

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

Monday, 19 December 2016 at 10.00 am in Washington Hall, Service Training Centre, Euxton

MINUTES

PRESENT:

F De Molfetta (Chairman)

Councillors

T Aldridge	D O'Toole
A Barnes	E Oades
P Britcliffe	M Parkinson (Vice-Chair)
K Brown	N Penney
T Burns	R Shewan
C Crompton	D Smith
S Holgate	D Stansfield
F Jackson	J Sumner
M Khan	V Taylor
A Matthews	T Williams

36/16 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

37/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: County Councillors, M Green, M Perks and J Shedwick and from Councillor Z Khan.

38/16 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Vice-Chairman, County Councillor Parkinson declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to the Local Government Pension Scheme as he was Deputy Chairman of the Lancashire County Council Pension Fund Committee which had responsibility for the administration of the Lancashire Pension Fund.

39/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

In response to a question by County Councillor O'Toole regarding the Authority's application for four year funding, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the Minister had confirmed the 4 year funding settlement for all single-purpose fire authorities that had bid for this and that the Local Government Finance Settlement had been announcement the previous week.

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the CFA held on 19 September 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

40/16 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Performance Committee held on 15 September 2016 be noted.

41/16 NOTES OF STRATEGY GROUP MEETING HELD 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Strategy Group held on 19 September 2016 be noted.

42/16 MINUTES OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Resources Committee held on 28 September 2016 be noted.

43/16 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD 29 SEPTEMBER 2016

In response to a question raised by County Councillor O'Toole regarding future internal audit fees the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that Lancashire County Council was appointed 3 years ago on the basis of cost and quality. He confirmed that he had been back to Lancashire County Council to challenge the proposed fees and was awaiting a response prior to discussing with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Audit Committee. This would be reported to the next Audit Committee in January 2017.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Audit Committee held on 29 September 2016 be noted.

44/16 MINUTES OF NORTH WEST FIRE FORUM MEETING HELD 19 OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the North West Fire & Rescue Forum held on 19 October 2016 be noted.

45/16 NOTES OF MEMBER TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP HELD 9 NOVEMBER 2016

The Chairman of the Member Training & Development Working Group, Councillor D Smith highlighted to Members that there was a move to increase the use of technology to support access to Authority and Committee agenda packs and enable efficiencies. Members would be kept informed of progress and developments.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Member Training and Development Working Group held on 9 November 2016 be noted.

46/16 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 21 NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Planning Committee held on 21 November 2016 be noted.

47/16 MINUTES OF RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 30 NOVEMBER 2016

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Resources Committee held on 30 November 2016 be noted.

48/16 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 1 DECEMBER 2016

In relation to the 'Critical Special Service Response – Call Handling' target, the Chairman of the Committee, County Councillor S Holgate highlighted to Members that North West Fire Control would be invited to attend the next meeting to explain why the performance against the call handling targets had not been met for some time and to discuss what was being done to rectify this. The issue had been raised in December with North West Fire Control by both the Authority's Chairman, County Councillor De Molfetta at a Director's meeting and by the Chief Fire Officer at a Lead Principal Officers meeting. An offer had been tabled to hold the next Performance Committee meeting at North West Fire Control, so that this issue could be fully considered and explanations provided.

In relation to the underperformance of the 'Fire Engine Availability - Retained Duty System' (RDS) target County Councillor O'Toole queried whether the number of RDS personnel who had been successful in obtaining wholetime positions had had a negative impact given the difficulties filling RDS vacancies. In response, the Authority Chairman, County Councillor De Molfetta did not believe the appointment of RDS staff into wholetime positions was the cause of the target currently not being met. He understood that a large majority of those appointed had volunteered to undertake a dual role. County Councillor Parkinson stated that the appointment of RDS staff into wholetime vacancies was a tool to reinvigorate the Service and retain skills. He felt that it sent out a strong message to rural areas that if you chose a RDS role to support the community and you worked hard that there was a career pathway.

RESOLVED: - That the proceedings of the Performance Committee held on 1 December 2016 be noted.

49/16 LGA FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATION 2016/17

The Authority nominated the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on an annual basis after the Annual meeting each year to be its representatives on the Local Government Association (LGA) Fire Commission.

The Fire Commission provided a forum to discuss matters of common interest and concern to fire authorities.

All fire authorities in full or corporate membership of the Local Government Association (LGA) had the right to representation and voting on this Commission in accordance with the LGA Constitution, Standing Orders and Political Conventions.

The Fire Commission had a management committee which acted on behalf of the Commission. Its role was to represent as an LGA body the views and concerns of the fire community ensuring that local circumstances had a voice in the national context. It led on behalf of the LGA: on the future direction of the fire and rescue service;

improvement within the sector; and on all other day-to-day issues (e.g. technical or operational matters) affecting fire authorities.

County Councillor O'Toole had been approached by the LGA Conservative Group to sit on the Fire Commission. Should Members approve this appointment, future Authority approval to appoint additional members to the LGA Fire Commission or Fire Services Management Committee would be presented to the Annual Meeting each year.

RESOLVED: - That the Fire Authority approved the appointment of County Councillor D O'Toole's appointment to the Fire Commission for 2016/17.

50/16 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2015/16

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2012) provided overall strategic direction to English Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRA). It set out the Government's priorities and objectives and placed a requirement on all FRA's to provide assurance to their communities and to Government on financial, governance and operational matters.

The Statement of Assurance was considered by Members. It aimed to provide the necessary accountability and transparency to the people of Lancashire and evidenced that their Fire and Rescue Service continued to deliver the expectations detailed within both the National Framework and the Service's own Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

This statement sat alongside the IRMP, Statement of Accounts, Annual Governance Statement and recently redesigned Annual Service Plan and Annual Progress Report. It detailed what measures were in place to assure that the Combined Fire Authority's performance was efficient, economic and effective.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority approved the Annual Statement of Assurance 2015-16 as presented and approved the signing of this by the Chairman of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer.

51/16 CAPITAL BUDGET 2017/18 - 2021/22

The Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer presented the draft capital programme 2017/18 – 2021/22.

Capital Budget Strategy

The Authority's capital strategy was designed to ensure that the Authority's capital investment:-

- Assisted in delivering the corporate objectives;
- Supported priorities identified in asset management plans;
- Ensured statutory requirements were met, i.e. Health and Safety issues;
- Supported the Medium Term Financial Strategy by ensuring all capital investment decisions considered the future impact on revenue budgets;

- Represented value for money.

Capital Requirements

Capital expenditure was expenditure on major assets such as new buildings, significant building modifications and major pieces of equipment/vehicles.

The Service had developed asset management plans which assisted in identifying the long-term capital requirements. These plans, together with the operational equipment register had been used to assist in identifying total requirements and the relevant priorities. The report set out the detailed capital programme as summarised in the table below: -

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Vehicles	1.659	1.806	2.814	0.962	1.070	8.311
Operational Equipment	0.420	0.350	1.550	0.250	0.435	3.005
Buildings	4.750	4.000	-	-	-	8.750
IT Equipment	1.350	0.545	0.720	0.210	0.200	3.025
Total	8.179	6.701	5.084	1.422	1.705	23.091

Vehicles

The Fleet Asset Management plan had been used as a basis to identify a vehicle replacement programme which had been adjusted to remove peaks in the number of vehicle replacements in any one year for a number of years now. This had inevitably resulted in some vehicles being replaced marginally ahead of or behind schedule in the past, but provided a better basis for longer term replacement strategies. As a result of this only one support vehicle due for replacement in the period of the programme would be delayed by one year.

The mobile fire station replacements related to two vehicles at the end of their current asset lives, however a review of requirements for these appliances was planned to commence shortly in order to determine a final design and hence costing estimate for approval.

Several vehicles provided and maintained by CLG under New Dimensions (6 Prime Movers and 1 Incident Response Unit), which would be due for replacement during the period of the programme had not been included in the replacement plan as it was understood that CLG would issue replacement vehicles if they were beyond economic repair, or if the national provision requirement changed. Should there be a requirement to purchase replacement vehicles, a grant from CLG might be available to fund them.

Operational Equipment

The budget plan allowed for the replacement of items at the end of their current asset lives, based on current replacement cost. In addition a further ongoing provision of £1m allowed for innovations in future firefighting equipment after the £1m budget allocated in 2016/17 had been fully utilised by the end of 2017/18.

Buildings

The current level of backlog maintenance had reduced significantly, reflecting the investments the Authority had made in its building stock. Following completion of works budgeted during 2016/17, the Authority would only have Preston fire station classed as in poor condition. In addition, the Emergency Cover Review (ECR) planned for completion during 2017/18 may highlight the requirement to make changes to stations; hence a sum of £7.5m spread over two financial years had been included to give scope for these changes once known. In addition to this a further sum of £1.25m had been included in the programme to allow for investment in training assets at two specific service delivery locations at the Training Centre in order to maximise the efficiency and consistency of staff training, in particular Retained Duty System staff. Further work was underway to identify the exact requirement and scope for these hence this sum was an estimate and would be refined prior to seeking Member approval for any large scale projects within it.

ICT

The sums identified for the replacement of various ICT systems were in line with the software replacement lifecycle schedule incorporated into the ICT Asset Management Plan. All replacements identified in the programme would be subject to review, with both the requirement for the potential upgrade/replacement and the cost of such being revisited prior to any expenditure being incurred. Of particular note were the anticipated replacements for the operational communications assets most of which were affected by the national Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP) to deliver a replacement for Airwave (the wide area radio system currently used for mobilising by all blue light services). The ESMCP had now signed the main contracts with EE and Motorola for the network and network equipment respectively. Since the signing of the contract, there had been considerable work done by the suppliers, central programme team and emergency services in the regions. However, there were still some areas that needed to be resolved, and therefore the original go live for the North West (the first region to go live) had moved on 3 months to January 2018. As there were still further details to be added to the national project plan, all Services awaited the final programme dates, and the regional programme team would update Services as soon as information was received. It was anticipated that all costs would be met by the government which were reflected in the figures presented to Members.

Capital Funding

Capital expenditure could be funded from the following sources:

Prudential Borrowing

The Prudential Code gave the Authority increased flexibility over its level of capital investment and much greater freedom to borrow, should this be necessary, to finance planned expenditure. However, any future borrowing would incur a financing charge against the revenue budget for the period of the borrowing. Given the financial position of the Authority, there had been no need to borrow since 2007 and based on the draft capital programme this position would not change.

Capital Grant

Capital grants were received from other bodies, typically the Government, in order to facilitate the purchase/replacement of capital items. Capital funding included an assumed £0.8m capital grant relating to the ESMCP. To date no other capital grant funding had been made available for 2017/18, nor had any indication been given that capital grant would be made available in future years and hence no allowance had been included in the budget as now presented.

Capital Receipts

Capital receipts were generated from the sale of surplus land and buildings, with any monies generated being utilised to fund additional capital expenditure either in-year or carried forward to fund the programme in future years. The Authority currently held £1.5m of capital receipts following the sale of surplus site at Chorley. It was not anticipated using any of this over the life of the programme.

Capital Reserves

Capital Reserves had been created from underspends on the revenue budget in order to provide additional funding to support the capital programme in future years. Following completion of the 2016/17 capital programme, and allowing for the transfer of the year end underspends, the Authority expected to hold £12.1m of capital reserves. Over the life of the programme it was anticipated using £10.6m, leaving a balance of £1.5m by the end of 2021/22.

Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay

Any revenue surpluses may be transferred to a Capital Reserve in order to fund additional capital expenditure either in-year or carried forward to fund the programme in future years. The revenue contribution reduced from £2.0m in 2017/18 to £1.75m for the remainder of the programme.

Drawdown of Earmarked Reserves

The programme allowed for the use of £0.049m of earmarked reserves related to the provision of training facilities at STC, and was linked to a donation received from a member of the public.

Drawdown of General Reserves

Previous versions of the capital programme had shown the Authority utilising all its capital reserves and receipts by the end of the 5 year period, meaning that any longer term capital requirements would need to be met from either capital grant, revenue contributions or from new borrowing. Potentially this would leave a problem in future years as the on-going revenue contribution of £1.75m was insufficient to meet the vehicle and ICT replacement programme, let alone any other capital requirements. As such it was proposed to utilise £2.6m of general reserves over the 5 year programme, resulting in the Authority still holding £3.0m of capital receipts and reserves at the end of the period, and therefore being in a stronger position to meet recurring capital requirements.

Total Capital Funding

The report set out the level of capital funding available as summarised in the table below: -

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Grant	0.800	-	-	-	-	0.800
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Reserves	2.730	4.951	3.334	(0.328)	(0.045)	10.642
Revenue Contributions	2.000	1.750	1.750	1.750	1.750	9.000
Earmarked Reserves	0.049	-	-	-	-	0.049
General Reserves	2.600	-	-	-	-	2.600
	8.179	6.701	5.084	1.422	1.705	23.091

Summary Programme

The summary of the programme, in terms of requirements and available funding, are set out below: -

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	TOTAL
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Capital Requirements	8.179	6.701	5.084	1.422	1.705	23.091
Capital Funding	8.179	6.701	5.084	1.422	1.705	23.091
Surplus/(Shortfall)	-	-	-	-	-	-

The programme was currently balanced over the next 5 years of the capital programme however, it was noted that the funding assumptions could change as follows:-

- Operational Communications replacements (ESMCP) were subject to a great deal of uncertainty in terms of both timing and costs as they related to a national replacement project, in addition there may be grant funding available for this which was also unknown at this time;
- Buildings budgets were subject to uncertainty until the outcomes of the stock condition survey, the forthcoming Emergency Cover Review, and the review of training assets were known;
- Capital grant may be made available in future years, in order to assist service transformation and greater collaboration;
- Replacement of both the Mobile Fire Stations and Aerial Ladder Platforms were subject to a review and vehicle requirements could be amended;
- New Dimensions vehicle replacements were expected to be carried out by the Government, however this position may change;
- All operational equipment item replacements were at estimated costs, and would be subject to proper costings nearer the time;
- ICT software replacements were based largely on the ICT asset management plan, and were subject to review prior to replacement, which had led in the past to significant slippage.

The programme was balanced, and as such considered prudent, sustainable and affordable. Although it was recognised that future funding levels, both in terms of revenue and capital, would inevitably impact upon the achievability of the programme as identified.

Impact on the Revenue budget

It was noted that the capital programme and its funding directly impacted on the revenue budget in terms of capital financing charges and in terms of the revenue contribution to capital outlay. Based on the provisional 4 year funding settlement the position in respect of the revenue contribution appeared sustainable until at least March 2020. Dependent upon the future funding position the revenue contribution to capital may come under increased pressure.

Prudential Indicators

The Authority was required to calculate various prudential indicators to demonstrate that the proposed capital programme was affordable, prudent and sustainable. It was noted that these had not yet been calculated, but would be included in the Authority report in February 2017.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the draft Capital Programme 2017/18 - 2021/22 be noted;
- (ii) That the Authority authorise consultation with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers and Trade Unions on the budget proposals;
- (iii) That the Authority gives further consideration to the capital budget at their next meeting on 20 February 2017, in light of the consultation process.

52/16 REVENUE BUDGET 2017/18 - 2021/22

The Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer presented the draft revenue budget for 2017/18 -2021/22 and the resultant council tax implications.

In line with the Authority's objective to deliver affordable, value for money services the Authority's Budget Strategy remained one of:-

- Maintaining future council tax increases at reasonable levels, reducing if possible;
- Continuing to deliver efficiencies in line with targets;
- Continuing to invest in improvements in service delivery;
- Continuing to invest in improving facilities;
- Setting a robust budget;
- Maintaining an adequate level of reserves.

Draft Budget

In order to determine the future budget requirement, the Authority had used the approved 2016/17 budget as a starting point, and had uplifted this for inflation and other known changes and pressures, to arrive at a draft budgetary requirement, prior

to utilising any reserves, as set out below:-

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Preceding Years Draft Budget Requirement	55.6	53.9	54.5	55.8	57.5
Inflation	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.7	2.0
Other Pay Pressures	(0.7)	0.1	0.8	-	-
Committed Variations	(0.87)	(0.1)	0.1	-	-
Growth	0.4	(0.1)	(0.2)	-	-
Efficiency Savings	(1.4)	(0.1)	(0.1)	-	-
Budget Requirement	53.9	54.5	55.8	57.5	59.5

Further details were provided in the report, the most significant of which were:-

Inflation

- A 1% allowance had been built in for all pay-awards for the next 3 years, based on government proposals with 3.8% for 2020/21 and 2021/22;
- Non-pay inflation average of 2.5% per annum.

Other Pay Pressures

- Future Service contributions in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme had increased by 1.9%;
- The discount rate used in unfunded public sector pension schemes would change and this added a further £2b of costs to the schemes, as a whole. This would be reflected in the next tri-annual evaluation that set the contribution rate payable from 1 April 2019. No details of the impact on any unfunded scheme were currently available however an allowance for a 3% increase had been built into the budget in 2019/20;
- The Government would introduce an apprenticeship levy in April 2017 which was set at a rate of 0.5% of an employer's pay bill;
- The budget in respect of wholtime personnel had been updated to allow for: retirements, leavers, continuing recruitment in future years (to include an allowance for over establishment by up to 25 personnel), personnel to be paid development rates of pay and the different firefighter pension scheme contribution rates;
- A vacancy factor of 2.5% had been built in to reflect turnover within support staff;
- The vacancy factor in respect of RDS staff had been increased to 15% in line with current levels.

Committed Variations

- In order to balance the draft capital programme the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay was increased in 2016/17, hence the reduction bought this back in line with future requirements, as reflected in the draft capital programme;
- Reduction in interest receivable reflected the historically low rate of interest and based on anticipated cash balances.

Growth

- The budget for recruits in training had been adjusted to take account of the anticipated timing and number of recruits in each year, assuming all recruits undertook a 13 week course. The budget for the Training and Operational Review Department had also been increased to provide sufficient trainers to meet the on-going requirement.
- The Service was currently reviewing its use of apprenticeships, and would report to the Resources Committee in due course. As such a provision had been set aside to meet any costs.

Efficiency Savings

The Authority had a good track record of delivering efficiency savings. Between April 2011 and March 2017 £16.5m of savings had been delivered. Further savings of £1.6m had been identified as detailed below, bringing the overall level to £18m:-

- Full year effect of removal of whole-time appliance at Lancaster and creation of RDS unit;
- Savings identified from reviewing non-pay budgets, the main ones being:
 - Fleet
 - Property
 - Utilities
 - Area
 - Smoke Detectors
- As referred to on a separate report on this agenda the Service had more than paid off its LGPS deficit and as such the budget had been adjusted to remove the deficit recovery payments included in previous years budgets. At the present time it had been assumed that the surplus was left in-situ and had therefore not built any allowance into the budget for this.

Net Budget Requirement

The overall net budget requirement for each year was set out in the report as follows:-

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Draft Budget Requirement	53.9	54.5	55.8	57.5	59.5
Budget (Decrease)/Increase	(3.0%)	1.0%	2.5%	3.0%	3.4%

Grant Funding

Future funding was based on the four year settlement figures previously identified (the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the 4 year funding settlement had been confirmed and the draft Local Government Finance Settlement been published, and was in line with figures contained in the report.) It was assumed that funding was frozen in 2020/21 and beyond, although in the recent Autumn Statement the Government reaffirmed that Departmental resource (revenue) spending would continue to grow with inflation in 2020/21, as set out in Budget 2016, and that Departmental spending would also grow with inflation in 2021/22, but obviously there would be significant variation between departments due to how the overall funding was distributed.

		Reduction	
2015/16	£29.6m		
2016/17	£27.8m	£1.8m	6.4%
2017/18	£25.4m	£2.4m	8.3%
2018/19	£24.5m	£0.9m	3.8%
2019/20	£24.1m	£0.4m	1.6%
2020/21	£24.1m	-	-
2021/22	£24.1m	-	-
		£5.5m	18.7%

(Figures presented included an assumption that both Section 31 Grant - Business Rates Capping and Business Rates collection fund deficit remained at their current levels.)

The Spending Review also confirmed that by 2020/21 Local Authorities would retain 100% of business rates, but no details were available as to how this would work and what the impact on the fire sector would be, and hence for the purpose of financial planning it had been assumed that this would be cost neutral.

Council Tax

In setting the council tax, the Authority aimed to balance the public's requirement for its services with the cost of providing this. As such the underlying principle of any increase in council tax was that this must be seen as reasonable within the context of service provision.

The Authority became a precepting authority on 1 April 2004. Since then the council tax increases had been limited either by either capping or the current referendum threshold (of 2%) set by the Government. As such the council tax increases and hence budget increases had been constrained by these and the desire to deliver value for money services, culminating in a council tax freeze between 2011/12 to 2014/15 and a 1.9% and 1.0% increase in the last 2 years. The council tax of £65.50 was still below the national average of £71.50 and the Authority's increase of just 2.9% over the last 6 years compared with an average national increase of 8.6% over the same period and was the 5th lowest of any Fire Authority.

Council Tax-Base

It was noted that both the council tax base and collection fund deficit were estimates which would be updated once figures were received from billing authorities.

Draft Council Tax Requirements

The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority had received a council tax freeze grant in previous years but this had stopped last year and had not been reinstated this year.

Members noted the draft council tax requirements as presented: -

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Draft Budget Requirement	53.9	54.5	55.8	57.5	59.5
Less Total Grant	(25.4)	(24.5)	(24.1)	(24.1)	(24.1)
Council Tax Collection Surplus	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Equals Precept	28.2	29.7	31.4	33.1	35.1
Estimated Number of Band D equivalent properties	422,063	426,283	430,546	434,852	439,200
Equates to Council Tax Band D Property	£66.82	£69.68	£73.05	£76.22	£79.87
Increase in Council Tax	2.0%	4.3%	4.8%	4.3%	4.8%

(For information, a 1% change to the council tax equates to £0.250m.)

The increase in 2017/18 was in line with the referendum limit but increases in future years were more significant and would potentially exceed the referendum limit.

As in previous years 3 scenarios had been modelled based on: -

- A 2% increase in council tax each year;
- A council tax increase of 1% in 2017/18 with a 2% increase thereafter;
- A council tax freeze in 2017/18 with a 2% increase thereafter.

The following table set out the funding gap based on these scenarios:-

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
A 2% increase in council tax each year	-	(£0.6m)	(£1.5m)	(£2.3m)	(£3.3m)
A council tax increase of 1% in 2016/17 with a 2% increase thereafter	(£0.3m)	(£0.9m)	(£1.8m)	(£2.6m)	(£3.6m)
A council tax freeze in 2016/17 with a 2% increase thereafter	(£0.6m)	(£1.2m)	(£2.1m)	(£2.9m)	(£3.9m)

Reserves

A reasonable level of reserves was needed to provide an overall safety net against unforeseen circumstances, such as levels of inflation/pay awards in excess of budget provision, unanticipated expenditure on major incidents, and other “demand led” pressures, such as increased pension costs, additional costs associated with national projects, etc. which could not be contained within the base budget. In addition, they also enabled the Authority to provide for expenditure, which was not planned at the time the budget was approved, but which the Authority now wished to implement.

As such a review of the strategic, operational and financial risk facing the Authority was undertaken each year to identify an appropriate level of reserves to hold, this incorporated issues such as higher than anticipated pay awards, increased number of ill health retirements, etc. Until such time as the draft settlement had been announced it was impossible to carry out this review, as such this would be undertaken and reported on at the Authority meeting in February 2017.

However, in order to give an overview of this area, last year a minimum uncommitted reserve requirement of £3.0m was identified. Based on the budget forecast for 2016/17, and assuming any in-year underspend transferred to capital reserves, it was anticipated the Authority would be holding £10.2m of general reserves at 31 March 2017. The draft capital programme allowed for a further transfer of £2.5m from general reserves to the capital programme in 2017/18, leaving a forecast balance of £7.7m, providing scope to utilise approximately £4.7m of reserves. As such they could be used to meet the funding gap across the remainder of the 4 year settlement period, up to 31/3/2020.

The anticipated reserve position, based on the draft revenue and capital budget as presented, and assuming that a 2% increase in council tax was agreed each year and that any funding gap was met by a drawdown of general reserves showed that the general reserves remained above the minimum target level until April 2021. Whilst the forecast indicated that there would not be sufficient reserves to bridge the potential funding gap in that year, it was noted that this was based on a number of assumptions that would change over time and that these forecast budgets would be subject to several revisions before that time.

Summary Council Tax Options 2017/18

Based on the scenarios outlined the council tax options for 2017/18 were: -

	2% Increase	1% Increase	Freeze
	£m	£m	£m
Gross Budget Requirement	53.9	53.9	53.9
Utilisation of reserves/additional savings	-	(0.3)	(0.6)
Final Budget Requirement	53.9	53.6	53.3
Less Revenue Support Grant & Baseline Funding	(25.3)	(25.3)	(25.3)
Less Section 31 Grant re Business Rates Capping	(0.4)	(0.4)	(0.4)
Add Business Rates Collection Deficit	0.3	0.3	0.3
Less Council Tax Collection Surplus	(0.3)	(0.3)	(0.3)
Equals Precept	28.2	27.9	27.6
Estimated Number of Band D equivalent properties	422,063	422,063	422,063
Equates to Council Tax Band D Property	£66.80	£66.15	£65.50
Increase in Council Tax	2.00%	0.99%	0.00%

The increases equated to:-

- 1% was £0.65 per annum, £0.01 per week
- 2% was £1.30 per annum, £0.03 per week.

Based on this it was apparent that the requirement to achieve savings was manageable over the remainder of the settlement period, but increasingly challenging in subsequent years (this being reflective of anticipated pay awards post the settlement period). The Treasurer reiterated that the figures did not allow for any drawdown of the Local Government Pension Scheme surplus.

Reserves were in a healthy position and could be utilised to bridge any shortfall and

timing issues over the remainder of the settlement period, although this would not be the case throughout the five year period based on current forecasts.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Britcliffe on whether budget predictions were reviewed for their accuracy by way of their comparison with the actual figures subsequently recorded, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the budget projections were based on a number of assumptions, some of which would inevitably change, for example last year's budget projected expected a cut of between 26 – 40% which transpired to be 18%; a significant change that could not be predicted. It was therefore important to maintain a medium term financial strategy.

County Councillor O'Toole suggested that the level of the Authority's investments and whether these could be released to offset any future council tax increases be discussed as part of the budget setting process at the next meeting.

A final revenue budget would be presented to the Authority in February 2017, for formal approval.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the draft Revenue Budget be noted as presented;
- (ii) That the Authority authorise consultation with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers and Trade Unions on the budget proposals;
- (iii) That the Authority gives further consideration to the revenue budget at their next meeting on the 20th February 2017, in light of the consultation process.

53/16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME VALUATION

At the time of the last tri-annual valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme the Fire Authority had a funding deficit of £5.8m. This deficit was being paid off over the agreed deficit recovery period, 19 years, at a cost of approx. £200k-£300k per annum. Members had agreed to utilise in-year underspends in 2014/15 and 2015/16 to pay off this deficit, setting aside £5.2m to do so, as this would reduce any future deficit recovery costs once the outcome of the next valuation in 2016 was agreed. Although it was noted that historically the level of deficit for the scheme as a whole had increased at each valuation, as liabilities had grown at a faster rate than assets, it was recognised that at the time of the valuation there was no guarantee that a new deficit would not exist.

Whole Scheme Valuation

The 2016 valuation had been published and this showed a marked improvement to the scheme as a whole, assets had grown significantly whilst liabilities had only increased marginally, which was completely out of kilter with historic trends.

Asset values had increased significantly due to investment returns performing better than forecast. Liabilities had remained broadly static due to changes in actual pay and pensions inflation and changing assumptions; the basis of calculations was:-

- pension increases had been limited to CPI;
- pay inflation had been lower than anticipated;
- life expectancy projections had been updated and whilst they had increased since the last valuation they had not increased by the forecasted amount;
- the basis of assessing liabilities had been changed this year moving away from the link to gilts and moving to a link to CPI (had this not been the case the reduction in gilt yields would have resulted in a far greater liability).

Lancashire Fire Authority Fund

The Authority's future service rate had increased from 12.8% to 14.7%, an increase of 1.9% which, based on the current budgeted wage bill, equated to £0.1m additional cost.

The Authority's funding position had moved from a deficit of £5.8m to a surplus of £4.3m, this reflected the overall scheme changes highlighted above, and the additional contributions paid into the fund.

It was noted that contributions paid, offset by benefits accrued, accounted for £5.4m of the reduction (this was the monies set aside to pay off the 2013 deficit of £5.8m) the remainder of the reduction was due to investments generating £3.3m more returns than forecast with the balance, £1.4m, relating to the net impact of changing assumptions.

Valuation Date	Assets	Liabilities	Deficit/(Surplus)	Funding Level
2010	£23.5m	£28.5m	£4.8m	82%
2013	£31.5m	£37.3m	£5.8m	84%
2016	£43.6m	£39.3m	(£4.3m)	111%

All of the above indicated the extent of volatility that the valuation was subject to, and the difficulty in making medium term predictions. It was noted that the surplus was ring fenced for the Authority, it could not be used by others, and it would earn a return in line with the whole fund, which historically far outstripped the normal return. Depending on what decision was made it would be available to offset any future increases that might occur when future revaluations took place.

Options

Based on this the Authority needed to pay the new employer contribution rate of 14.7%, an increase of 1.9%, which, based on our current budgeted wage bill, equated to £0.6m an additional cost of £0.1m.

As the fund was now in surplus there was no deficit to pay off, resulting in a saving of £0.2m, which was already reflected in future budgets.

In terms of the surplus on the scheme the Authority had the following options:-

- leave the surplus in situ, to offset any future changes;
- drawdown all of the surplus over the 16 year recovery period, £0.3m per annum (this would still leave approx. £3.3m as a surplus at the next valuation, all other things being equal);

- drawdown the surplus to offset all of the future service pension contributions, £0.6m per annum (this would still leave approx. £2.3m as a surplus at the next valuation, all other things being equal, but we would need scheme approval to do so);
- drawdown part of the surplus over the 16 year recovery period, one option being to draw down a sum equal to the increase in future service contribution, i.e. £0.1m (this would still leave approx. £4.0m as a surplus at the next valuation, all other things being equal).

It was noted that the actuary had also confirmed that it was possible to review the extent of any drawdown on an annual basis, subject to scheme approval.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor O'Toole, the Director of Corporate Services confirmed that the surplus was ring-fenced for the Authority, any draw-down would go back into the revenue budget and there was no change with the move from a Lancashire to a Lancashire / London fund.

Following discussion, given the decision on how to treat the surplus formed part of a wider discussion on the budget and council tax options it was agreed that this item be brought back for reconsideration at the next meeting scheduled for 20 February 2017.

RESOLVED: – That the Authority agreed to reconsider this item at its budget setting meeting on 20 February 2017.

54/16 ADRIAN THOMAS' INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE STAFF IN ENGLAND - FEBRUARY 2015

The Adrian Thomas Review on Conditions of Service as now presented, was published by the Home Office on 3 November 2016. The report contained 45 key findings which needed to be reflected on by the various elements of the Fire Sector (Government, Local Government Association, Chief Fire Officers Association, Unions as well as individual authorities and services).

The Review was confined to Fire & Rescue Authorities in England (46) but had a wider impact. The findings were grouped into five areas: -

- The working environment;
- Documented Conditions of Service;
- Industrial Relations;
- Retained Duty System;
- Management of the Fire & Rescue Service.

In the body of the report, Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service was cited as having been visited in the review. In reality Mr Warren was interviewed by Adrian Thomas on the recommendations of the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser and a separate nomination by the Local Government Association as an adviser to the National Joint Council. The discussion with Mr Thomas was therefore related to the general nature of the fire sector rather than specifics within Lancashire, although elements of the Service's good practice were highlighted.

The publication of the report in November 2016 was two years after the Report was commissioned and a number of comments made had now become historical in context, or overtaken. Similarly, LFRS could demonstrate its position in a favourable light in respect of many of the findings, as was done in respect of the Sir Ken Knight Review. In effect, many of the issues directly in LFRS' control were being progressed within existing activity.

However, the Authority and Service should consider the thrust and direction of the Report in framing and further developing LFRS' main HR and organisational Development activities and it was noted that a gap analysis would be undertaken to identify the Service's position to inform that consideration. This gap analysis would also probably be beneficial in future interactions with the proposed inspectorate regime.

Key Themes

Employment costs were a significant element if not the majority of costs for all Fire Services.

The main findings were summarised in pages 12-18 of the Report.

The themes emerging for consideration in the sector were:

- How could some authorities make progress whilst others did not;
- Greater cross fertilisation of issues should be developed (institutional learning);
- The Conditions of Service and negotiation arrangements should be "modernised" including Role Maps and Duty Systems and content;
- Issues in respect of employee engagement including culture and trust, including equality & diversity and bullying and harassment issues;
- National Leadership development/standards;
- Remove the Right to Strike;
- Greater use of Retained Duty System;
- Future Recruitment.

The key strap line was "where change is common sense, it should become common practice".

Contained within the findings were many other areas such as governance and pay statements.

It was noted that all the findings would be addressed in the report to the February CFA.

RESOLVED: - The Authority: -

- i) noted the publication of the Report; and
- ii) noted that a detailed assessment of the Service's position against the findings of the Report would be presented to the CFA meeting to be held on 20 February 2017.

55/16 RETAINED DUTY SYSTEM PAY REVIEW

The salary scheme was developed based on a set salary pro-rata to the number of hours of cover provided, and taking account of station activity levels, on a banded basis, i.e. 0-100, 100-200 etc. Under this system it was still recognised that as activity levels fell station bandings would fall and therefore earnings would reduce, hence at the time of introducing the scheme the Authority agreed to protect the overall pot of money and undertake a tri-annual banding exercise whereby base salaries for each banding were adjusted to ensure that overall costs remained the same. (It was noted that as activity levels fell, earnings would reduce under the grey book scheme.) The salary scheme was the first in England and required an investment of £600k, and resulted in Lancashire personnel being the highest paid RDS personnel in the country, relative to activity levels.

Rebanding exercises had taken place in 2008 and 2011 taking account of the previous three years activity levels, both of which resulted in some stations moving down the banding system but with the base salary level being increased to maintain the overall pot of money. As a result of these exercises 16 stations had moved into lower bandings, and would therefore have suffered a reduction in earnings, whilst 10 had remained in the same banding and 1 had moved up a banding, all of whom would have seen an increase in earnings. Since its implementation £250k had been re-invested into the scheme in order to maintain the overall pot of money at the same level.

The rebanding exercise scheduled for 2014 showed 12 stations reducing in banding and following concerns being raised about the impact of this on personnel the results were not implemented.

There remained serious concerns about the benefits the salary scheme had delivered. Therefore as part of the RDS Strengthening and Improving agenda it was agreed to undertake a more fundamental review of the scheme to determine whether it remained fit for purpose or if not what amendments were required, recognising that any additional investment required must deliver improvements.

Review

In order to review the scheme a questionnaire was sent to all RDS units asking them:

- what works in the current salary;
- what doesn't work and why it doesn't;
- what changes you would propose;
- what you anticipate the impact of any changes would be in terms of our core issues of recruitment, retention and availability.

Out of 29 units only 11 responded, and within those responses the standard was extremely varied. Included within the questionnaire was a call for additional volunteers for the review group, but again this elicited a very limited response with only 4 personnel being put forward. An RDS Pay Review Group consisting of 8 representatives from the RDS personnel across the service was established and they reviewed the responses. The Group agreed that any eventual proposal must be

perceived as being fair, rewarding both commitment, i.e. hours of cover provided, as well as activity, i.e. actual number of incidents attended, drills undertaken etc. The Group also agreed that any system must take account of current activity levels rather than historical ones, thus ensuring consistency of reward.

Options Considered

The following options were considered:-

- Undertake rebanding exercise;
- Freeze current bandings;
- Reduce the pay differential between bandings;
- Introduce a flat rate of pay, regardless of activity;
- Introduce a banding system based on high, medium, and low activity levels;
- Implement a modified scheme based on grey book activity payments.

Having considered these the group proposed the following modified scheme based on grey book activity payments:-

Reward for commitment

A retaining fee is paid based on contracted hours of cover, regardless of activity levels. For a Firefighter providing 120 hours of cover this is set at £6,250 per annum. The equivalent grey book retaining fee is £2,945, so this represents a significant increase. The retaining fee is paid pro-rata to contracted hours of cover, i.e. someone providing 60 hours of cover will receive 50% of the retaining fee, and someone providing 90 hours of cover will receive 75% of the retaining fee.

Recognising Activity

Paying for additional activity in line with grey book rates, i.e. a drill, turnouts, attendance or hours at incidents are all paid for on a piecemeal basis in line with grey book rates of pay, currently £13.53 per hour plus £3.90 disturbance fee for a Firefighter.

It was noted that these changes would maintain Lancashire RDS personnel as the highest paid RDS personnel in England, relative to activity levels

Impact

The proposal cost approximately £300k more than the current salary scheme, but resulted in approximately 80% of personnel being better off financially and 20% worse off financially.

Members considered the advantages and disadvantages as presented in the report.

Consultation

It was noted that a comprehensive consultation exercise had taken place with staff and representative bodies. The consultation was open for 6 weeks, it closed on 21 November, and included:-

- Letters were sent to all staff explaining the proposal and setting out the impact

specific to them;

- 6 briefing sessions were held with over 70 personnel attending;
- A frequently Asked Questions document was sent to all Unit Managers and included in the Routine Bulletin.

A total of 50 responses were received, as now presented at appendix 1. The majority of these were supportive of the proposal, including that received from the FBU.

Proposed scheme amendments

These responses were debated by the RDS Pay Review Group and as a result the proposed scheme was amended for the following issues:-

- Rostering – this would now be based on seven personnel being on call at any time, with six personnel being paid to ride the appliance and a seventh person being paid an attendance. (For a 2 pump station 14 personnel would receive a payment, with a maximum of 12 personnel being paid for riding the fire appliance);
- Providing cover on a public holiday - this would now include time owing as well as payment at double time (in line with whole-time personnel);
- Future Changes – it was agreed that activity levels would be monitored throughout the period to ensure that they remained broadly consistent. If there was a major change in activity across the whole organisation then the Service would re-visit the scheme to ensure it remained fair and rewarded RDS personnel appropriately.

Next Steps

The Director of Corporate Services confirmed that it was felt sensible that Member approval be required before the FBU sought to undertake a vote of their membership to determine whether the system was supported or not. If the vote was in favour of the proposal then implementation would take place on 1 April 2017. If the vote was not in favour of the proposal then the standard rebanding exercise would take place and would be implemented on 1 April 2017.

RESOLVED: - That Members approved the revised scheme for implementation on 1 April 2017, subject to the outcome of the Fire Brigade Union vote on this.

56/16 EARLY DAY MOTION - SCRAPPING OF SCHOOL SPRINKLERS

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that notification had been received of an Early Day Motion (EDM) currently seeking support in the House of Commons with regards to Building Bulletin 100: design for fire safety in schools and the removal of the expectation that automatic fire suppression systems (sprinklers) would be fitted to all but the lowest risk new schools. It was considered that such a move could compromise the safety of children, staff, local communities and firefighters. The Chairman of the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Chief Fire Officer had therefore written to local MPs on behalf of the Authority, as now presented.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority note the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer's letter and agreed to add support where appropriate.

57/16 MEMBER CHAMPION ACTIVITY - QUARTERLY REPORT

In December 2007, the Authority introduced the "Champion" role. These positions were currently filled by:-

- Equality and Diversity – County Councillor Terry Aldridge
- Older People - County Councillor Mark Perks
- Environment - County Councillor Ken Brown
- Road Safety – Councillor Fred Jackson

Reports relating to the activity of the member champions were provided on a regular basis to the Authority. This report related to activity for the period up to November 2016.

Equality and Diversity

County Councillor Aldridge reported that he had met with the Director of People and Development and would be meeting again in the New Year.

He was pleased to report that the Equality and Diversity Policy had now been adopted and was live on the website. The 2016/2017 Equality and Diversity Action Plan was being updated as progress was made and would be available at the end of the year to demonstrate Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service's progress in compliance with its Public Sector Equality Duty.

Equality Objectives had now been agreed for 2017/2022 and were out for consultation as part of the development of the Integrated Risk Management Plan as follows:

- Support local business to reduce the risk of fire and remain compliant within fire safety legislation;
- Reduce the number and impact of fire and other emergencies to our diverse communities across Lancashire;
- Develop and deliver a Prevention Service targeting our most vulnerable communities;
- Promote equality in our workforce policies and workforce practices;
- Develop our staff to ensure they can respond competently, meeting the different needs of our diverse communities.

As part of creating a more diverse workforce, a project had been established to look at positive action which would commence January 2017. An overarching approach to organisational development was in the process of being developed which looked at how the promotion of equality and diversity, including the prevention of unconscious bias was embedded into existing and proposed development programmes including a new Corporate Induction process.

Older People

It was noted that County Councillor Perks continued to support the work that the Service had been actively involved with during the period which included:-

- The Service continued to develop Dementia activities across the County. The Prevention Support Manager was leading on Dementia with support from a Task Group made up of representation from each area. The group was meeting in December to agree their Terms of Reference and Membership.
- Northern Area had been working closely with Lancashire Constabulary on the Guardian Angels scheme who provided devices to people living with dementia so that they could be quickly identified and helped if found wandering. A Dementia Event was held for Partners on 28th October with a further event held for the Public on 18th November. The task group would consider this as a larger roll out and would carry out a review of the scheme.
- Eastern Area also held an Older People's Open Day on 24th November which included talks from the Fall Prevention Team, Fire Safety talks and a demonstration of the Tunstall Alarms that were available.
- Western Area had developed and produced a number of stickers which could be provided to people living with Dementia as a reminder about fire safety and security. One of the actions of the Dementia Group would be to distribute these county wide with guidance and support offered to staff.
- Dementia Friends Awareness sessions continued to be provided to LFRS staff and local community groups and a document confirming the number of Dementia Friends and the number of Dementia Champions in LFRS was currently being developed. This would then be shared across the organisation and used as a tool to allocate dementia friends session requests.
- The Age Safe Task Group had recently formed to review and develop further our older person's prevention strategies.

Road Safety

Cllr Jackson felt that it was important the those who participated and attended road safety events knew these were backed by the Authority and thanked Members for their continued support. Although difficult to prove there was a clear understanding that the work done on road safety was reducing the number of accidents and deaths.

It was noted that Cllr Jackson continued to support the Wasted Lives programme which included: -

Safe Drive Stay Alive multi-agency presentations had been held at the following locations: -

- **Blackpool Winter Gardens Tuesday 27th September**
Delivered to 856 students from Rossall School, Kirkham Grammar, Myerscough College, Training 2000, Baines School and St Marys.
- **Lancaster and Morecambe College 4th and 5th October**
Delivered to 414 students from Lancaster and Morecambe College, Heysham High School and Morecambe High Schools sixth forms.
- **Park Hall Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th November**
Delivered to 1156 students from Runshaw College, West Lancs College, Hutton Grammar, Lytham 6th Form and Fulwood Academy.

- **Burnley Mechanics Tuesday 22nd November and Thursday 24th November**
Delivered to 1980 students from Burnley College, Training 2000, Myerscough at Witton Park, Todmorden High and Alder Grange sixth form.

The event at Burnley Mechanics on Tuesday was a milestone for Safe Drive Stay Alive, where it was delivered to over 10,000 students. The event was attended by the local media with Lancashire TV producing a film which can be viewed by following the link below.

https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=_0eR0SfiMu0

LFRS signed a brake road safety pledge in support of the national road safety week which took place during 21-25 November 2016. LFRS personnel across the region delivered various road safety themed events each day. These included both crashed cars being located at strategic sites which enabled crews to engage with the public; focusing on the Fatal Four: Speed, Drink, Drugs and Distractions. Events were held in the following town centres: Preston, Lancaster, Accrington, Nelson and Blackburn.

The first Road Safety Thematic group meeting was held on 19/10/2016 where terms of reference, a group plan and work programme were agreed.

Environment

County Councillor Ken Brown reported that in mid-November external auditors carried out the annual surveillance audit to maintain certification to the environmental standard ISO 14001:2004. Continued certification was granted subject to one condition, the successful closure of one minor non-conformance relating to operational controls of other parties that use LFRS premises. A number of positive comments were received from the auditors. The auditors issued three opportunities for improvement which together with observations made by the Safety, Health and Environment staff would be developed into an improvement action plan to ensure continuous improvement was made.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority noted the report and acknowledged the work of the respective Champions.

58/16 FIRE PROTECTION REPORTS

A report detailing prosecutions in respect of fire safety management failures and arson related incidents within the period 1 September to 1 December 2016 was provided. There was 1 successfully completed prosecution under the regulatory reform (fire safety) order 2005. Fire protection and business support information was provided which included details of the Primary Authority Scheme, participation in Business Safety Week during 5th – 9th September 2016, staff progress against the competency framework for business fire safety regulators and details of the Community Fire Risk Management Information System update and training.

Members noted that there were 3 arson convictions during the period with a number of other cases ongoing where guilty verdicts/pleas had been made where sentencing results were awaited.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority noted the report.

59/16 COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY REPORTS

This report included information for the 2 Unitary and 12 District Authorities relating to community safety activity and incidents of operational interest.

Under this item Area Manager Fryer provided Members with a current overview of the Bright Sparx Campaign which had been requested by the Performance Committee held 1 December 2016 (resolution 10/16 refers).

The Bright Sparx campaign was a well-established, multi-agency campaign which aimed to reduce injury, disorder, damage and anti-social behaviour related to the misuse of bonfires and fireworks across the county. The campaign took place over a period of 6 weeks from 1 October to 10 November each year.

Members were pleased that community engagement, partnership work and improved response intervention had resulted in a reduction in the overall number of deliberate fires caused by anti-social behaviour throughout the year and during the Bright Sparx period. Likewise, attacks on firefighters were at their lowest level for several years with only 2 attacks reported in 2016.

County Councillor Aldridge referred to the Skelmersdale areas as having a significant volume of problems but the community engagement initiatives of the Fire and Rescue Service and Police Service, including a five a side football league in the area had done much to establish and improve relationships in the community.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that on 7 December 2016 there had been a major fire at a car dismantlers on Moorfield Industrial Estate, Altham, which had been attended by 16 Fire Engines including Specialist engines. He wanted to acknowledge the professionalism shown by staff and partners which had limited the impact on the community and environment. A full presentation would be presented to the Fire Authority at its next meeting on 20 February 2017.

RESOLVED: - That the Authority note the report.

60/16 MEMBER COMPLAINTS (STANDING ITEM)

The Monitoring Officer confirmed that there had been no complaints since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: - That the current position be noted.

61/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Authority would be held on Monday 20 February 2017 at 10:00 hours in Washington Hall at the Training Centre, Euxton.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood