

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Meeting to be held on 18 September 2017

NOTES OF STRATEGY GROUP HELD ON MONDAY, 26 JUNE 2017

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

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

Recommendation

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

PRESENT:

Councillors

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

Information

1 **EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW**

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

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

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

2 NATIONAL STRUCTURES

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

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

3 ELECTRONIC ACCESS TO COMMITTEE PAPERS

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

4 RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT - CURRENT AND FUTURE INITIATIVES

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

Business Risk

None

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

HR Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

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

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

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA