

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 30th November 2016

**OHSAS 18001 HEALTH & SAFETY AND ISO 14001 ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT AUDIT REPORTS**

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Executive Summary

In 2011 Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was successful in certification to ISO 14001 the International Standard for Environmental Management Systems and OHSAS 18001 the Health and Safety Management System standard. Each year surveillance audits are carried out to ensure that the standards continue to be adhered to and to ensure continuous improvements are made. Every three years LFRS has to apply for re-certification to maintain the standards.

Subject to the successful closure of two non-conformances, one for OHSAS 18001 Health and Safety and one for ISO 14001 Environmental both standards were recommended for continued certification. To achieve and maintain these standards at the same time clearly demonstrates that robust systems are in place for both Health and Safety and the Environment.

Recommendation

The Resources Committee is requested to note the report.

Background

OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 are international best practice standards for how organisations manage Health & Safety and the Environment. The specifications give requirements for an occupational health and safety / environmental management system, to enable an organisation to control its risks and improve performance.

Commencing the 14th November 2016 LFRS was audited to continue certification to the above standards. The Vehicle Certifying Agency (VCA) (part of the Department of Transport) was invited to carry out a surveillance audit in LFRS against the two standards following the initial certification achieved in 2011 and re-certification in 2014. The scope for both standards was '**The Provision of Fire, Rescue and Supporting Services across Lancashire**'. This included all operational activity with visits to five fire stations operating different duty systems and Service Training Centre together with a number of supporting departments including Safety, Health and Environment, Corporate Communications and Property.

Continued certification with conditions has been granted for both OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001. Two minor non-conformances, one for OHSAS 18001 Health and Safety and one for ISO 14001 Environment which both relate to Operational Controls for third parties operating on LFRS premises has been received. Following the successful closure of both non-conformances continued certification will be granted.

As part of the audit process, the auditors identified a number of positive aspects, including:

- “Good compliance to the systems in place has generally been demonstrated throughout the audit”
- “New format risk assessments are giving more information, focussed and effective as well as easy reading.”
- “LFRS have carried out a full and detailed review “Preparing Public for Own Emergencies” prompted by recent flooding events but clearly considering a much wider scope.”
- “A review of training was conducted with readily available records on PDR-Pro to demonstrate Firefighters are trained and maintained in these activities.”
- “Risk assessments and Environmental Risks were clearly understood at the station.”
- “It was very clear that Property records were readily available demonstrating a good understanding of the needs to apply controls and demonstrate this.”
- “A clear selection process is now in place and being rolled out to all contractors used by LFRS.”

As part of the audit, a number of additional areas for improvement were identified and it is intended that all these are developed into an ‘improvement action plan’ and taken forward through the Service’s Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group.

Business Risk

To be successful in certification to the International standards for health & safety and the environment, which can only be achieved through independent audits, clearly confirms that robust health & safety and environmental systems are in place thus reducing the risk to LFRS and the potential for prosecution.

Environmental Impact

The environmental impact throughout LFRS has reduced significantly with the introduction of the environmental management system. The audit report clearly demonstrates that LFRS environmental impact is reduced to its lowest level with clear identification of positive impact through community safety and operational environmental protection activity.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None identified.

Financial Implications

Costs included in SHE departmental budget.

Human Resource Implications

None identified.

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

Paper	Date	Contact
OHSAS 18001 Health & Safety and ISO 14001 Environmental Management Systems Assessment Audit Reports	13-02-12	Bob Warren, Director of Personnel and Development
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		