

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

ORDINARY MEETING

30 JUNE 2014

PRESENT: Councillor J Andrews (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: A Bosmans, A Buckley, A Cave, T Fox, I Hussain,
S Phillips, C Ransome, C Ross, S M Richards and J Satur

M McCarthy, L Noble, S Barker and M McCoole (South
Yorkshire Joint Secretariat)

J Courtney, M Shaw, B Sandy, S Chu and M Wright (South
Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

F Foster, G Kirk and R Winter (BMBC)

1 **APOLOGIES**

None.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

3 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

4 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That the following agenda items be considered in the absence of the public and press:-

Item 18 ‘Construction of New Fire Stations at Birley and Parkway’.

Item 19 ‘Aerial Platforms’.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA**

Councillor Cave declared a non-pecuniary interest, noting that her husband was a member of the Fire Brigades’ Union (FBU).

Councillor Buckley commented that his membership of the FBU Retired Members’ Section had now expired.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Ross had attended a recent Middle Managers Meeting at the Training and Development Centre, which he had found helpful. Councillor Ross felt it would be good practice to ensure Member attendance at future meetings.

Councillor Richards gave thanks to Elm Lane Fire Station, who had attended the Firth Park Festival yesterday. The firefighters had provided smoke alarm advice to members of the public, together with a demonstration on putting out a chip pan fire.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2014

Councillor Fox requested an update on the 'Seven Different Kinds of Smoke' proposal from the FBU.

M Shaw commented that the Service had met with the FBU on a number of occasions, and had passed on the Terms of Reference that Members had directed at the last Authority meeting. The Service had stated to the FBU that if they wished to bring a proposal for discussion, they would provide the resources to bring it to fruition; no proposals had been received to date.

Councillor Fox queried when the final report on the Control Collaboration Project would be brought to an Authority meeting.

M Shaw commented that the new system was anticipated to go live in South Yorkshire next week, and envisaged a verbal report would be brought to the next Authority meeting; West Yorkshire would not go live until after September 2014.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 2 June 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 WEBCASTING

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted which provided Members with an opportunity to review webcasting over the past year. The webcasting contract had been shared to date with the other Joint Authorities and the predecessor body to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Members noted that on 19 June 2014 South Yorkshire Pensions Authority had agreed to contribute to a new contract for another year; M McCarthy would ensure

Members were made aware of responses from the Combined Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner, before final approval was made.

Councillor Fox suggested an on-line survey to ascertain the viewing public's opinion on webcasting.

M McCarthy would look into producing an on-line survey.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed in principle to renew webcasting until the end of March 2015.

11 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT AND THE YEAR AHEAD

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted, which provided Members with a review of learning and development undertaken in 2013/14, a forward look to learning and development in 2014/15 and wider regional and sub-regional developments.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the skills, learning and development acquired in 2013/14.
- ii) Agreed to a process of Development Discussions in July 2014 for all new and existing Members which would inform an appropriate and targeted Learning and Development schedule for 2014/15.
- iii) Noted the regional and sub-regional developments.
- iv) Ratified Policy Development Group's decision of 17 June 2014 that the Authority work towards achieving Charter Plus status in February 2015.

12 ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT 2013/14

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which set out the Authority's and Service's arrangements for managing risk in accordance with the Authority's Corporate Risk Management Policy, which stated 'An annual report will be made to the full Fire Authority detailing progress made in addressing all Corporate Risks for the past year'.

Councillor Bosmans met twice yearly with the Risk Management Team, to review all aspects of risk management, and he provided challenge on various aspects of their role; he would provide copies of the minutes to Members if required. Councillor Bosmans was satisfied with the levels of risk taken within South Yorkshire and that every opportunity was taken to explore any new risks identified within the Service.

Councillor Richards referred to the threat of national industrial action by the FBU, in response to Firefighters' Pension Scheme changes which could impact on service

delivery and resilience; she requested a letter be sent on behalf of the Authority to Mr B Lewis MP.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Considered the appropriateness of the arrangements.
- iii) Agreed a letter be sent to Mr B Lewis MP, on behalf of the Authority, in relation to the threat of national industrial action by the Fire Brigade's Union.

13 ANNUAL CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2013/14

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with the Annual Corporate Performance Report for 2013/14 and set out the final 2013/14 outturn positions for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's suite of Local Performance Indicators.

Councillor Buckley referred to a report that was presented to the last Scrutiny Board meeting, where Members had asked a number of searching questions; he thanked M Shaw for an informative report, and added that the Scrutiny Board were satisfied with the measures taken to address issues.

Councillor Ransome referred to the high number of elderly people suffering from accidental dwelling fire deaths and injuries, and also made reference to the proportion of working days/shifts lost due to sickness absence of all staff.

M Shaw commented that over the last 10 years accidental dwelling fire deaths and injury figures had significantly decreased; Mosaic in connection with partner agencies, would start to target resources to educate people on how to be safe in their own home. M Shaw would provide Councillor Ransome with the Service's Annual Benchmarking Report, which identified where the Service sat alongside other metropolitan fire services.

Councillor Phillips commented that she was a member of the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership Board, which placed a great deal of emphasis on keeping people safe in their own homes.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Scrutinised and commented on the information presented in the report.

14 OUTTURN REPORT 2013/14

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which informed Members on the final outturn position for the 2013/14 financial year.

The outturn position showed that the predicted underspend of £274k that was reported to the March Authority meeting had increased to £359k, an increase of £85k.

RESOLVED – That Members noted and approved the report.

15 ANNUAL SCRUTINY REVIEW AND UPDATE

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted which provided Members with a summary of key scrutiny activity undertaken in the past year (June 2013 to June 2014).

Councillor Richards requested the Scrutiny Board undertake a review on private housing sector fire concerns and the work of the Service on this matter. Councillor Buckley commented that the request would be included on the next Scrutiny Board agenda.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the scrutiny activity from June 2013 to present.
- ii) Continued to support themed scrutiny reviews, as appropriate, around the Change Management Programme.
- iii) Supported the referral process for any topic or area from other Authority Committees or Boards to the Scrutiny Board as appropriate.
- iv) Continued to support scrutiny and challenge across the full range of Fire Authority meetings.
- v) Agreed an item regarding the private housing sector fire concerns and the work of the Service, to be included on the next Scrutiny Board agenda.

16 LEAD MEMBERS - ANNUAL REVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted which examined the existing Lead Member roles and made recommendations for these to continue.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to continue the following existing Lead Member roles:-

Area	Lead Member
Strategic Partnerships	S41 Members Cllr Jim Andrews (Barnsley) Cllr Sue Phillips (Doncaster) Cllr Alan Atkin (Rotherham) Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards (Sheffield)
Workforce and Organisational Development	Cllr Terry Fox (as Chair of Workforce & Organisational Development Board)
Member Learning and Development	Cllr Alice Cave
Risk Management (Audit)	Cllr Andrew Bosmans (as Chair of Audit Committee)
Scrutiny	Cllr Alan Buckley (as Chair of Scrutiny Board)
Stakeholder Engagement	Cllr Jim Andrews (as Chair of Stakeholder Engagement Board)
Environmental Issues	Cllr Ibrar Hussain
Health and Safety	Cllr Alan Buckley
Lifewise Governance Board	Cllr Jackie Satur

17 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted which presented a summary of stakeholder engagement in 2013/14.

Councillor Cave referred to the recent Stakeholder Engagement Board meeting, where it was noted that Home Safety Checks would now include advice about fire safety in extended properties to cover attic extensions etc. Councillor Cave queried whether this could be included in the Fire Safety Campaign.

S Chu commented that the issue was inappropriate for a media campaign, but would be taken forwards with stakeholders.

The Chief Fire Officer referred to two pieces of work by CIPFA and Sheffield City Council around schemes to engage with private landlords, the majority of which were reluctant to be engaged with; this had highlighted a problem with migrant groups arriving into the properties.

S Chu commented that Members had been interested in the way the Service had used Mosaic; further detail would be provided to the next Stakeholder Engagement Board meeting.

RESOLVED – That:-

- i) Members noted the report.
- ii) Further detail on Mosaic would be provided to the next Stakeholder Engagement Board meeting.

18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

19 CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FIRE STATIONS AT BIRLEY AND PARKWAY

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted in relation to the construction of new fire stations at Birley and Parkway.

A discussion arose between Members and Officers regarding the contract for the construction of the new fire stations. Members expressed concern in relation to:-

- The overall financial cost to the project, which had increased since the Authority meeting in February 2014.
- Councillor Fox had requested via email, that the contractor be invited to an Authority meeting to be challenged on the cost of the project. Members noted the contractor had felt this inappropriate, as they were acting on the Authority's behalf, with the notion they should be challenged by the people initially asking them to undertake the work.
- Councillor Fox had requested via email in February 2014, that the matter be taken to the Scrutiny Board or alternatively to the Audit Committee, but this was still awaited.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Agreed the target cost and revised terms of the contract for the works to be undertaken.
- ii) Agreed to incorporate the first option for the construction of Birley.
- iii) Confirmed approval for the contract to proceed to Stage 2, the construction and delivery phase with BAM.

- iv) Agreed Councillor Bosmans, as lead person, be kept informed of any changes to the monitoring process, and to keep Members updated.
- v) Agreed B Sandy would present an update report to every Audit Committee meeting.

20 AERIAL PLATFORMS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted regarding the acquisition of two Turntable Ladder appliances.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Acknowledged the combined work undertaken within the Project Team and the Working Group to provide a satisfactory and economic aerial attribute for the County and satisfy the needs of the Service, the needs of operational workforce and the needs of the public of South Yorkshire.
- iii) Authorised the spending of capital expenditure identified in the report, to acquire two Turntable Ladder appliances from Rosenbauer UK.

CHAIR