

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

28 JULY 2014

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

M Jaworski, M McCarthy, L Noble and A Shirt (South Yorkshire
Joint Secretariat)

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

A Frosdick, J Bell and F Foster (BMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
I Hussain and J Satur

1 APOLOGIES.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS.

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS.

None.

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

RESOLVED – That agenda item 19 ‘Alternative Duty Systems’ be considered in the
absence of the public and press.

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

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS.

None.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS.

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual Authority meeting held on 30 June 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2014

Councillor Ransome referred to minute 13 'Annual Corporate Performance Report 2013/14', and the question she had raised regarding the safety of elderly people remaining in their home. Councillor Phillips had reminded the Authority that she sits on the Safer Stronger Doncaster Partnership Board which placed a great deal of emphasis on keeping people safe in their own homes, due to the high number of elderly people suffering from accidental dwelling fire deaths and injuries. Councillor Ransome was now seeking assurances from colleagues that all South Yorkshire District Councils had adopted a similar approach.

Members from Barnsley, Rotherham and Sheffield confirmed that their District Council had also adopted this approach through representation on their respective Community Safety Partnerships and other forums.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Ordinary Authority meeting held on 30 June 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT (BCM) REPORT

A report of the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer was submitted to provide Members with the current position relating to the Business Continuity Management arrangements within South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. Additionally, the report asked Members' to consider the requirement for appointing a Business Continuity Fire Authority Member Champion.

Members nominated Councillor Ross to become the Authority's designated Business Continuity Champion for 2014/15.

RESOLVED –

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That Councillor Ross be appointed to the role as Business Continuity Fire Authority Champion for 2014/15.

12 CONTROL COLLABORATION PROJECT (CCP) UPDATE

A joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to provide Members with a quarterly update on the progress of the

joint Collaboration Project which is being undertaken in conjunction with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue. The aim of the project was to deliver a combined mobilising system.

Members were informed that the South Yorkshire element of the mobilising system had gone live on 9th July, following rigorous site acceptance testing and user acceptance testing. The system was now receiving and processing emergency calls within the Control Room environment.

Councillor Atkin asked that Members be invited to visit the Service's Control Room once the new system had been fully embedded.

RESOLVED –

- i) That Members note the progress of the project to date.
- ii) That the Service invites Members to visit the Control Room, once the new system becomes fully embedded.

13 STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANS UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to update the Authority on the implementation of Strategic and Operational Plans adopted in November 2013.

Members were informed that there were no significant changes to the Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) adopted by the Authority in November 2013. The IRMP action plan attached to the report at Appendix A provided Members with an update on progress currently being made against those actions.

Councillor Fox referred to the Close Proximity Crewing (CPC) asking if an update could be provided in respect of the current negotiations with the FBU on the introduction of CPC. He understood that this would now be outside of the 'Grey Book', and asked if this would result in personal contracts for those volunteering or collective agreements.

J Roberts informed Members that, in terms of current conversations with the FBU in South Yorkshire, it was highly unlikely, at this stage that a collective agreement would be reached on the introduction of CPC. In respect of individual contracts/individual discussion and negotiation, it was the intention of the Service to meet with those volunteers that have indicated they would be willing to work a CPC system.

Councillor Fox reported that the recent Workforce and Organisational Development Board had asked for confirmation of when the Equality Analysis on CPC would be available.

J Roberts commented that the Equality Analysis would sit alongside the draft CPC Policy. It was noted that the CPC Policy and accompanying Equality Analysis would be available 6 months' after the commencement of the CPC trial.

RESOLVED – That Members note the report.

14 MAY 2014 PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT

A joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to inform Members of the projected spend for the 2014/15 financial year based on the May 2014 outturn position.

Members were informed that it was very early in the year to be able to report a figure with any certainty, particularly during the challenging times that the Authority is currently facing.

The projected position currently suggested an under-spend of £445,000; however, for the reason mentioned above, it was reported that there remains a possibility that the outturn position will fluctuate during the year as issues are clarified. This would be kept under constant review and reported in future monitoring reports.

Members were made aware that the legal services budget relating to the Hillsborough enquiry continued to increase. The Chair informed Members that the Authority had written to Central Government in respect of recovering the associated costs; a reply was awaited.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to a future FRA meeting on Hillsborough, setting out the resources and associated costs.

Councillor Bosmans asked if the Service had any projections in terms of possible increased cost for the employers' contributions in relation to Retained Duty System (RDS) pensions.

B Sandy confirmed that the Service was currently waiting for a final announcement on the method of RDS pension arrangements; additionally the Service had estimated that in the event of the CLG requiring employers to pay these contributions directly, rather than as part of the employer contributions to the pension pot, a sum of around £300,000 may be required.

In relation to the project costs for the construction of the new fire stations at Birley and Parkway, Councillor Bosmans commented that it had been agreed at the June FRA meeting that, as Lead Member, he would be kept informed of any changes to the monitoring process. Councillor Bosmans, asked how this arrangement would work. It was agreed that a monthly update be provided to Councillor Bosmans by the Director of Finance and Resources, and a report be provided to the Authority and Audit Committee at each meeting.

RESOLVED –

- i) That Members note the contents of the report.
- ii) That a report be submitted to a future FRA meeting on the resources and associated projected costs relating to the Hillsborough enquiry.

- iii) That Councillor Bosmans, as lead Member, be kept informed monthly, by the Director of Finance and Resources of any changes to the monitoring process in relation to the construction of the new fire stations at Birley and Parkway and that the FRA be kept informed at each meeting.

15 LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY CODE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide assurance to Members that the Service and South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat would ensure that the Authority complies with the new Local Government Transparency Code, which came into effect on 1 May 2014.

RESOLVED – That Members note the report.

16 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS ANNUAL REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide Members with a review of all complaints received during the period April 2013 to March 2014 inclusive.

During the period the Service had received twelve complaints, of which three were upheld; five were not upheld; and four complaints were transferred for investigation by Human Resources.

A total number of 162 compliments were received by the Service over the same period.

No complaints had been received about the Authority or officers of the Authority during the period.

Members were also provided with information, for comparison purposes, detailing 3 years' data measuring against the same period of financial years 2011/12 and 2012/13.

RESOLVED – That Members note the report.

17 FRA BUSINESS PLAN AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES: JANUARY 2014 - JUNE 2014

A report of the Clerk to the Authority was presented to provide Members with the fourth update on the progress against the agreed FRA Business Plan Performance Measures for January 2014 – June 2014, and invited Members' comments on the content and reporting format.

Councillor Richards referred to Appendix B of the report entitled 'Stronger, Safer Communities Reserve' (SSCR), informing Members that the SSCR Assessment Board had recently met and one of the concerns raised at the meeting was the ability of having staff resources available in future to monitor and work with the projects. Councillor Richards asked if any consideration had been given to this,

particularly in light of the proposed staff reductions through the Support Services Review, and the proposed increase in the number of projects for a second round of funding.

M McCarthy informed Members that it was his intention to submit a report to the next SSCR Assessment Board meeting setting out the resources required if a second round of funding was agreed by Members.

RESOLVED – That Members note the six-monthly update.

18 KEY ISSUES FROM SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014

A paper was submitted for information, on the key issues arising from the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 19th June 2014.

Councillor Richards asked if she could be included in the pre-agenda discussions for the November Scrutiny Board meeting around private housing sector fire concerns and the work of the Service.

Councillor Buckley agreed to this request.

RESOLVED – That the key issues arising from the Scrutiny Board meeting held on 19th June 2014 be noted.

19 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 paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

20 ALTERNATIVE DUTY SYSTEMS

A report of the Director of Service Development was submitted regarding alternative duty systems.

RESOLVED – That Members delegate authority and discretion to the Chief Fire Officer to apply incentive and compensation payments to facilitate the introduction of new duty systems.

CHAIR