at all levels. Incidents are monitored, debriefed and outcome reviews are carried out to ensure that continuous learning from incidents is achieved.

The Service has implemented a system of robust reactive monitoring as defined in the accident reporting and accident investigation procedures of the HSMS. The SHE department co-ordinates and controls this system, and heads of department and line managers are responsible for implementation.

During 2021/2022 there were:

- **85 accidents** (75 to LFRS staff and 10 to non LFRS staff) each event being investigated and recorded in line with Service Policy.
- **94 near misses** (80 near misses and 14 near miss attacks on staff) that were investigated, and the recommendations were fed back into the service policy, procedure, or risk assessment as appropriate.
- There were **14 RIDDOR** events that were reported to the Health and Safety Executive; 4 major specified injury; 10 resulting from over 7 day's absence.

Performance during 2021/2022 has been a challenging year for LFRS staff accident performance, whilst to some degree this is reflective of our return to full activities and conventional ways of working following the pandemic which resulted in a particularly low number of accidents in 20/21, we have had challenges with an increase in musculoskeletal strain/sprain injuries being reported by staff.

A summary of the total accident and ill-health statistics for 2021/22 are detailed below in Figure 1.

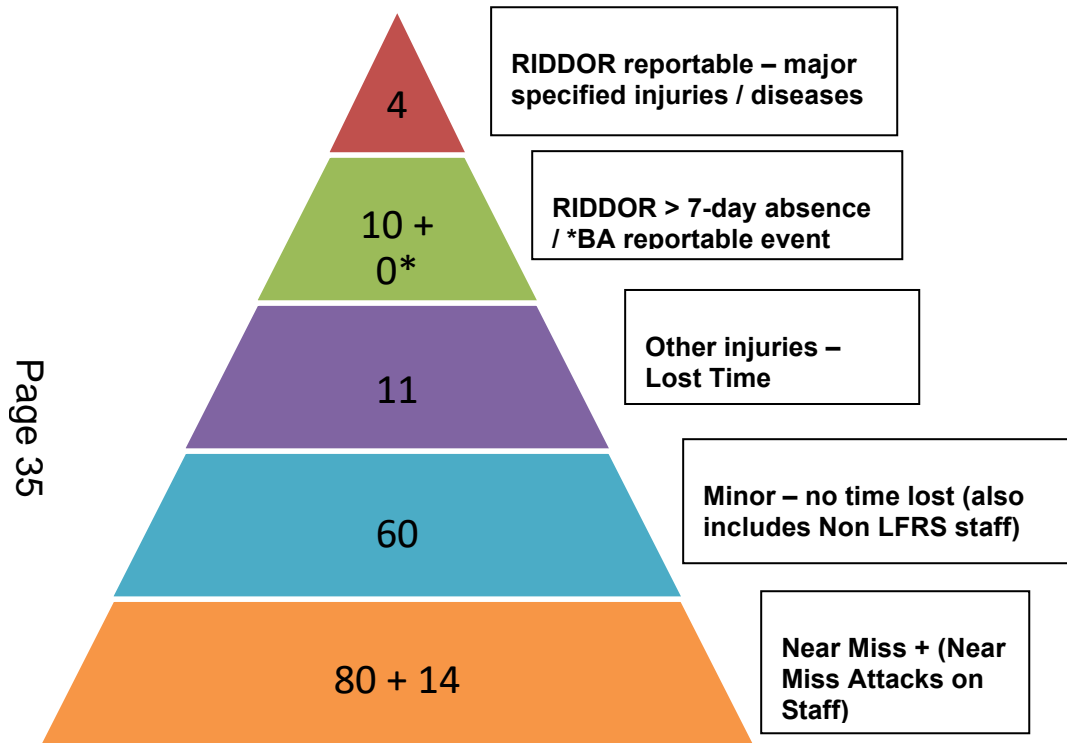


Figure 1 - Hierarchy of safety events

The figures in Table 1 relate to working days lost due to work related injury/illness.

The overall trend is downward from absence following work related injury/illness, however the figures reported in 2018/19, 2020/21 and 2021/22 have seen a small number of staff away from work for long term absences related to safety events which has impacted the overall performance.

Year	Days Lost
2015/16	331
2016/17	205
2017/18	245
2018/19	377
2019/20	264
2020/21	352
2021/22	511

Table 1 – working days lost to accidents

Figure 2 gives a background position on the safety performance of LFRS since 2016/17:

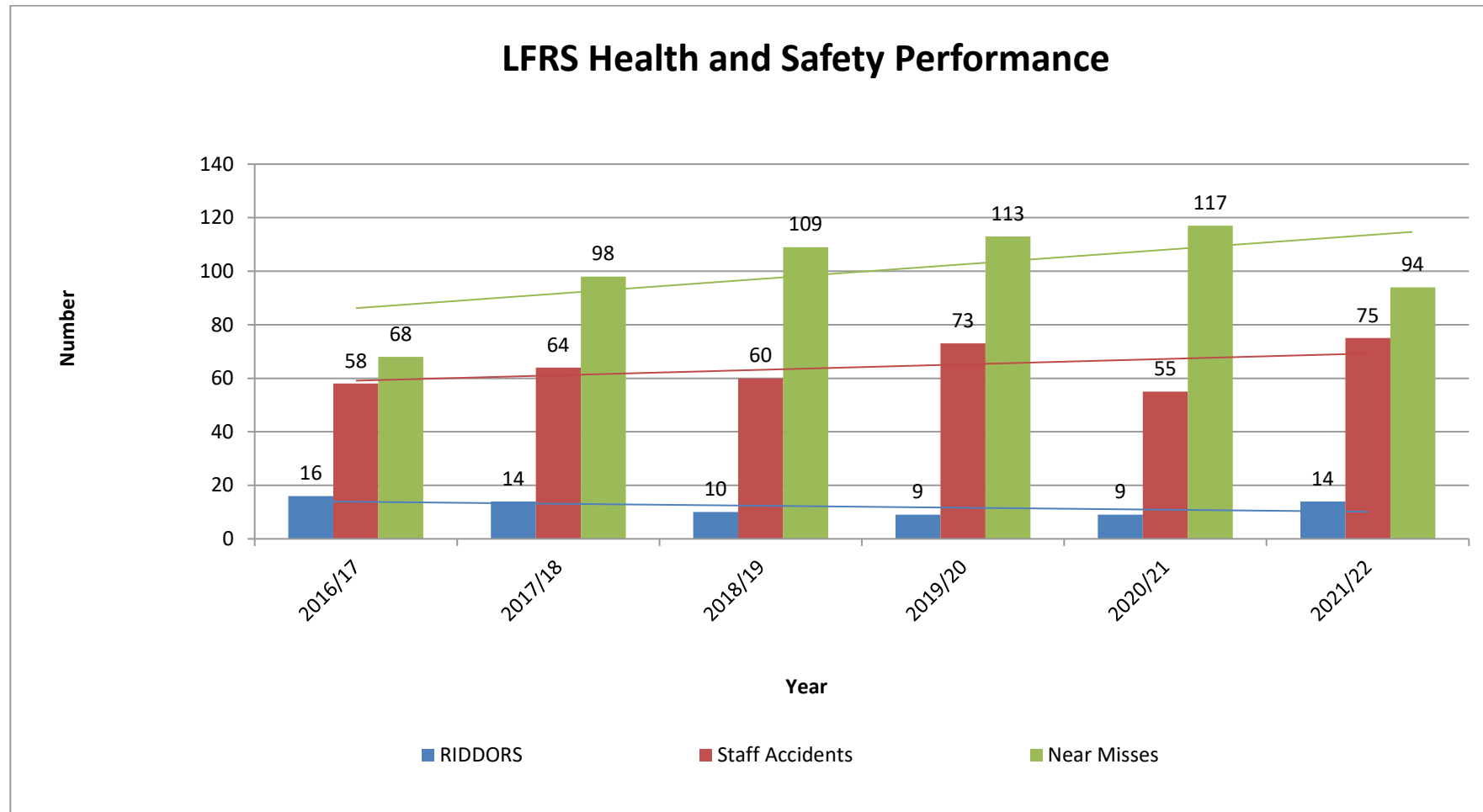


Figure 2 – LFRS Safety Performance 2016/17 to 2021/2022

Table 2 shows the types of accidents that were reported during 2021/22 comparing the last five year's performance with the numbers for each category.

TYPE OF ACCIDENT	LFRS Staff 2021/22	LFRS Staff 2020/21	LFRS Staff 2019/20	LFRS Staff 2018/19	LFRS Staff 2017/18	Non LFRS staff 2021/22	Non LFRS staff 2020/21	Non LFRS staff 2019/20	Non LFRS staff 2018/19	Non LFRS staff 2017/18
Handling lifting or carrying	24	11	18	7	15	1	-	1	2	1
Hit by moving, flying or falling object	5	4	12	4	7	-	-	2	2	4
Slip trip fall	12	5	12	11	9	1	-	2	2	1
Hit something fixed or stationary	9	3	4	10	8	2	-	5	3	6
Other	15	10	15	12	7	2	-	2	-	1
Injured by an animal	1	-	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Fall from Height	2	1	1	3	4	-	-	2	-	1
Exposed to fire	2	5	1	6	3	-	-	-	-	1
Exposed to harmful substance	-	11	4	4	7	-	1	-	2	-
Exposed to an explosion	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Contact with Electricity	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hit by a moving vehicle	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contact with Moving Machinery	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Drowned or Asphyxiated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Physically assaulted by a person	3	2	2	1	-	4	-	-	2	-
Trapped by Something Collapsing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	75	55	73	60	64	10	2	15	13	15

Table 2 – Types of accidents in 2021/22 compared to 2017/18 – 2020/21.

Near Miss Reporting

A near miss event is an unplanned and unforeseeable event in which there is no injury, but the potential to cause injury or other form of loss exists should it occur again. The near miss reporting category also includes events which have resulted in attacks on staff, but not resulted in injury, for example operational staff being subjected to verbal abuse or a fireworks attack.

Table 3 shows sustained number of near misses being reported each year assisting in the prevention of accidents within the workplace. A wide range of learning opportunities have been captured in relation to stations/building, equipment, appliances, operational procedures and breathing apparatus issues.

Year	Number of Near misses
2016/17	68
2017/18	98
2018/19	109
2019/20	113
2020/21	117
2021/22	94

Table 3 - Near Miss Reporting 2016/17 to 2021/22

Vehicle Accidents

Year	Number of Vehicle Accidents
2016/17	67
2017/18	58
2018/19	74
2019/20	69
2020/21	67
2021/22	90

Table 4 shows the number of accidents involving fleet vehicles from 2016/17 to 2021/22.

Analysis of the type of accidents LFRS vehicles have been involved in during 2021/22 has shown that most accidents occur during vehicle manoeuvring at slow speeds and there is an increasing trend.

To look at ways of help reduce vehicle accidents a Road Risk Review Panel been established to examine the trends and outcomes from fleet vehicle accidents, current working practices and to further develop the Management of Occupational Road Risk framework for the Service.

Table 4 Number of Vehicle Accidents

Health and Wellbeing

Health Promotion & Wellbeing Framework

During 2021/22 the focus has been on continuing to support staff, colleagues, families and friends in response to the COVID19 pandemic. We have continued to refine the health and wellbeing support resources to develop in-house leaflets, share appropriate external support resources, promote the Employee Assistance Programme services etc. and introduce a new support resource – Wellbeing Support Dogs. For this capability six colleagues and their dogs received training to be able to assist in improving wellbeing, de-stress after demanding incidents or provide peer support and signposting.



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Following the success of the introduction of the Workplace Wellbeing Toolbox Talks (WWTBT) LFRS were awarded Runner Up in the Oscar Kilo Award for Personal Resilience. To achieve this award LFRS demonstrated ways in which the personal resilience of colleagues, families, friends and partner agencies has been maintained and improved throughout the COVID pandemic and beyond to create a sustainable support resource.

The WWTBT library continues to be expanded to facilitate a range of wellbeing conversations to meet the needs of those attending the sessions to focus on identifying signs and symptoms/someone struggling, normalising mental health conversations etc.

This work has also enabled LFRS to be part of the consultation and development group for the Mind Mental Health at Work Commitment, which the Service signed up to in January 2022.



Collaboration with the Fire Fighters Charity continues to expand the range of workshops available with a focus on personal resilience and the importance of maintaining good physical health to support good mental health and wellbeing.



Implementing the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan, developed in September 2021, is underway and the SHE Department continues to embed the plan and bring the priorities to life in collaboration with relevant departments such as:

- *Human Resources* – Disabilities Employee Consultation Group (Disability & Neurodiversity)
- *Occupational Health Unit* - Mini 'health checks' as part of Wellness Calendar events
- *Training & Operational Review Dept. Fitness* - Started a monthly nutritional post/article to support a need identified as part of the Ageing Workforce Task & Finish Group findings.

LFRS Wellness Events Calendar 2021/22

1 st - 29 th April	On Your Feet Britain
10 th - 16 th May	Mental Health Awareness Week
14 th - 20 th June	Diabetes Awareness Week
1 st - 31 st July	National Picnic Month
5 th August	Cycle to Work Day
24 th September	Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning
1 st - 31 st October	Grief Awareness
15 th - 19 th and 19 th November	Anti-bullying Awareness International Men's Day
1 st - 31 st December	Financial wellbeing
1 st - 31 st January	Winter Wellbeing
1 st - 28 th February	National Healthy Heart Month
8 th and 11 th - 15 th March	International Women's Day Social Media and Mental Health

Details of each event will be posted on the Health & Wellbeing pages of the Engine House and in the Training Bulletin, nearer the dates stated above.

The Wellness Events calendar promotes awareness and provides support information in a number of health and wellbeing areas including providing a morale boost during the second lockdown and to celebrate National Picnic Month, picnic boxes were delivered to every Watch/Team across the Service with the support of the CFA Health and Wellbeing Member Champion.

We continue to provide a bespoke Health and Wellbeing module for new Apprentice firefighters, focusing on resilience.

In 2021/22 a new contract for the Employee Assistance Programme was established in collaboration with other blue light services in the North West. Provider Health Assured was awarded the contract for 3 years with option to extend a further 2 years if appropriate.

LFRS HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING PLAN
2021-2024

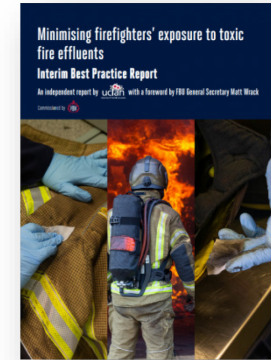


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Firefighter PPE Contamination

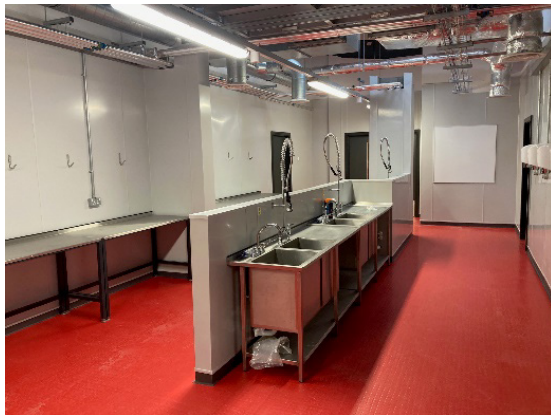
Internationally within the FRS, there is a growing view that firefighters are at a higher risk of carcinogens and other contaminants than the rest of the population. Links are being made to the issue of residual contamination on Fire Kit and other PPE following fire incidents.

A variety of studies have been undertaken, but the majority focus on the USA. Limited work on the topic has been carried out focussing on the issue in a UK context, and the Fire Brigades Union commissioned the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) to undertake UK specific research in this area. LFRS supported UCLAN by allowing access to our locations for the study. Following publication of the Minimising firefighters' exposure to toxic fire effluents – Interim Best Practice Report, during 2021 we have undertaken a full gap analysis looking at the recommendations made in the report to identify any areas which would be improved within LFRS and an action plan has been established through the Service HSEAG meeting.



Service Training Centre - New BA School & BA Workshop Facilities

LFRS has identified that a key risk area for PPE Contaminants is the BA school facilities at Service Training Centre. Whilst the need to train in realistic conditions is essential and live carbonaceous burns can't be eliminated without compromising training to staff, Training and Operational Review Department and the project team considered contaminants at the outset of the project to build the Fleet Garage Extension and design the new BA school with control measures which have been incorporated into the design.



LFRS has invested in a Draeger/Hastra cleaning solution for the new BA workshop facility. The new equipment allows automatic cleaning of BA set backplates, masks and other BA equipment. This equipment now gives LFRS the ability to undertake deep cleaning of BA sets as part of the maintenance and repair process which will help prolong the life of BA equipment but also improve safety for BA Support Service staff who are undertaking repair or servicing on BA equipment.



Environmental Performance

Fire-fighters' Charity Recycling Banks

LFRS continues to support the Fire Fighters Charity with eighteen Lancashire fire stations currently having a clothing/textile recycling banks on site and an additional bank at a neighbouring B&Q store. For each tonne of clothing, a donation is made to the Fire-fighter's Charity.

In 2021/22, the banks had collected over 54 tonnes of textiles. This has raised £10,014 for the charity.



Waste Management

LFRS created 102.2 tonnes of waste in 2021/22, a decrease from 113.4 tonnes in 2020/21. General waste reduced by 16.5% and dry mixed recyclable waste by 8.3%. 26 sites within LFRS saw a decrease in general waste. Only 2 stations had a recycling rate below 20%.

Engagement with those identified last year as needing further focus was excellent with some very promising results. The SHE Department continue to work with Station Managers, Environmental Champions, and other staff to better understand the reasons behind these results to assist in improving waste management across LFRS



Carbon Emissions

LFRS updated the Carbon Management Plan, which was agreed by the Combined Fire Authority Resources Committee in September 2020. The plan included a target of 40% carbon emission reduction by March 2030 from a baseline of 4352 tonnes of CO² in 2007/08.

The Service achieved an overall reduction of **24.9%** by March 2021.

The Carbon Management Team continues to meet and make progress against the new plan and revised carbon emission reduction target. The team continue to deliver projects accepting these are fewer and more targeted than under the previous plan. The Plan is overseen by the Director of People and Development. Monthly meter readings for Gas, Electric and Water continue to be collated together with fuel data collated by Fleet and Engineering Services, providing a full picture of carbon emissions for all LFRS premises.

Table 5 shows the carbon emission performance for 2021/22 against the 2007/08 baseline and previous years performance with the carbon emissions for 2016/17 to 2020/21.

	Baseline 2007/08	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	% change on previous year	% change since baseline 2007/08
Buildings	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)		
Electricity	1600	1581	1592	1495	1478	1484	1457	-1.8%	-8.9%
Gas	1594	934	1025	901	988	1032	939	-9.0%	-41.1%
Total	3194	2515	2617	2396	2466	2516	2396	-4.8%	-25.0%

Transport	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)		
Fuel	1158	796	858	968	882	816	872	6.9%	-24.7%

Service Total	4352	3311	3475	3364	3347	3332	3268	-1.9%	-24.9%
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Shown separately in Carbon Management Plan

Water	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)	Carbon (tonnes)		
	9.1	5.8	5.4	4.9	6.4	5.7	5.3	-7.0%	-41.8%

Table 5 Carbon Emissions Reductions 2020/21

A Look Ahead to 2022/23

Looking to 2022/23, the key safety, health and environment priorities are to:

- Reduce the number of accidents and related sickness absence, particularly focussing on musculoskeletal injuries arising from manual handling activities, and injuries which occur during local training.
- Improve 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.
- Maintain LFRS certification to ISO 45001:2018 and ISO14001:2015 standards and continually improve the HSMS and EMS.
- Embed Safety, Health and Environment through continued training and interaction with staff to enable proportionate and risk aware 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.
- Develop the health, safety and wellbeing plan to continue to deliver a program of support to engage staff in maintaining fitness, reducing injury and absence, informing staff about the support available and promoting ways to enhance personal resilience.
- Review Climate Change impacts and develop our approach to decarbonisation of our buildings and fleet vehicles.
- Evaluate the current LFRS position for the management of PPE Contaminants against any further released guidance and best practice arrangements to manage the developing risk.
- Develop the next generation of fire appliances for the Service to incorporate design features which minimise the risks from fire contaminants.
- Carry out a compliance assessment for LFRS against the ISO 45003:2021 Occupational health and safety management — Psychological health and safety at work — Guidelines for managing psychosocial risks, document to identify areas to improve in this area.

Overall Summary

The 2021/22 year has been challenging for LFRS with an overall increase in the number of accidents to LFRS staff, increasing from 55 to 75. Whilst the majority of reported events are minor, we have had an increase in the number of safety events which have resulted in staff taking time off, with 25 events resulting in lost time during 2021/22. The HSE were notified under RIDDOR regarding 14 events: 4 major specified injuries and 10 over 7-day absences following accidents.

Analysis of our safety performance through the Service HSEAG meeting has shown that musculoskeletal strain and sprain type injuries have been most prevalent for staff, resulting in improvement actions being identified with regards to manual handling and our arrangements for managing risk during local operational training events on fire stations.

LFRS continues to deliver continuous improvement within the HSMS and EMS maintaining ISO 45001:2018 and ISO 14001:2015 certification through external examination receiving no non-conformances and one opportunity for improvement.

Actions and work to manage and improve health and wellbeing, learn from incidents, and provide operational assurance, reduce carbon emissions, review National Operational Guidance, research and develop equipment and firefighting techniques to ensure firefighter safety continue to deliver a safe person and safe working environment.

Staff wellbeing continues to be developed and improved with the Service having a range of interventions and support mechanisms in place to mitigate risks to psychological health.

The good relationship with the Fire Brigades Union and UNISON continues working together to maintain a positive safety culture within LFRS and during 2021/22 we have been pleased to welcome the Fire Officers Association (FOA) and the Fire and Rescue Services Association (FRSA) to the Health and Safety Consultation Meeting who we now look forward to working with on health and safety matters.

During 2022/23, LFRS will consider its approach to Climate Change impacts and review options to develop our approach to decarbonisation of our buildings and fleet vehicles together with the current targets and objectives set within the Carbon Management Plan to ensure that they remain appropriate in the context of an increasing climate change threat.

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Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on Monday 27 June 2022

Policy on Dealing with Habitual and Vexatious Complaints

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information: Mark Nolan, Clerk and Monitoring Officer
Telephone: 01772 866720

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

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 is fair and proportionate, yet which does not prevent genuine complaints from being properly investigated and fair and equitable outcomes promulgated (attached as appendix 1).

On an annual basis the Clerk and Chief Fire Officer review the status of complainants judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious and reports this to the Authority.

In addition, each year the Clerk reviews the Policy. This year's review concludes that the effectiveness of the Policy is demonstrable, accordingly the Policy remains appropriate, proportionate and effective to the needs of Members, Officers and staff.

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is asked to note and endorse the report.

Information

The Policy on Dealing with Habitual and Vexatious Complaints identifies situations where a complainant, either individually or as part of a group, or a group of complainants might be considered to be habitual or vexatious. It sets out the definitions of habitual or vexatious complainants and the process that the Authority follows.

During the previous 12 months there have been no complainants judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious which suggests that it is a useful means of controlling and managing resources and bullying.

In line with the Policy, the Clerk has reviewed it to ensure that it remains appropriate, proportionate and effective to the needs of Members, Officers and staff.

Business Risk

The policy will be used to defend the Authority's position in refusing to engage with "vexatious" complainants who may pursue perceived entitlement to make applications to

the Authority under, e.g.: Freedom of Information or Data Protection Act legislation, there is a risk that such complaints will be elevated outside the Authority's internal processes. The Authority may therefore be required to defend its position externally in processes governed by, for example; the Information Commissioner's Office ("ICO") or Local Authority Ombudsman. The exposure to risk can be minimised by virtue of the fact that in such cases the Authority will be given an opportunity by the external arbiter to provide comment with any supporting documentation and ultimately to review or even change its decision. At this point there should be a further assessment of the business and financial risk to the Authority of maintaining its position regarding a decision to declare the relevant complaint as vexatious. Such an assessment should also involve a review of the evidence which has given rise to the conclusion that such complaints are habitual or vexatious in accordance with the criteria set out in the policy.

Environmental Impact

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

There is a minor risk that any habitual or vexatious complaints could be driven by mental impairment, with a correspondingly low risk that such impairment amounts to a disability, for which the Authority would be culpable, only if the complainant was an existing employee. In those circumstances the existence and application of the Policy would, in all likelihood consist of a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim, which would therefore be capable of rebuttal. Otherwise it is highly unlikely to conflict with the Authority's public sector Equality Duty.

HR Implications

The policy must not conflict with the Authority's obligations under its own Whistle Blowing Policy, as this may cast doubt on the Authority's compliance with a whistle blowing policy and obligations. However, given that such disclosures are to be made in good faith, not for personal gain and in the genuine public interest, there should in reality be no conflict or overlap, provided the complaints have been properly evaluated under the criteria outlined in the Habitual and Vexatious Complaints Policy.

Financial Implications

In the index example, above, involving the ICO could in theory give rise to a situation where the ICO makes a determination holding the Authority culpable. It has the power to impose fines, should the ICO apply to a court for certification that the Authority has failed to comply with a decision notice, an information notice or an enforcement notice. The matter would be dealt with thereafter as a civil contempt. It is highly unlikely that given the provision for review and conciliation that the Authority would be placed in such a situation and that any risk of such an outcome would occur in no more than 2-5% of any cases and such action could be mitigated whatever the circumstances if necessary.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: N/A

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY HABITUAL AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS

1. Introduction

This policy identifies situations where a complainant, either individually or as part of a group, or a group of complainants, might be considered to be habitual or vexatious. The Lancashire Combined Fire Authority (“CFA”) policy for dealing with and responding to these situations is set out herein below.

- 1.1 The term habitual means ‘done repeatedly or as a habit.’
- 1.2 The term vexatious is recognised in law and means ‘denoting an action or the bringer of an action that is brought without sufficient grounds for winning, purely to cause annoyance to the defendant.’
- 1.3 This policy intends to assist in identifying and managing persons who seek to be disruptive to the CFA or the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) by pursuing an unreasonable course of conduct.
- 1.4 The term complaint in this policy includes requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998 and reference to the Complaints Procedure is, where relevant, to be interpreted as meaning a request under those acts.
- 1.5 Habitual or vexatious complaints can be a problem for CFA staff and Members. The difficulty in handling such complainants and their complaints is that they are time consuming and wasteful of resources in terms of Officer and Member time. While the CFA endeavours to respond with patience and sympathy to the needs of all complainants, there are occasions when there is nothing further which can be reasonably done to assist or to rectify a real or perceived problem.
- 1.6 Raising legitimate queries or criticisms of a complaints procedure as it progresses, for example if agreed timescales are not met, should not in itself lead to someone being regarded as a vexatious or an unreasonable persistent complainant. Similarly, the fact that a complainant is unhappy with the outcome of a complaint and seeks to challenge it once, or more than once, should not necessarily cause him or her to be labelled vexatious or unreasonably persistent.
- 1.7 The aim of the policy is to contribute to the overall aim of dealing with all complainants in ways which are demonstrably consistent, fair and reasonable.

2. Habitual or Vexatious Complainants

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions of habitual or vexatious complainants will be used. The repeated and/or obsessive pursuit of:

- (a.) Unreasonable complaints and/or unrealistic outcomes and/or
- (b.) Reasonable complaints in an unreasonable manner.

Prior to considering its implementation the CFA will warn an individual and will send a summary of this policy to the complainant to give them prior notification of its possible implementation.

Where complaints continue and have been identified as habitual or vexatious in accordance with the criteria set out in section 3, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer will seek agreement to treat the complainant as a habitual or vexatious complainant for the appropriate course of action to be taken. Section 4 details the options available for dealing with habitual or vexatious complaints.

The Clerk, on behalf of the CFA, will notify complainants in writing of the reasons why their complaint has been treated as habitual or vexatious and the action that will be taken.

The status of the complaint will be kept under review. If a complainant subsequently demonstrates a more reasonable approach, then their status will be reviewed.

The CFA will be advised that a person or their supporter or co-complainant involved in any joint complaint or joint enterprise has been declared vexatious.

3. Definitions

The CFA defines unreasonably persistent and vexatious complainants as those complainants who, because of their or other peoples' complaints interfere with or impede the operation of LFRS. The description 'unreasonably persistent' and 'vexatious' may apply jointly or separately to a particular complainant.

Examples include the way in which, or frequency with which, complainants raise their complaints with staff or how complainants respond when informed of the CFA decision about the complaint.

Features of an unreasonably persistent and/or vexatious complainant include but are not limited to the following (the list is not exhaustive, nor does one single feature on its own necessarily imply that the person will be considered as being in this category.) An unreasonably persistent and/or vexatious complainant may:

- Have insufficient or no grounds for their complaint and be making the complaint only to annoy (or for the reasons that he or she does not admit or make obvious);
- Refuse to specify the grounds of a complaint despite offers of assistance;
- Refuse to co-operate with the complaint's investigation process while still wishing their complaint to be resolved;
- Refuse to accept that issues are not within the remit of the complaints policy and procedure despite having been provided with information about the scope of the policy and procedure;
- Refuse to accept that issues are not within the powers of the CFA to investigate, change or influence;

- Insist on the complaint being dealt with in ways which are incompatible with the complaints procedure or with good practice (e.g. insisting that there must not be any written record of this complaint);
- Make what appear to be groundless complaints about the staff dealing with the complaints, and seek to have them dismissed or replaced;
- Make an unreasonable number of contacts with LFRS by any means in relation to a specific complaint or complaints;
- Make persistent and unreasonable demands or expectations of staff and/or the complaints process after the unreasonableness has been explained to the complainant (an example of this could be a complainant who insists on an immediate response to questions, frequent and/or complex letters, faxes, telephone calls or emails);
- Harass or verbally abuse or otherwise seek to intimidate staff dealing with their complaint by use of foul or inappropriate language or by the use of offensive and racist language or publish their complaints in other forms of media;
- Raise subsidiary or new issues whilst a complaint is being addressed that were not part of the original complaint at the start of the process;
- Introduce trivial or irrelevant information whilst the complaint is being investigated and expect this to be taken in to account and commented on;
- Change the substance or basis of the complaint without reasonable justification whilst the complaint is being addressed;
- Deny a statement he or she made at an earlier stage in the complaint process;
- Are known to have covertly electronically recorded meetings and conversations without the knowledge or consent of the other party or parties involved;
- Adopts a 'scattergun' approach, for example by pursuing a complaint or complaints not only with the CFA with, for example, a Member of Parliament, other Authorities, elected Members of this and other Authorities, CFA Independent Auditor, the Police, other public bodies or solicitors' firms.
- Refuse to accept the outcome of the complaint process after its conclusion, repeatedly arguing the point, complaining about the outcome, and/or denying that an adequate response has been given;
- Make the complaint repeatedly, perhaps with minor differences, after the complaints procedure has been concluded and insist that any minor differences make these 'new complaints' which should be put through the full complaints procedure;

- Persistently approach the CFA through different routes or other persons about the same issue;
- Persist in seeking an outcome which the CFA has explained is unrealistic for legal, policy or other valid reasons;
- Refuse to accept documented evidence as factual;
- Complain about or challenge an issue based on an historic and/or irreversible decision or incident;
- Combine some or all of these features.

4. Imposing Restrictions

The CFA will ensure that the complaint is being, or has been investigated properly according to the adopted complaints procedure.

In the first instance the Clerk, in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer will, prior to issuing a warning to the complainant, contact the complainant in writing, or by email, to explain why this behaviour is causing concern and ask them to change this behaviour and outline the actions that the CFA may take if they do not comply.

If the disruptive behaviour continues, the Clerk will issue a CFA letter to the complainant advising them that the way in which they will be allowed to contact the CFA in future will be restricted. The Clerk will then make this decision in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer and inform the complainant in writing of what procedures have been put in place and for what period.

Any restriction that is imposed on the complainant's contact with the CFA will be appropriate and proportionate and the complainant will be advised of the period of time over which the restriction will be put in place. The restrictions would be reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Restrictions will be tailored to deal with the individual circumstances of the complaint and may include:

- Banning the complainant from attending or approaching all CFA or LFRS premises, in circumstances where Members' or Officers' safety may be at risk;
- Banning the complainant from making contact by telephone except through a third party, e.g.: a solicitor, a spouse or family member, or a friend acting on their behalf;
- Banning the complainant from sending emails to individuals and/or all CFA Officers and insisting they only correspond by post;
- Requiring contact to take place with one named member of staff only;
- Restricting telephone calls to specified days and or times or duration, requiring any personal contact to take place in the presence of an appropriate witness;

- Letting the complainant know that Lancashire Combined Fire Authority will not respond to or acknowledge any further contact from them on the specified topic of that complaint (in this case, a designated person will be identified to read future correspondence).

When the decision has been taken to apply this policy to a complainant, the Clerk will contact the complainant in writing to explain:

- Why the decision has been taken;
- What action has been taken.

The Clerk will enclose a copy of this policy in the letter to the complainant.

Where a complainant continues to behave in a way that is unacceptable, the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and/or Chief Fire Officer may decide to refuse all contact with the complainant and stop any investigation into his or her complaint.

Where the behaviour is so extreme or it threatens the immediate safety and welfare of staff, other options will be considered, e.g. the reporting of the matter to the Police or taking legal action; in such cases the complainant may not be given prior warning of that action.

5. New Complaints from Complainants treated as Abusive, Vexatious or Persistent

New complaints from people to whom this policy has already been applied will be treated on their own merits. The Clerk in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer will decide whether any restrictions that have been applied before are still appropriate and necessary in relation to the new complaint. A blanket policy is not supported, nor is ignoring genuine service requests or complaints where they are founded.

The fact that a complaint is judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious and any restrictions imposed on Lancashire Combined Fire Authority's contact with him or her, will be recorded and notified to those who need to know within the CFA.

6. Review

The status of the complainant who is judged to be unreasonably persistent or vexatious will be reviewed by the Clerk and the Chief Fire Officer after twelve months and at the end of every subsequently twelve months within the period during which the policy is to apply and reported annually to the CFA.

The complainant will be informed of the result of this review if the decision to apply this policy has been changed.

7. Record Keeping

The responsibility for maintaining any time tabling records to trigger reviews will be that of the Clerk. The Clerk will retain adequate records of the details of the case and the action that has been taken. Records will be kept of:

- The name and address of each member of the public who is treated as abusive, vexatious or persistent, or any other person who so aids the complainant;
- When the restriction came into force ends;
- What the restrictions are;
- When the person and the CFA were advised.

The CFA will be provided with an annual report giving information about members of the public who have been treated vexatious/persistent as per this policy, and advised of individuals when those individuals have been declared vexatious.

8. Application and Responsibility

It is the responsibility of all staff to comply with this policy as directed by the Chief Fire Officer and guided by the Clerk.

9. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Clerk to ensure that it is appropriate, proportionate and effective to the needs of the Members, Officers and staff of the CFA.

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Member Champion Activity Report

Contact for further information – DCFO Steve Healey – Tel No: 01772 866801

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

This paper provides a report on the work of the Member Champions for the period up to June 2022.

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is requested to note and endorse the report and acknowledge the work of the respective Champions.

Information

The concept of Member Champions was introduced in December 2007 with a review of the roles in 2017.

The Authority appoints its Member Champions at its Annual Meeting in June and the current Member Champions are:

- Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan
- Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay
- Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Reports relating to the activity of the Member Champions are provided on a regular basis to the Authority.

During this period, all have undertaken their respective role in accordance with the defined terms of reference. Their activity to date is as follows:

Community Safety – Councillor Jean Rigby

Training from Lancashire Fire and Rescue (LFRS) has taken place to colleagues across Lancashire Constabulary and Health on the recognition of fire risk and referral pathway to issue a 999 ReUnite device. These links are effective in creating new opportunities and partnerships for LFRS to deliver the core prevention product of a Home Fire Safety Check (HFSC) to those who will benefit the most. The 999 ReUnite scheme is a collaboration between Police, Fire and Ambulance and involves each service issuing the most vulnerable with a wristband. The wristband uses near field communication (NFC) technology and, if scanned with a mobile device, it will display a name and mobile number for emergency contacts.

The National Fire Chiefs Council launched the 'Be Water Aware' campaign from the 25 April – 1 May and LFRS personnel across all areas supported this as part of the service wide Water Safety campaign. Water safety education sessions were delivered to young people in educational establishments and community groups across Lancashire and there was also a digital offering which was well attended. Areas also linked in with partners to share key safety messages for example in Lancaster, Operation Bankside provided a coordinated response between Lancaster Area Search and Rescue, Lancashire Police and LFRS around the key risk areas.

A number of the population of Lancashire will have a loss or lack of ability to smell, medically known as anosmia. This number will have risen due to a significant number of people experiencing ongoing smell impairment following Covid-19 infection. LFRS have teamed up with Cadent Gas to supply occupiers in receipt of a HFSC with a 'scratch and sniff' card that can help determine whether the smell of gas can still be detected. As many people are unaware that they have this condition, the use of the card allows them to identify it and put in place additional measures to detect a potentially catastrophic leak.

The month of Ramadan also occurred during this reporting period and there were many risk reduction activities undertaken across the county. One example was the launch of the safety during Ramadan campaign for Preston and Lancashire with the Preston Muslim forum. Topics included safe cooking, safety in the home, the hazards of loose clothing and road safety.



This photograph shows members of the Preston Muslim forum alongside LFRS personnel

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Councillor Zamir Khan

Work is underway to ascertain how the Service could use equality, diversity and inclusion data to better shape and influence Prevention and Protection deliverables and scope out performance indicators that could be factored into local District Plans via Community Protection Managers.

Through 'Adjust', "*Lunch and Learn Sessions*" have been scheduled on Neurodiversity for all staff. Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no 'right way' of thinking, learning, and behaving, and differences are not viewed as deficits but celebrated. The aim of the training is to provide a clear, practical and positive understanding of neurodiversity.

Pride events are returning this summer and are the perfect opportunity to celebrate LGBTQ+ culture, history, and identity. As an inclusive organisation, we are proud to promote tolerance, compassion and inclusivity and this year will be using our LGBTQ+ liveried appliance at the Pride events.

A meeting had taken place with the Lancashire Council of Mosques where an open discussion took place on how they could support us to develop inclusive policies for both communities and staff, and work in tandem to communicate effectively with congregations to overcome any perceived barriers to recruitment.

Health and Wellbeing – County Councillor Andrea Kay

To mark the fourth anniversary of the introduction of Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) into Service, eight colleagues have attended a two-day TRiM Practitioner course with an external provider to be able to support colleagues, as TRiM Practitioners, following traumatic events. This new team of TRiM Practitioners will also be undertaking awareness sessions across the Service to further embed awareness of TRiM and the other health and wellbeing resources available to colleagues.

We are continuing to work collaboratively with the Fire Fighters Charity and have scheduled a programme of short workshops in a variety of health and wellbeing topics, to be delivered by the Charity via MS Teams. These workshops form part of our work to bring elements of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan to life, as well as addressing some ideas explored by the Ageing Workforce Task & Finish Group. Topics include Nutrition and Healthy Eating, Musculoskeletal Injury Prevention, Improving Sleep, Managing Stress, Positive Relationships and Nature Connectedness.

Climate Change and Environment

In Quarter 1, Environmental Champions and Station Managers will be receiving the annual carbon emissions update for their stations. These are produced individually for each station and communicated annually, with the main purpose of allowing stations to see whether their gas, electric, water and vehicle fuel use has increased or decreased from previous years. Stations are encouraged to contemplate potential reasons behind the changes and consider what actions might result in reductions in carbon emissions going forwards. Also detailed on each spreadsheet is a comparison to other stations, giving a number (or ranking) of how much gas, electric and water is used. Included in the communication is advice on ways to reduce carbon emissions locally. Station Managers and Environmental Champions are encouraged to share all this information with their colleagues.

In April, 'Stop Food Waste Day' was promoted via the Routine Bulletin and in May, 'Water Saving Week'. Additionally, 'National Walking Month' (May) and 'Clean Air Day' (June) have been highlighted to Environmental Champions should they wish to promote locally.

Road Safety – County Councillor Ron Woollam

Wasted Lives is a Road Safety package aimed at pre – drivers in Years 10 and 11. The updated packages have been well received and the assembly format is proving to be the most popular by far. Prevention personnel are continuing to run the virtual delivery as an option. To date around 3000 students have participated in a Wasted Lives session run by Lancashire Fire and Rescue (LFRS) this year.

Road Sense is a Year 6 Road Safety Education Package delivered by LFRS. Delivery is progressing well and to date over 11,500 pupils have received the package. Feedback from teachers is very favourable, both towards the new version and delivery. A small number of schools are still requesting virtual delivery which is facilitated by the Prevention Support Team and delivered to individual schools to ensure the session is still fully interactive. The aim of LFRS is to deliver to all year 6 groups in Lancashire for this academic year.

Biker Down continues to be very popular and LFRS ran four courses in April to coincide with National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) 'Motorcycle Action Month'. There was increased social media campaign activity during the second week of April as this was the main week of action. The post reach was 56,417 throughout the campaign. The NFCC theme was to encourage motorcyclists to sign up for Biker Down, so more course dates facilitated by LFRS were released on social media to facilitate this; all were booked within 24 hours of going live. Since January, over 200 motorcyclists have attended a course and received a first aid kit that was purchased with the Road Safety Champion budget.

LFRS continues to work as a partner within the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP). The West Yorkshire Road Safety Partnership has recently undertaken a peer review of the LRSP. The significant contribution that LFRS makes to road safety education was recognised and will continue to contribute to making the partnership stronger.

Financial Implications

Activities are within budget.

Business Risk Implications

Whilst no formal obligation is placed on the Authority to have Champions, effective utilisation of such roles offers a number of benefits.

Environmental Impact

The Member Champion role provides leadership on environmental issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to protecting the environment.

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Member Champion role provides leadership on equality and diversity issues and assists in engaging Authority members in strategic objectives relating to equality and diversity.

Human Resource Implications

Some Member and Officer time commitments.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate:

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Fire Protection Report

Contact for further information: Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jon Charters
Tel: 01772 866802

Executive Summary

This report summarises Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) prosecutions pertaining to fire safety offences, in addition to convictions resulting from arson incidents which have been progressed via the criminal justice process.

Given the rapidly evolving regulatory change in building fire safety, an update on Fire Protection and Business Support is also provided, detailing how the Service is adapting delivery whilst developing our workforce, to ensure that we keep pace with the changes and improve public and firefighter safety within the built environment.

Recommendation

The Authority is asked to note the report.

FIRE SAFETY CONVICTIONS

Prosecutions

A plea hearing was heard at Preston Crown Court on the 11 April 2022 for a case involving a mixed used premises, used for both commercial and sleeping purposes, with inadequate fire safety measures.

The case is set for trial at Preston Crown Court on the week commencing the 5 October 2022.

Protection teams continue to investigate and build files in relation to twelve further cases wherein offences are believed to have been committed under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, involving the following types of premises:

- Commercial Car Breakers
- Care & Nursing Home
- Licensed Public House / Bar x2
- Mixed commercial and Residential (Takeaway with Sleeping above) x3
- Residential Flats
- House in Multiple Occupation (Student Accommodation)
- House in Multiple Occupation (Specialised Housing)
- House in Multiple Occupation x2

FIRE PROTECTION & BUSINESS SUPPORT INFORMATION

Business Fire Safety Checks (BFSC)

The BFSC roll-out schedule remains on track with a significant number of wholetime stations now live and undertaking the BFSC as part of business engagement activities. The planned training will conclude in early August to allow for catch up sessions and to ensure newly appointed Firefighters are adequately trained. At this point all wholetime stations will be undertaking BFSC as part of their normal business activities.

We recently showcased our BFSC product to other Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) via NFCC, resulting in several subsequent follow-up requests and the provision of support to enable those FRS to develop their own BFSC approaches.

Legislation Changes Update

On 18 May 2022 the Minister of State for Building Safety and Fire announced two key changes to fire safety legislation. The improvements continue to build on the package of changes introduced following the Grenfell Tower fire and findings from the independent inspection reports.

The changes include the commencement of the Fire Safety Act 2021 which will make sure all blocks of flats are properly assessed for fire safety risks (including external wall systems and fire doors) and the Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 which will help ensure people feel safe in their homes.

The Fire Safety Act 2021 (Now in force) - *Applies to new and existing buildings.*

The Act, which received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021 and commenced on 16 May 2022, clarifies that responsible persons (RPs) for multi-occupied residential buildings must manage and reduce the risk of fire for the structure and external walls of the building, including cladding, balconies and windows, and entrance doors to individual flats that open into common parts. The Act clarifies that where a building contains 2 or more sets of domestic premises, the Fire Safety Order applies to:

- the building's structure and external walls (including windows, balconies, cladding, insulation and fixings) and any common parts
- all doors between domestic premises and common parts such as flat entrance doors (or any other relevant door)

Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool - *Applies to existing buildings.*

The Protection Policy Reform Unit has supported the Home Office Task and Finish Group in the production of a new Fire Risk Assessment Prioritisation Tool (FRAPT). The online tool is designed to help Responsible Persons to understand the degree of urgency to have their External Wall Systems assessed. The tool is necessary as the commencement of the act could see all Responsible Persons for multi-occupied premises purchasing external wall system (EWS) assessments. This has the

potential to overwhelm the capability to provide this service nationally and in most cases would be over-provision as the first part of any EWS assessment is the need to consider whether one is needed at all.

Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 (Coming into force January 2023) - Applies to new and existing buildings.

The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 are being introduced as an important step towards implementing the recommendations of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. The Regulations are being introduced under Article 24 of the Fire Safety Order and will come into force on 23 January 2023 although most of the requirements will require the responsible person (RP) to plan and prepare ahead of the Regulations coming in.

The requirements vary:

- some provisions apply regardless of height
- additional provisions are needed once a building reaches 11m
- more are introduced when a building reaches 18m or 7 storeys (or more)

For all multi-occupied residential buildings, of 2 or more sets of domestic premises, residents must be provided with:

- Instructions on how to report a fire and what to do once a fire has occurred.
- Information emphasising the importance of fire doors.

For multi-occupied residential buildings over 11 metres in height - the above plus:

- Annual and quarterly fire door checks: The RP must undertake best endeavours to carry out annual checks of flat entrance doors. The RP must undertake quarterly checks of all fire doors in the common parts.

For High-rise residential buildings (over 18m or 7 storeys or more) – the above plus:

- Building Plans: The RP must provide FRS with up-to-date building floor plans by electronic means and place a hard copy, alongside a single page building plan which identifies key firefighting equipment, in a secure information box on site.
- External Wall Systems: The RP must provide FRS information about the design and materials of a high-rise building's external wall system and to inform the FRS of any material changes to these walls. Also, they will be required to provide information in relation to the level of risk that the design and materials of the external wall structure gives rise to and any mitigating steps taken.
- Lifts and other Key Fire-Fighting Equipment: The RP must undertake monthly checks on the operation of lifts intended for use by firefighters, and evacuation lifts in their building and check the functionality of other key pieces of firefighting equipment. The RP must report any defective lifts or equipment to FRS as soon as possible after detection if the fault cannot be fixed within 24 hours, and to record the outcome of checks and make them available to residents.
- Secure Information Boxes: The RP must install and maintain a secure information box in their building. This box must contain the name and contact details of the RP and hard copies of the building floor plans.

- Wayfinding Signage: The RP must install signage visible in low light or smoky conditions that identifies flat and floor numbers in stairwells

Amendments to Residential Building Regulations (take effect 01 Dec 2022)
Applies to New High and Medium Rise Residential Buildings

From December 2022 all new residential buildings:

- over 11m will have to include a Secure Information Box
- over 18m will also have to incorporate an Evacuation Alert System

The Building Regulation changes also include:

- A complete ban on Metal Composite Material panels with unmodified polyethylene core, known as MCM PE, on all new buildings at any height.
- Expanding the ban on the use of combustible materials in and on the external walls of new blocks of flats, hospitals, student accommodation and dormitories in boarding schools over 18m to also include new hotels, hostels and boarding houses of this height.
- Further restricting the combustibility of materials used in and on the external walls of residential buildings, between 11-18m in height.

Next Steps – Supporting Residential Premises and internal process change

Most larger premises affected by the changes have previously been written to by the Service, keeping them informed of anticipated developments. Ongoing communication and website development will now build upon this.

Fire Safety audit processes will be modified to incorporate the new Fire Safety Act requirements and Regulations (the latter in greater detail as more guidance emerges). Operational pre-planning will be refined to include use of Secure Information Boxes and digital information exchange.

ARSON RISK REDUCTION

R v Christopher BENNETT

Queen Victoria Road, Burnley

INCIDENT – 2103005209

Date and Time of call – 17/03/2021, 15:40

This incident involved the deliberate ignition of waste materials stored in the bin compound of a property undergoing renovation. Five people were working inside the property at the time of the incident. The fire caused severe damage to a small section of the roof and heavy smoke logging to the property.

The defendant pleaded guilty to arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered and received a prison sentence of 3 years.

R v Terence HAVENS

Skipton Road/Bath Street, Colne

INCIDENT – 2107005932

Date and Time of call – 16/07/2021, 22:20

This incident involved a deliberate fire in a terraced house. The fire was accelerated by an ignitable liquid. The defendant was an occupant of the property which was also occupied by three other adults who managed to self-evacuate.

The fire caused severe damage to the kitchen and living room structure and contents, moderate smoke damage to the ground floor bedroom, first floor bathroom and 3 bedrooms, minor smoke damage to basement.

The defendant pleaded guilty to arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered and received a prison sentence of 8 years and 4 months

R v Montell CHINNO

Sandyforth Avenue, Thornton, Cleveleys

INCIDENT – 2008011112

Date and Time of call – 31/08/2020, 21:49

This incident involved the deliberate ignition of curtains in the kitchen of a semi-detached house by the occupier. The fire, which caused smoke logging throughout the property, was noticed by the neighbour who alerted the fire service.

The defendant was sentenced to a 24-month community order.

R v Anthony BENSON

St James Street Burnley

INCIDENT – 2205006000

Date and Time of call – 16/05/2022, 19:13

This incident involved a hair salon. The owner entered and found smoke inside. On arrival fire crews found fire damage to the underneath of a sink unit and a hole in the wall where the waste from the kitchen sink exited. The fire was caused by the application of a naked flame to a combustible item that had been inserted into the hole.

Given the lack of prior convictions, the defendant was given a Conditional Caution and ordered to pay the owner of the business £100 in damages.

Business Risk

Moderate – Members are made aware of prosecutions related to fire safety activity and/or arson within Lancashire 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 2 if appropriate:

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Meeting to be held on 27 June 2022

Operational Incidents of Interest

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Jon Charters, Director of Service Delivery
Tel: 01772 866801

Executive summary and recommendations

Executive Summary

The report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of note since the last report to the Authority.

Recommendation(s)

The Authority is asked to note the report.

Information

The report provides Members with information relating to operational incidents of note over the period from 1 April 2022 – 31 May 2022.

The following summarises the incidents with further detail provided over the following pages:

- Fire in Great Harwood involving 700 pallets
- Fatal house fire in Preston
- 6 fire engines attend a fire in a commercial unit in Burnley
- One person rescued from Blackburn house fire
- 10 fire engines attend fire at Recycling Lives, Preston
- Assistance to a high-profile missing person incident in Gisburn Forest
- 6 fire engines attend a recycling waste fire in Blackburn
- Fatal Road Traffic Collision (RTC) involving a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) in Altham
- Several large deliberate building fires within Preston City Centre
- Building explosion in Skelmersdale.

District council area:	Hyndburn
LFRS area:	E72 Great Harwood
Date:	3/4/2022
Time:	14:34

One fire engine from Hyndburn was mobilised to a report of a fire in the open on Balfour Street in Great Harwood. Following footage on the 999-EYE system, which has the ability for a caller to send video footage of the incident to Northwest Fire Control, a further 2 fire engines were mobilised from Hyndburn and Blackburn. The fire involved approximately 700 wooden pallets which was spreading to a building.

A further 3 fire engines were requested from Darwen, Burnley and Blackburn, along with an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) from Hyndburn, supported by 2 flexible duty officers. The water bowser was also requested from Leyland.

Several firefighting water jets were utilised and the fire service was in attendance for 19 hours. The drone team was used to identify pockets of smouldering debris.

The cause of the fire is believed to have been deliberate.

District council area:	Preston
LFRS area:	C50 Preston
Date:	8/4/2022
Time:	19:52

Three fire engines from Preston and Penwortham were sent to a house fire on Coronation Crescent, where it was reported an adult female could be seen at an upstairs window.

The first 2 fire engines arrived within 4 minutes of the initial call. A further fire engine was requested along with an Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP). A female adult had already self-rescued from a first-floor window, with reports of 2 children still within the property.

Firefighters in breathing apparatus and firefighting water jets entered the property to extinguish the severe fire within and carry out the rescues. The 2 children were quickly located and brought outside to awaiting paramedics. Firefighters assisted paramedics with CPR and drove the ambulance to allow for the medics to perform life-saving treatment in the back of the ambulance.

LFRS was in attendance for approximately 20 hours, damping down and carrying out an investigation into the cause.

Tragically, the 2 children rescued died in hospital, several days later. The cause of the fire is still part of an ongoing police investigation.

District council area:	Burnley
LFRS area:	P90 Burnley
Date:	12/4/2022
Time:	17:44

Six fire engines from Burnley, Nelson, Bacup, Rawtenstall, and Colne, an ALP from Hyndburn and the air support unit attended a commercial building fire on Talbot Street in Burnley. Firefighters used five firefighting water jets to bring the fire under control. Local residents were warned to keep windows and doors closed to avoid any smoke.

The building involved was a 20m x 30m unit, of timber construction. The entire building was destroyed by fire. Several other properties were affected by the heat and flames.

LFRS was in attendance for 11 hours, bringing the fire under control and assisting with the investigation. The fire is believed to have been deliberate and 2 people were subsequently arrested.

District council area:	Blackburn with Darwen
LFRS area:	E71 Blackburn
Date:	19/4/2022
Time:	09:59

Three fire engines from Blackburn and Darwen, along with a flexible duty officer were sent to reports of a house fire with people trapped in Shakespeare Way. On arrival of the fire service, the house was well alight, with reports of 2 people inside. A request for a fourth fire engine was made, which came from Hyndburn.

Four firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the property with firefighting water jets. The only person within the property was quickly rescued and flown via air ambulance to hospital and the casualty has since made a full recovery. Approximately 20 cats and one dog were also rescued from the property.

Fire crews were in attendance for 6 hours and the cause of the fire was recorded as accidental.

District council area:	Preston
LFRS area:	C50 Preston
Date:	23/4/2022
Time:	12:23

A call was received to a fire at Recycling Lives in Preston and 4 fire engines were initially mobilised. A further 6 fire engines were requested, along with a stinger, ALP, foam unit and incident command unit.

The fire involved approximately 20 tonnes of scrap metal and excavator machinery. Site staff assisted by creating fire breaks with plant machinery whilst firefighters applied water and foam onto the fire. The drone team were utilised to monitor hotspots and to prevent any hidden fire spread within the scrap material.

Water run off was managed in conjunction with United Utilities, the environment agency and a LFRS Hazardous Materials Officer. Fire crews were in attendance for over 24 hours and the cause of the fire was recorded as accidental ignition.

Following the incident, the site has agreed to purchase a 1 million litre water tank which will assist LFRS with water supplies and reduce any potential impacts on surrounding premises in the event of another incident.

District council area:	Ribble Valley
LFRS area:	E91 Clitheroe
Date:	24/4/2022
Time:	17:12

LFRS Duty National Inter Agency Liaison Officer (NILO) was contacted by Lancashire Police, with a request for assistance to locate a missing person within Gisburn Forest.

LFRS is the only fire service in the country to have victim recovery (VR)/cadaver dogs, which are trained to detect deceased persons. The VR dog along with the LFRS drone were mobilised to the scene. Later that evening a further request was made for swift water rescue teams to search a pond for any signs of the person or evidence relating to the case.

LFRS had a NILO, VR dog and other resources at the scene for 6 consecutive days. The collaboration between LFRS and Lancashire Constabulary was highly effective with an excellent working relationship evident.

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from Bamber Bridge and Chorley also assisted, joining in with police teams during line searches for evidence. It is rare for LFRS staff to be so closely involved in a scene such as this, showing the trust and confidence that exists between LFRS and Lancashire Police. Each member of the team received a letter of thanks from the Chief Constable.

District council area:	Blackburn with Darwen
LFRS area:	E71 Blackburn
Date:	27/4/2022
Time:	16:23

Six fire engines from Blackburn, Burnley, Hyndburn, Darwen, and Preston, together with an ALP from Hyndburn and a stinger appliance from Blackburn, attended a commercial building fire on Croft Head Road, Blackburn.

The incident involved a quantity of recyclable waste inside a building approximately 30x50m in size. Firefighters used two breathing apparatus, firefighting water jets and a positive pressure ventilation unit to extinguish the fire.

Crews remained in attendance for over two hours. The cause of the fire is believed to be accidental.

District council area:	Burnley
LFRS area:	P92 Padiham
Date:	6/5/2022
Time:	12:35

Following reports of an RTC involving a HGV at Higher Shuttleworth, Altham, 2 fire engines from Burnley and Hyndburn were mobilised along with a flexible duty officer.

On arrival crews found the driver unconscious after the HGV had left the carriageway and hit several trees. Fire crews made the scene safe and used cutting equipment to free the casualty from the cab.

The attending medics declared this a fatal incident and the police locked down the scene for investigations. Fire crews were requested to reattend the incident so that they could release the deceased to the care of the undertaker. LFRS was in attendance for approximately 5 hours.

District council area:	Preston
LFRS area:	C50 Preston

There has been ongoing work between LFRS and Preston City Council for over 12 months, in relation to empty properties being broken into and used for rough sleeping and other activities. This has involved the crews from Preston carrying out arson vulnerability assessments at the known buildings in the city. However, there have been a number of fires within empty properties, requiring large resource deployments.

Most recently there have been fires impacting the city centre, posing significant challenges to the infrastructure and economy of Preston.

13/5/2022 at 19:48 Mount St Hospital, Preston

A building fire was attended by 8 fire engines and 2 ALPs from across the county. Firefighters utilised firefighting water jets and the high-volume monitors from the ALPs. Due to risk information in place for the premises, it was deemed too dangerous in some areas to fight the fire internally. LFRS resources were in attendance for over 24 hours.

The cause of the fire was recorded as deliberate ignition, but no suspects have been identified.

Multiple calls to Fishwick Golf Club

The derelict golf club has had 3 fires started within the empty club house during May. Council staff have been informed who are pursuing enforcement with the owners to secure the premises. The security of the building prior to demolition is being addressed by a multi-agency approach involving LFRS, police and council officials.

14/5/2022 at 13:08 Former Evoke Nightclub on Church Street

Four fire engines and a flexible duty officer were sent to an empty cinema building above the former nightclub. A large fire was discovered on the 3rd floor, which was tackled by 6 firefighters wearing breathing apparatus, utilising firefighting water jets. The fire service dog also searched the building due to the history of rough sleeping and youths entering the premises. Fire crews were in attendance for over 4 hours. The fire was recorded as deliberate ignition.

19/5/2022 at 18:43 Former Evoke Nightclub on Church Street

12 fire engines, 2 ALPs, drone team and an incident command unit attended a second fire in the space of the week at this premises.

A substantial fire had started in the former cinema, which spread into the nightclub. Such was the ferocity of the fire that the roof collapsed above the main dance floor making internal firefighting too dangerous. Water jets were fixed in place within the

building and water monitors from the aerial platforms were utilised to fight the fire and protect surrounding buildings from above.

The incident was dealt with by a multi-agency approach, with police and city council staff at the scene. As a result of the fire a cordon was put in place restricting vehicles and pedestrians to this section of Church Street and the surrounding area. This meant a number of businesses were forced to close and residential buildings within the cordon evacuated, with approximately 30 people in need of temporary accommodation.

Youths were witnessed on the roofs of the premises with reports of them still being inside the building. Police were able to quickly apprehend the youths and ascertain that they were all accounted for. Due to there being evidence of rough sleepers, the fire search dog covered the areas where it was safe to manoeuvre within the building.

LFRS protection staff were in the city centre the following morning to provide businesses with safety advice and reassurance.

Fire service resources were on scene for 4 days. The cause of the fire was recorded as deliberate ignition.

Post fire activity:

A letter was sent to all Preston schools warning of the dangers of exploring within empty buildings. A multi-agency approach has been adopted in relation to reducing the risks. This has involved all agencies identifying buildings that they are aware of and rating this on risk in relation to likelihood and severity. Those at greatest risk will be regularly audited by council staff, ensuring that they remain secure.

LFRS staff have also carried out visits to the buildings to report security issues and record information relevant to attending crews in the event of fire.

District council area:	West Lancashire
LFRS area:	S56 Skelmersdale
Date:	17/5/2022
Time:	18:06

Crews were mobilised to reports of a building explosion on Tanfields in Skelmersdale. The attendance was increased by 3 fire engines from Greater Manchester FRS, 2 fire engines, USAR and the drone team from LFRS.

An explosion had caused serious structural damage to a 3-storey flat, with several resultant casualties from those present in the premises at the time of the blast. None of these had serious injuries.

USAR staff carried out structural monitoring and created a search plan, whilst the drone team carried out aerial reconnaissance. The LFRS search dogs also attended to search for anybody that may have been trapped under the rubble.

The investigations with LFRS and Cadent identified that the explosion was not caused by the main supply. Fire service resources were at the scene for 2 days and

Police investigations into the incident are continuing. Two people have been arrested in connection with the blast.

Business Risk

There is an increased risk of fire in unsecure commercial premises and potential for disruption to local business.

Environmental Impact

Potential impact on local environment in relation to operational incidents. Significant incidents benefit from the attendance of specialist water tower resources (Stingers) which make a positive impact on firefighting operations and ultimately reduce the environmental impact.

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 2 if appropriate: N/A

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