

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, 12 July 2021, at 10.00 am in the Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

G Mirfin (Chairman)
S Clarke (Vice-Chair)
M Dad
N Hennessy
F Jackson
D O'Toole
J Shedwick
J Singleton

Officers

B Norman, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
N Taylor, Acting Area Manager (LFRS)
S Collinson, Head of Media and Communications (LFRS)
J Ashton, Group Manager (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)

In attendance

K Wilkie, Fire Brigades Union

1-20/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jane Hugo and Tony Williams.

2-20/21 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

3-20/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 8 February 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4-20/21 DRAFT COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ben Norman presented the report. He advised that the National Framework issued by central government required the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) to create an Integrated Risk Management Plan. The

Framework provided specific guidance on several salient areas such as prevention and protection delivery and response arrangements. Furthermore, it detailed the requirement for Fire Authorities to draft, consult upon and publish their strategic intent in the format of an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which must span at least 3 years.

It was noted that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's (LFRS) IRMP was last published in April 2017 and covered the period of 5 years, hence it would end in March 2022. Members considered how the new IRMP had been drafted including the introduction of further best practice with regards to a Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAoR) and the proposals for consultation and further approvals by the Fire Authority.

It was also noted that the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) in June 2021 issued an IRMP best practice guidance document in the format of a Fire Standards Board publication. Therefore, the proposed LFRS IRMP document for the period 2022-27 had been developed to be fully compliant with this guidance; which included using the title of Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) as a replacement for IRMP to cascade a strategy that was more engaging and identifiable to the people of Lancashire.

The CRMP 2022-2027: -

- Highlighted Lancashire's risks;
- Explained how LFRS would manage and reduce fire and rescue related risk in Lancashire;
- Set out priorities and values;
- Set out ambitions against each priority and stated how we aimed to deliver these;
- Illustrated how we will measure and assure performance; and
- Identified key strategies.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that core deliverables would be scrutinised by the Performance Committee and the Planning Committee would receive an Annual Service Report at its next meeting. This report provided Members with an overview of progress against work detailed in the Annual Service Plan 2020/21.

Key changes within the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2027 were:

- This iteration of the 5-year risk management plan was called the 'Community Risk Management Plan' as opposed to the previous 'Integrated Risk Management Plan' which brought the Service in line with other Fire and Rescue Service's (FRS's) and national terminology;
- The CRMP aligned to new NFCC best practice guidance within its methodology;
- The CRMP was also underpinned by a newly developed data driven SAoR utilising data from our Incident Recording System which had helped identify the highest risk activities/incidents;
- Three of the key Service strategies, Prevention, Protection and Response had been refreshed to align to national change and guidance were also included with key deliverables to be included within the CRMP consultation;

- The CRMP did not incorporate the Emergency Cover Review. This would be conducted and consulted upon separately during 2021/22;
- The CRMP highlighted a potential change to the way in which calls originating from Automatic Fire Alarms in non-sleeping risk premises would be managed in future. Subject to public consultation the Service may align with other North West FRS' and remove the attendance unless back-up calls were made;
- The CRMP also cited the growing number of attendances to domestic automatic fire alarms (Telecare) systems and the benefits of closer working with social care commissioners to develop a domestic false alarm policy to minimise the number of false alarms and maximise the provision of fire safety advice for the most vulnerable in our communities.

This CRMP provided an opportunity to reaffirm the aim of LFRS 'to make Lancashire safer'. The document also presented an opportunity to confirm that LFRS would maintain the 2017-22 IRMP defined 'our priorities' as:

- Preventing fires and other emergencies from happening;
- Protecting people and property when they happen;
- Responding to fires and other emergencies quickly and competently;
- Valuing our people so they can focus on Making Lancashire safer;
- Delivering value for money in and how we use our resources.

The draft CRMP 2022-2027 provided details of what LFRS intended to do over the forthcoming five-year period.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer introduced Group Manager Jonny Ashton who presented the Strategic Assessment of Risk (SAoR) document. This new iteration of the SAoR underpinned the CRMP. It had been developed to be data led which more accurately assessed the risks that were posed within Lancashire. This approach better enabled the Service to target resources effectively against existing and emerging risk throughout the county.

The Risk Management Planning processes provided the opportunity to demonstrate how it was intended to fulfil responsibilities in a clear, cohesive way, to both our communities and other interested parties.

The National Framework 2018 detailed the essential content that must be captured within the Integrated Risk Management Plan. It must:

- Reflect up-to-date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the Authority;
- Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources;
- Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;
- Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat;

- Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as necessary to ensure that the Authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework;
- Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
- Be easily accessible and publicly available.

The draft CRMP for 2022-27 was fully compliant with these requirements and the NFCC National Standards Board best practice. This included a much-changed LFRS Strategic Assessment of Risk, as now considered. This document built on previous versions of the annual risk assessment methodology whereby each of the 32 incident types such as domestic fires, flooding and road traffic collisions had been quantified using a likelihood and consequence score.

The likelihood element looked at the frequency of the incident type occurring within Lancashire utilising the incident data for the previous 3 years. The consequence score was determined by an average derived from seven categories, these being: i) loss of life; ii) injury; iii) economic; iv) environmental; v) societal; vi) political; and vii) impact upon staff. Members considered the executive risk assessment summary as detailed on pages 60-61 of the agenda pack which included the highest risk incident types. It was noted that high risk incident types were: flooding, wildfire, accidental dwelling fires, commercial property fires, deliberate building fires and industrial fires; high risk incident types were: road traffic collisions, rescues from a collapsed structure/confined space, high rise fires, hazmat incidents, waste disposal site fires, assisting other agencies, road vehicle fires and fires in buildings under construction.

Maintaining a clear and current understanding of the risks which affected Lancashire's communities underpinned everything – driving both the governance and planning arrangements.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer introduced the Head of Media and Communications, Stephanie Collinson who advised that the core focus of the consultation was to seek views from key stakeholders, communities, and individuals on risks in their communities in order that these could be mitigated in line with national expectations. She confirmed that social media and the website would be used to contact the 100,000+ LFRS' followers. Social media encouraged discussion and there would be an online survey from which feedback and debate would be monitored. In addition, a dedicated contact email would be provided for stakeholders to contact the Service with their comments.

The Head of Media and Communications advised that it was known that direct contact with key stakeholders provided a good means of engagement therefore contact would be made with partners, local authorities, blue light agencies, parish and town councils and community groups such as flood action groups. Businesses would also be engaged and asked to share information through their networks and young people would be engaged through the Prince's Trust and Fire Cadet programmes. Unions would also be included. She confirmed that a database had been compiled which had over 700 contacts. In addition, members of the public would be engaged through digital means and through partners such as the Lancashire Resilience Forum. Support was also requested from Members of the Fire Authority to engage with their partners and

constituents.

County Councillor Shedwick commented that there had been limited numbers of respondents from previous consultations and that it was good to hear that the Service was reaching out as far as possible. He confirmed he would like to attend focus groups. He thought the consultation was a good opportunity to inform consultees of the breadth of work the Service was doing, as evidenced for inspections and which included support, beyond the call of duty, to the vaccination programme.

In response to a question from County Councillor Singleton, the Head of Media and Communications confirmed that Clerks of town and parish councils would be contacted regarding the consultation, non-responses would be followed up and that Staining Flood Action Group would be contacted.

County Councillor Dad felt that consultation was very important particularly with hard-to-reach groups. In Hyndburn, the locality hub had representatives across statutory, community and voluntary organisations. Presentations from LFRS to focus groups would be very important and he would be very happy to provide his support.

In response to questions from County Councillor Hennessy, the Head of Media and Communications confirmed that the wording of the questions was primarily around how risks were identified and consultees would be able to comment on anything within the plan separately. She confirmed that messages would be tailored for stakeholders, direct contact would be made with Authority Members and Service personnel would be promoting engagement in their local areas. She confirmed there would be a mid-point review which would allow the Service to follow up any non-responses.

It was noted that consultation outcomes would be collated and fed into the draft documents where necessary and an update would be presented to CFA meetings as detailed in the table below:

Monday 12 July 2021	Draft CRMP goes to CFA planning committee for approval to consult
Wednesday 14 July 2021	Consultation starts
Tuesday 21 September 2021	Consultation ends
Monday 15 November 2021	Final draft of CRMP goes to CFA planning committee for approval
Monday 21 February 2022	Final CRMP presented to full CFA for approval
Friday 1 April 2022	CRMP published

Production of the CRMP fell within existing budgets. As with the publication of the last IRMP, the move to publishing the CRMP in a fully digital format reduced costs compared to previous printed versions.

County Councillor O'Toole commented that the report was a very good report. He considered that an additional risk to the community was the Combined Fire Authority's (CFA) responsibilities being taken over by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), as had happened in other areas across the country. The

former Lancashire PCC, Mr Grunshaw had begun this process a number of years ago and he had met with cross-party opposition from the CFA and its home authorities (Lancashire County Council Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council). County Councillor O'Toole advised that he had contacted the newly appointed Lancashire PCC, Mr Snowden who had given assurance that this was not his intention. County Councillor Singleton added that at one time Government had considered merging blue light authorities and it was recognised currently that joint training might be possible in the future.

The Committee Chairman, County Councillor Mirfin stated that at the heart of risk was the concept of uncertainty. From a personal interest, he provided an overview of the risk analyses technique used by Donald Rumsfeld (former US Secretary of State for Defense) for the concepts of: i) known knowns (what you know); ii) known unknowns (what you don't know); iii) unknown unknowns (what you cannot know); and iv) what you don't like to know. County Councillor Shedwick commented that Members could always raise any thoughts or concerns with senior officers.

RESOLVED: - The Planning Committee approved the draft CRMP 2022-2027 and Strategic Assessment of Risk proceed to public consultation from 14 July 2021 for a period of 10 weeks.

5-20/21

HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) UPDATE

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ben Norman presented the report. Members noted that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) inspection of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) was due to be conducted in April/May 2020 however, this was suspended due to the recall of staff within HMICFRS returning to their own Services to plan and manage the implications of the Covid-19 outbreak.

During this period, LFRS Service Liaison Officer had maintained contact with HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead, Jo Hayden by having bi-weekly conversations. Engagement activities were now expected to begin in August 2021 to include station and department visits and meet senior management to review the work undertaken since the previous report in 2018.

Furthermore, it was now known that the inspection would start from week commencing 22 November 2021. The inspection would take place physically, but some elements would be digital depending on the progress of measures that monitored the infection rates. The inspection would conclude on 21 January 2022 which included a three-week break between 20 December 2021 and 14 January 2022, after which there would be a debrief between HMICFRS and the Chief Fire Officer. The resulting report would be expected in the latter months of 2022.

Currently, engagement had continued with Jo Hayden and learning from the 2020 Pandemic Thematic Inspection had been used alongside various reports such as "State of Fire Rescue 2020" to refresh preparation work that begun early 2020 before the pandemic interrupted progress. Going forward this would inform the next stage of preparation. The planned work included:

1. Planning and Implementing reality testing across all departments and Fire Stations;
2. The writing of a strategic brief and presentation to be delivered to HMICFRS in week 1;
3. An additional Document request and data return planned for in October.
4. A revised internal communications strategy;
5. Identification of areas most at risk of receiving a 'requires improvement' grade;
6. Identification of areas of best practice.

In response to questions raised by County Councillor Hennessy in relation to the planned work, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that the writing of the strategic brief was the responsibility of the Chief Fire Officer who would share the content with the Chairman of the CFA. The CFA Chairman would also be involved with the inspection teams and involved in the debrief process. In addition, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that the last inspection did not identify any formal areas that 'required improvement' but that the Service consider how it:

- better identified leadership potential;
- had sufficient resources to prioritise a risk-based inspection programme; and
- had greater clarity around blue light collaboration opportunities.

He advised that there were other areas where the Service could demonstrate improvements including ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion in recruitment and the current proposal to change the unwanted fire signals policy in line with other North West Fire and Rescue Services.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy regarding the planning and implementing of reality testing, Acting Area Manager Neil Taylor advised that during the last inspection the Service was graded as 'good' against the three core pillars of efficiency, effectiveness and people and achieved an 'outstanding' grading in the sub-category of how we promote our culture and values. He advised that there was a lot known about the Service and reality testing was about checking what was being done to improve our level of understanding and where possible make improvements across the three core pillars. It was hoped the testing could commence within 2-3 weeks.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted and endorsed.

6-20/21

PROTECTION REFORM UPDATE

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ben Norman presented the report. It was noted that on 13 July 2020 the Planning Committee approved a paper entitled 'Implementing Regulatory Change and Transforming Fire Protection Service'. The paper explained that the Grenfell tragedy of June 2017 had highlighted fundamental inadequacies in the way the built environment had been constructed and regulated over the past two decades and the increasingly rigorous planning and building control regulatory frameworks, standards and testing regimes that would now be introduced. The report updated Members on the changes to legislation that had already occurred and those which were upcoming. The update also included the amendments to Protection workforce planning which had been required to keep pace with the change.

Building Regulations

In December 2018 Building Regulations were amended to ban the use of combustible materials in the external walls of new buildings over 18 metres high. The ban meant combustible materials were not permitted on the external walls of new buildings over 18 metres and those currently under construction. The new building regulations applied to all new residential housing, hospitals, residential care premises, boarding school dormitories and student accommodation as long as they were over 18 metres high. The ban also applied to balconies, which were often made from combustible materials and had helped spread fires across walls in the past.

Building Regulations were not retrospective. Approved documents relating to fire safety in Building Regulations were also updated on 26th November 2020 with some new requirements. A key part of those changes was the trigger height to fit sprinklers in tall buildings which had been reduced to 11m (typically four floors), from 30m (typically 10 floors). The changes also included signage for the fire service for floor identification and flat indication signage within blocks of flats with storeys over 11m.

Fire Safety Act

The Fire Safety Act that covered England and Wales received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021. The Act would come into force over the summer when the Government has provided a risk prioritisation tool for social landlords. Its prime purpose was to address a potential legal ambiguity in the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Fire Safety Order).

The Fire Safety Order imposed duties on “Responsible Persons” to take appropriate fire safety measures for premises other than private domestic premises. The Order did not cover individual flats in apartment blocks, but it did cover the common parts. The new Act amended the Fire Safety Order to make it clear that Responsible Persons for multi-occupied residential buildings, which were likely to be building owners, freeholders and managers, would be under a duty to risk assess the structure and external walls (including windows, doors and balconies) of buildings and entrance doors and take general fire precautions to ensure those areas were safe.

The new Act did not deal with the question of who paid for the costs of making residential buildings fire safe. In February, the Government announced a levy for England on developers to fund cladding remediation costs, and a fund to pay for the cost of replacing unsafe cladding for all leaseholders in residential buildings 18 metres and over, and a new loan scheme for buildings between 11 and 18 metres. There were gaps in these schemes particularly where the defects extended beyond cladding.

Article 24 Regulations

Article 24 of the Fire Safety Act allowed secondary fire safety legislation to be added which addressed specific recommendations emanating from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry. A number of consultations would be undertaken over the summer of 2021 and additional legislation would be introduced soon after to enhance fire safety in High-Risk Residential Buildings (HRRBs) to potential include:

- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans;

- Premises Information Boxes;
- Firefighting lift status updates;
- Provision of plans to FRS.

Building Safety Bill

The draft Bill, which was likely to come into force in 2023, aimed to both improve the existing building safety regime and introduce new measures aimed more specifically at high rise buildings. The Bill sought to address long standing concerns around fire safety, quality and competence by ensuring that there was always someone responsible for keeping residents safe in high rise buildings, from the design and construction phase right through to occupancy.

The Bill established a new regulator, the Building Safety Regulator (BSR), to operate as a division of the HSE with approval, enforcement and prosecutorial powers. The BSR would include Fire and Rescue Services and Building Controls. The BSR would oversee the safety and standards of all buildings, directly assure the safety of 'higher-risk' buildings and improve the competence of people responsible for managing and overseeing building work. This centralised the operation of the regulator and moved away from the current framework where developers/contractors could choose a local authority or approved inspector for higher-risk buildings.

Assuming that the Bill was enacted in its current form, the law would differentiate between buildings and 'higher-risk buildings', which were subject to higher safety and reporting obligations. Higher-risk buildings were likely to include those that were 18 meters or 6 storeys or more in height. The Bill also established a gateway regime which was intended to ensure that safety was considered by all parties involved in the lifetime of a building's construction from planning to occupation.

An 'Accountable Person' (such as a building owner or a corporate entity) would need to be appointed to bear the responsibility for the safety risks relating to their building. This included taking all reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence, and control the impact of a major incident resulting from those building safety risks. The Accountable Person would need to record these risks and steps by conducting and maintaining a 'safety case risk assessment' for the building. This document was required to be produced to the regulator when applying for the Building Assurance Certificate, but the regulator would also have the power to request sight of this document should they so wish.

The Accountable Person would also need to appoint a suitably competent Building Safety Manager, whose function would be to manage the building on a day-to-day basis in accordance with the safety case risk assessment. The Building Safety Manager would also liaise with residents to ensure the building was safe.

The Bill extended the existing time limits for prosecution under sections 35 and 36 of the Building Act 1983 in relation to non-compliance with building regulations from 2 years to 10 years. The new regulator would also have new enforcement powers to prosecute all new offences under the draft Bill and would have powers to issue compliance and stop notices, powers of entry and powers to replace an Accountable Person or Building Safety Manager with a Special Measures Manager where they find serious failures endangering the safety of

residents in the building.

County Councillor O'Toole commented that it was disappointing that the Building Safety Bill would take until 2023 to come into force given the Grenfell Tower fire was in 2017 and for many years there had been very little post inspection by those responsible for building control.

County Councillor Hennessy advised that a paper was presented to the LGA Fire Services Management Committee the previous week which advised that new buildings would need to pass through three regulatory Gateways in relation to safety: i) at the planning stage; ii) at the final design stage (before construction can begin); and iii) immediately before occupation when construction was complete. She understood data analyses was being undertaken which looked at how many inspectors would be required for each area. She felt it was admirable that the Service was already making an effort to get staff trained ready.

Information: Protection Workforce Change

As a part of the Protection Reform a number of resourcing and competency priorities were identified, and these included the following recommendations:

1. Establish a temporary Protection Transformation Team (PTT); Initial PTT to be x1 Station Manager level B and x 2 Watch Manager level B and a dedicated Project Support Officer;
2. Establish an Area Manager, Head of Prevention and Protection;
3. Redefine Community Protection Manager Central to the role of Group Manager Prevention, this includes all youth engagement, road safety and fire investigation/ Incident Intelligence Officer line management;
4. Redefine Group Manager Prevention, Protection and Road Safety to Group Manager Protection;
5. Increase Watch Manager establishment by 4 posts, staggered over 2 years in order to meet the demand and complexity of High-Risk Residential Buildings and generate capacity to deliver in-house training;
6. Increase cohort of Fire Engineer qualified staff from 2 to 4;
7. Protection activity to be linked and embedded into all relevant roles, both at point of entry and in-career development. This includes wholtime operational firefighter, Crew Manager, Watch Manager, Community Safety Advisor, Community Safety Team Leader, Service Delivery Manager, Community Protection Manager; Ops & Command awareness to continue to be embedded in Grey Book Business Safety Advisor, Fire Safety Inspector, Fire Safety Team Leader;
8. Protection Transformation Team deliverables to be governed by Corporate Programme Board, prioritised and fully integrated into the Protection Support & Delivery Teams;
9. Review Green Book Development pathway to include Watch Manager level B SHQ / Training roles.

Despite Covid and other organisational challenges, all recommendations had progressed as anticipated.

In addition to the above new staff had been recruited into the function via a refreshed 'Functional Pathway' and developed in accordance with the NFCC Competency Framework for Regulators.

The Protection Transformation Team had developed a new Business Fire Safety Check App and an associated system to allocate premises [based on risk] to the operational crews who would soon undertake them. The process was being piloted in Northern and Western areas from July to Sept 2021 and thereafter would be rolled out to all wholtime operational stations. The training process included additional learning objectives to satisfy item 7 above. Initially the type of premises 'checked' would be simple low risk e.g. offices, shops, light industry etc however, as the training and experience of the crews grew the scope would be increased to include simple high risk premises e.g. houses in multiple occupation and hotels.

Qualified Fire Safety Inspectors continued to inspect complex and higher risk premises based on the Risk Based Inspection Programme. Training providers had now started to provide training on external wall systems and the Service was utilising Protection uplift funding to source this specialist training.

Lancashire had 70 high rise residential premises which had all been audited under the Government's Building Risk Review process. In addition to reporting back to the NFCC on the make-up of the external wall systems the process had allowed inspectors to identify other aspects on non-compliance. To date Lancashire had 6 premises which had been identified as having non-compliant external wall systems; all have interim measures in place. A further 3 premises also had interim measures, not due to external wall systems, but instead due to other serious fire safety concerns such as internal compartmentation or smoke management. In response to a question from County Councillor Mirfin as to whether mid to high-rise buildings were in the same position as high rise buildings, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that there was concern regarding some non-high-rise buildings which the Service was trying to address. He advised that he could provide statistics on the number of premises inspected and what had been identified in a report to a future meeting.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Hennessy regarding the financial implications it was noted that the costs had already been agreed and that the acronyms used in the report would be detailed in the minutes, as below:

Financial Implications (included on cost and at pro-rata rate for Year 1)

Year 1 (July to Mar 21 unless otherwise stated)

x1 Area Manager level B from Oct @ £50 = £50k

x3 Built Environment Assessment Team Station Manager level B for 6 months @£37 = £111k

Station Manager level B @ £50k = £50k

x2 Watch Manager level B @ £35K = £70k

x1 Project Admin @ £20k = £20k

OVERALL = £301k

Year 2 (April 21 to Mar 22)

x1 Area Manager level B @ £100 = £100k

Station Manager level B @ £75k = £75k

X2 Watch Manager level B @ £54k = £108k

x1 Project Admin @ £20k = £20k

OVERALL = £303k

Year 3 (April 22 to Mar 23)

x1 Area Manager level B @ £100 = £100k

X4 Watch Manager level B @ £54k = £216k

OVERALL = £316k

RESOLVED: - That Members noted and endorsed the report.

7-20/21

BLUE LIGHT COLLABORATION

Other Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ben Norman presented the report. It was noted that the collaborative efforts of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) personnel remained focussed upon the ongoing efforts to reduce the impact of the Covid19 pandemic. As previously reported the secondment of emergency planning expertise from LFRS into the Lancashire Resilience Forum had ceased. The ongoing response and recovery interactions were being delivered by core staff within the Response and Emergency Planning team and other key functions such as Fire Safety Enforcement working in close collaboration with Local Authority teams.

One notable exception was the vast presence of LFRS colleagues operating in the five mass vaccination centres (Lancaster, Preston, Blackpool, Blackburn, and Burnley). Since the opening of the first vaccination sites in Lancashire over the Christmas 2020 period volunteer staff members had been at each site every day. The dedication and passion demonstrated by the collective team of over 300 volunteers was hugely profound; with over 410,000 vaccinations supported by LFRS personnel and some 45,000 vaccines had been injected by those who volunteered to partake in this role.

It was noted that the Chief Fire Officer welcomed the Fire Minister, Lord Greenhalgh to the county on Friday 25 June 2021 as it gave LFRS the opportunity to show him how the Service had contributed to making Lancashire safer during the coronavirus pandemic. At the Preston vaccination site, Lord Greenhalgh met volunteers who had helped deliver and administer vaccinations across Lancashire since December 2020. Lord Greenhalgh heard from the volunteers about the reasons why they had volunteered and how they had helped keep patients safe and warm when they have been arriving at vaccination clinics.

Lord Greenhalgh said:

“Firefighters and fire staff across the country have worked incredibly hard to support the response to coronavirus and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service is an exceptional example.

“The team in Lancashire have led the way, becoming the first fire service in the country to assist the NHS with the distribution of the vaccine and also to fully train their staff as vaccinators.

“By doing so, they have shown that those in fire services are ready, willing and able to go above and beyond to keep the British public safe, once again demonstrating they truly are the very best of us.

“It was an honour to meet with the team in Lancashire and I am immensely proud of their efforts and all the work they doing to keep us safe.”

In addition to the Covid19 deliverables the Blue Light Collaboration Board commissioned a summary review of the innovative project work delivered prior

to the pandemic. This review was carried out by Shared Service Architecture consultants who were recognised by both the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) as sector leads. Their phase 1 benefits realisation report concluded that cashable and non-cashable savings of over £1.246 million were identified. The report author went on to describe that *“we can confidently report that cashable, non-cashable and demonstrable improvements in partnership working have been evidenced in this ‘Benefits Realisation’ report. Overall, we conclude that the direction of travel of the initial 32 projects, which subsequently have been expanded to 35+ collaborative projects is positive, providing a solid foundation to build the partnership going forward.”*

In June 2021, the LFRS Sponsor for the Blue Light Collaboration workstream, the Director of Strategy and Planning met with both the Deputy Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary and Lancashire Emergency Response lead for North West Ambulance Service (NWAS). Through these meetings it was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding would be redrafted to include NWAS as a named partner. It was also agreed that the 3 blue light services would request that their respective Programme Managers draft a refreshed work plan for consideration by the sponsors and a meeting be set for September 2021 for the work to formally re-start. This would include the Lancashire Constabulary led recruitment of a Blue Light Collaboration Project Administrator.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted and endorsed.

8-20/21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a query from Members and staff the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service had 2 Private Finance Initiative Schemes (PFI) which included one at Chorley Fire Station based at the Service Training Centre and also included stations at Burnley, Blackburn and Fleetwood. The PFI owner was choosing to sell their interest in the PFI contract to another investment company. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reassured Members that LFRS did not expect to see any difference to the premises or costs.

9-20/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Monday, 15 November 2021 at 1000 hours in Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton.

Further meeting dates were noted for 7 February 2022 and agreed for 18 July 2022.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood