

## LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 25 November 2019, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

### MINUTES

#### PRESENT:

##### Councillors

M Parkinson OBE (Chairman)  
I Brown  
F De Molfetta (for S Blackburn)  
J Eaton  
N Hennessy (for F Jackson)  
H Khan  
M Khan OBE  
T Martin  
D O'Toole  
J Shedwick

##### Officers

D Russel, Deputy Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)  
B Norman, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)  
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)

##### In attendance

K Wilkie, FBU  
T Cogley, FBU

#### 8/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Blackburn and Fred Jackson.

#### 9/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

#### 10/19 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

County Councillor O'Toole suggested and it was agreed that a Police representative be invited to a future Strategy Group meeting to discuss the joint benefits of collaboration initiatives.

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11/19 HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) UPDATE

ACFO Norman presented the report. In 2017 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) remit for inspecting all Police Forces in England, was extended by the Home Secretary to also include independently inspecting all 45 Fire and Rescue Services in England. They would become Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the 45 English Fire Services would all be inspected over a two year period.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was inspected in July 2018, in the first tranche of inspections and subsequently our HMICFRS report was publicised in December 2018.

The report highlighted our areas of best practice and we didn't receive any formal areas for improvement. The report did however guide us to consider the following three areas:

- The service should ensure that it has allocated sufficient resources to a prioritised and risk-based inspection programme.
- The service should assure itself that it is making the most of collaboration opportunities and that they provide value for money.
- The service should put in place an open and fair process to identify, develop and support high potential staff and aspiring leaders.

LFRS continued to evaluate these areas and was working towards the initial action plan for delivering and measuring our improvements against them. To ensure the delivery of these improvements, they reported to Corporate Programme Board for monitoring and scrutiny.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that each of the areas in the action plan were time bound. Some actions had concluded, some were ongoing and more were added as required ie: from lessons learned. He advised that other Fire Services were adopting Lancashire's Risk Based Inspection Programme and that he would provide a short presentation to the next meeting.

LFRS was currently required to undertake quarterly data set returns for the HMICFRS. This involved providing the HMICFRS data teams with an array of information, ranging from overtime costings to fire engine availability. This would be an on-going requirement to assist the HMICFRS in determining the efficiency and effectiveness of the service. It also provided a platform for making national comparisons.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy regarding access to the detail in the data set returns, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the data read well and it was used by the HMICFRS to justify the inspection outcomes. It was noted that not all Members wanted a detailed report. It was therefore agreed that a summary overview with sufficient detail to reassure Members of the accuracy of the data be provided to a future meeting of the Committee under part 2 of the agenda.

The inspectorate has taken the opportunity to seek feedback from the sector following the first series of inspections. Whilst the related briefing sessions strongly indicated that the core areas of effectiveness, efficiency and people would remain steadfast there was opportunity to support the next phase of inspections. LFRS was taking the opportunity to shape the detail of future data returns and inspection areas of focus through the consultation process that would conclude at the end of November 2019.

Members noted that tranche two inspections concluded with reports being published in June 2019. Tranche three inspections had all been completed and reports for this final group of fire and Rescue Services were expected in December 2019.

Lancashire Fire and Rescue remained the only Service in both tranches 1 and 2 graded as at least 'good' against every sub-diagnostic and an 'outstanding' grade in one.

Once the results from tranche three had been publicised it was anticipated a 'State of Fire and Rescue' report would also be issued by Sir Thomas Winsor, who would summarise the national findings from within the sector. This report was now anticipated to be published in early 2020.

County Councillor Shedwick commented that the report showed that the HMICFRS guided the Service to ensure it had sufficient resources; it was making the most of collaboration opportunities that were value for money and that it could develop aspiring leaders together with the request of data to HMICFRS. This highlighted the added responsibility placed on the Service Management Team which was appreciated.

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

## 12/19 BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION AND EXISTING SITE SHARING ARRANGEMENTS

ACFO Norman presented the report. The Blue Light Collaboration programme was now embedded into both Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services' corporate programme. Work was continuing to provide an attendee from North West Ambulance Service, so that all 3 Blue Light services under the duty to collaborate were represented.

From the original 32 ideas recommended, several had been closed after initial scoping from both organisations. They had closed on the basis that there were no tangible benefits for either organisation or the public, or it was not the right time for the organisations to invest in it.

There were however, 14 opportunities still being looked into and advanced within this programme which included 4 projects: i) fire crime scene investigation accreditation; ii) missing persons phase '2'; iii) real time demand management; and iv) public order training site with the other 10 categorised as 'business as usual': i) recruitment activity for Police support staff to become On-Call Firefighters; ii) fuel BCP; iii) vehicle maintenance for LFRS flexi duty officer cars; iv) command unit incorporating JESIP principles; v) duty officer communication; vi) shared data, risk and analytical reporting; vii) joint communications activity; viii) LFRS relocation to Police HQ; ix) shared asset management; and x) second event drone.

In response to Member concerns regarding the recruitment of Police support staff to become on-call firefighters the Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that recruitment activity was in its infancy. There were some Fire and Rescue Services across the country that used Police Community Support Officers to provide an on-call firefighter service and it wasn't currently known whether this idea would have any traction in Lancashire. The intention was to see whether there were opportunities for Police staff to provide on-call capability in the same way as other large employers in Lancashire.

In response to a question from County Councillor Hennessy regarding communication with the Unions; the Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that he was the lead for formal consultation and negotiation in relation to any collaboration. He felt it was important to engage with appropriate bodies and would avoid a position where any change would be pushed through without consultation and agreement.

Mr Kevin Wilkie was invited to comment. Mr Wilkie stated that the FBU policy was they did not share anything with the Police (premises, uniforms or vehicles). He confirmed that the FBU were currently in talks regarding pay negotiations for work undertaken around missing persons and gaining entry. During the negotiations the status quo was being maintained; working together to make sure a quality service was delivered to the people of Lancashire.

Business as usual collaborations continued and allowed LFRS to see cost benefits. Lancashire FRS had recently added Lancashire Constabulary onto their Drone Insurance Policy. This had saved the Police a great deal of time in organising their own insurance and the additional cost of a bespoke policy. In turn, this had allowed Lancashire FRS to recover half of the cost of the policy from the Police. It had been calculated that the ongoing secondment of Police staff onto the Prince's Trust courses, had amounted to large savings over the last 16 years. This was equivalent to 32 members of staff over this period. Although there were currently no Police staff seconded to the teams, the agreement was still in place.

The governance of the collaboration boards had changed since the last update in the summer. The joint funded project support officer role had now come to the end of the 12 month contract and the post had now ceased. Conversations continued as to whether there would be a benefit to both organisations if the role was again funded for a further period. The Board chair had not changed from Group Manager Phil Jones; however the co-chair was now Chief Superintendent Ian Dawson, soon to be replaced by Superintendent Nicky Evans.

It was proposed that governance and scrutiny would continue in the format of a bi-annual meeting of the CFA and OPCC. Two representatives from each of the CFA and OPCC will attend these meetings, along with the strategic leads for each of LFRS (Assistant Chief Fire Officer) and Lancashire Constabulary (Deputy Chief Constable); these officers would provide the required strategic updates with support from operational leads as required.

Scrutiny of the Collaboration Board was in the form of a Quarterly Executive Collaboration Board, chaired by ACFO Norman and DCC Woods. Also in attendance were the collaboration leads GM Jones and Ch Supt Dawson. At the November 2019 meeting the work plan for 2020/21 was agreed and the Board commissioned further evaluation of the deliverables to date.

The early Blue Light Collaboration Programme Board work had been further shaped and defined into 3 key project management related documents according to status; these were Project Initiation Documents, Health Reports and Scoping Closure Reports. A change from the previous paper was the removal of the Highlight report and replacement with a Health Report. This was a joint decision, which would make updates easier, less demanding on resources and easier to track progress.

#### LFRS Site Share:

Currently the partner with the largest scale of site sharing collaborations and subsequent revenue cost related benefits was North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). Operational crews shared station facilities at Lancaster, Preston and Darwen fire stations. In addition to the above formal lease arrangements, there were licence arrangements at both Bolton-Le-Sands and Nelson fire stations whereby NWAS crews made use of the welfare facilities on an ad-hoc basis.

Site sharing arrangements with Lancashire Constabulary followed a similar format in that there were sites with formal lease arrangements, these being Preesall, St Annes and Skelmersdale. At these locations Police staff had hot desk office accommodation for circa 3-4 Officers and made use of the welfare facilities. At both Lytham and Great Harwood the welfare facilities and on-site parking facilities were utilised by Lancashire Constabulary staff on a drop in / ad-hoc basis.

Telecommunication masts were installed at South Shore, Barnoldswick, Skelmersdale and Service Training Centre sites with lease arrangements in place.

Licence arrangements were also in place for a number of site sharing practices with other organisations or charities. This included the use of station facilities for community engagement events, vehicle storage and multi-agency office facilities.

The arrangements with health related partners was the most significant with blood bikes currently being stored by LFRS at Morecambe, Blackpool, Burnley, Hyndburn and Penwortham. In addition to this LFRS supported the Blood Transfusion Service through the sharing of Hyndburn and Chorley sites for their blood donation sessions.

Multi-agency meeting rooms and office accommodation was provided at both Chorley and Nelson, these partnerships support the Local Authority (Chorley) Early Action project and also the Lancashire County Council Early Help provision (Nelson).

Partnerships that enhanced LFRS' operational response arrangements were supported in the format of vehicle and equipment stowage. This included the Salvation Army and Red Cross at Service Headquarters, Bay Search and Rescue at Bolton-Le-Sands and also supported for Operation Florian in the format of storage at Service Training Centre.

LFRS had a long standing relationship with the Prince's Trust charity and delivery of their Team Programme was hosted at 8 fire station locations. In addition a Team was based at Oakham Court in premises leased from Preston City Council.

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

#### 13/19 CONSULTATION STRATEGY

ACFO Norman presented the report. The Authority had a consultation strategy which provided a framework through which it could seek public opinion on major change issues.

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

The review concluded that the strategy continued to be legally compliant and in line with good practice.

County Councillor O'Toole queried whether the cost of any consultation was justified by the number of responses received given these had been poor in the past. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that although there had not been any consultation during the previous year the costs had been reduced with the move to a digital format via video and electronic publications on the website.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the consultation strategy.

#### 14/19 TOWER BLOCK FIRE IN STUDENT ACCOMMODATION IN BOLTON

Further to a recent tower block fire in student accommodation in Bolton, County Councillor Martin asked for clarification on the action taken by the Service on buildings with cladding that were not classed as high rise (ie: of 6 storeys or less). In response the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that all residential buildings of 6 storeys or above had been through a risk assessment.

The incident in Bolton raised questions regarding other types of building materials. The national fire chiefs council had issued guidance which had been sent out to all Universities or the third party responsible for the building. The Service was making itself available to go out again to give advice (although the fire investigation from Bolton had not yet concluded).

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that it was known that high pressure laminate cladding was used on the building in Bolton, which was used within Lancashire. He confirmed that following assessment of Lancashire buildings the Service was as prepared as possible. A dedicated team was being put together to focus on areas of vulnerability and to provide a more consistent approach.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

#### 15/19 LEARNING FROM WILDFIRES

County Councillor Hennessy had requested a presentation on learning from wildfires following a multi-agency event she had attended in July which was hosted by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services to other Fire and Rescue Services and partner agencies to raise awareness of UK wildfire prevention and response. This was a very well attended and enjoyable event. CC Hennessy personally learned a lot about wildfires, how they affected the weather and how they were monitored by satellite. As a Member of the Fire Authority she wanted to be reassured that the

Service was as prepared as possible for future climate incidents. She also proposed that the role of the Health & Wellbeing Champion be extended to incorporate Climate Change.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Service had been working hard to ensure that lessons identified from the Winter Hill major incident became lessons learned. Given the scale and scope of the incident the debrief process was a major task and included what went well, what didn't go well and what could be done differently in the future. Creating the right culture for staff to share was key to the process.

The Wildfire Learning Event in July was a platform for the Service to discuss and share notable practice which linked to the HMICFRS and the principle of innovation, evaluation and sharing within the Fire Sector. A broad range of topics were discussed: i) National Resilience; ii) National Fire Chiefs Council; iii) Winter Hill – A Lancashire Perspective; iv) Firewise UK; v) Wildfire Response and Prevention – A Northern Ireland Perspective; vi) International Wildfire Learning & Development – Pau Costa Foundation; vii) LFRS Wildfire Burn Team and demonstration; and viii) Climate Change Adaptation.

An Action Plan had been framed around 3 thematic areas; i) Wildfire pre-planning; ii) Wildfire response; and iii) Business Continuity Planning. An Area Manager chaired each of the Thematic Groups which reported into the Operational Assurance Group. Progress towards completion remained strong.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

#### 16/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members approved moving the next scheduled meeting from 16 March 2020 to 10 February 2020 at 1000 hours in the main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood. This would enable timely consideration of the Annual Service Plan.

Further meeting dates were noted for 13 July 2020 and agreed for 16 November 2020.

M NOLAN  
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ  
Fulwood