

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY**

Meeting to be held on 18 December 2017

### **PROCEEDINGS OF PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 27 NOVEMBER 2017 INCLUDING EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW 2017 (Appendices 1 and 2 refer)**

Contact for further information:

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#### **Executive Summary**

The Authority is required to review emergency cover arrangements on a periodic basis to ensure that response provision remains efficient and effective. This Emergency Cover Review (ECR) and the subsequent consultation were aimed to contend with these requirements and provide the means for proposals for change to be influenced dependent upon the feedback obtained.

All Fire and Rescue Services are accountable to their communities for their actions and decision making, and processes must be in place to provide the opportunity for such communities to influence their local service. When deciding the extent of consultation the guiding principle is that any person or organisation that may have a legitimate interest in the proposals under consideration, or who may be affected by those proposals, should have the opportunity to express their views.

At the Authority's Planning Committee meeting on 27 November 2017, Members considered the outcomes of the ECR 2017 consultation. Members duly determined that the consultation had been adequate in scale and scope and made final recommendations for consideration by the full Authority. Further details are provided below.

#### **Recommendation**

To note the proceedings of the Planning Committee meeting (as set out at Appendix 1) and approve the Emergency Cover Review proposals (as set out at Appendix 2) as now presented:

1. A no change ECR in relation to LFRS's 58 Fire appliances and the associated crewing arrangements;
2. Pre-alerting as a policy position, including the commissioning of further work to identify the potential benefits of a Dynamic Cover Tool;
3. The principle that Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service extends its collaborative response arrangements.

#### **Information**

At the Authority meeting held 17 July 2017 Members endorsed the publication of the ECR proposals for consultation over a twelve week period from 19<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> October.

The report supported a no change ECR proposal in terms of our fire appliances, specials appliances and associated crewing arrangements. Additional recommendations that supported changes to our mobilising practices in terms of reducing the levels of Unwanted Fire Signals, increasing the speed of response through pre-alerting methods, reviewing

Dynamic Cover Tool software and the potential to uplift emergency response levels through further collaboration arrangements with partners were also presented for consideration.

The following was agreed:

1. That a no change ECR in relation to LFRS's 58 Fire appliances and the associated crewing arrangements was approved for consultation;
2. That the revised response to Automatic Fire Alarms / Unwanted Fire Signals was to be removed from the ECR consultation;
3. That pre-alerting as a policy position was approved for consultation, including the commissioning of further work to identify the potential benefits of a Dynamic Cover Tool.
4. That the principle that LFRS extends its collaborative response arrangements was approved for consultation;
5. To undertake a 12-week consultation commencing 19 July 2017 – 10 October 2017.

Consultation commenced on 19 July 2017 and ran for a twelve week period ending on 10 October 2017. Opinion on the proposals within the ECR was sought from a wide range of stakeholders digitally, with proposals cascaded through our website, social media and via email and letters.

During the consultation period the views of stakeholders were sought with the opportunity provided to consider the ECR proposals and to express an opinion on the changes. The majority of communication was done via email with a hyperlink provided to facilitate ease of access to the document and to reduce publication and postal costs. Links to the document were placed on the Service's external website and further communication was undertaken via letter with consultation going out to appropriate parties when no email address was available. Hard copies of the document were available upon request however no requests were received. All staff were invited to comment on the ECR through internal communication channels and staff representative bodies were advised of the consultation exercise. Public consultation was undertaken via the website and through our social media platforms Facebook and Twitter.

A total of 12 responses were received from the following:

- 3 from Fire & Rescue Services;
- 9 from elected representatives and/or other organisations.

One response that was received on the closing date of the official consultation period was considered to warrant an extension so that further clarity surrounding the proposals could be provided. An extension of one week was afforded

### **Summary of Responses**

All submissions were considered in full by the Planning Committee. The majority of responses only required a customary acknowledgement as they contained standard comments without question. Many respondents welcomed the proposals with full support provided alongside gratitude of the work undertaken by the Service and its staff.

Responses from neighbouring Fire and Rescue Service's included support in the sharing of information to adopt the pre-alerting policy, agreement in the sensibility of the proposals and interest in the outcomes of the work undertaken to identify the potential benefits of a Dynamic Cover Tool.

Many responses from local and parish councils highlighted their full commitment to support community safety and welcomed such proposals to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, particularly when considering the challenging financial conditions experienced across the public sector.

Agreement was given that the adoption of a pre-alerting policy within LFRS would assist in making effective use of limited resources, whilst having a positive impact on response times to emergency incidents.

The exploration of further collaboration opportunities with other emergency services was deemed to be a sensible development with potential benefits to both emergency service organisations and the general public.

### **Next Steps**

Following CFA sanction, work will be undertaken to progress the agreed proposals to ensure that as a Service we remain as efficient and effective as possible, whilst continuing to provide the most appropriate level of response to the communities of Lancashire.

### **Financials**

Negligible.

### **Business Risk**

Very High - The ECR 2017 provides important proposals in order to improve our service and continue to reduce risk to the communities of Lancashire, the proposals form an integral part of wider planning arrangements.

### **Environmental Impact**

None

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

The proposals were available in a variety of minority languages and/or formats on request.

### **HR Implications**

None

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

#### **List of Background Papers**

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