

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

8 SEPTEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillor J Andrews (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: A Buckley, C Ransome, C Ross, S M Richards
and J Satur

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

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

J Bell, F Foster and G Kirk (BMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
A Bosmans, A Cave, T Fox, I Hussain and S Phillips

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**

None.

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

None.

6 **REPORTS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Richards expressed thanks to the hospitality shown to herself, other
Members and their families at a recent visit to the National Emergency Services
Museum. The museum was ideal for children and would re-open in October 2014
with a host of new facilities.

Councillor Atkin referred to a recent visit with Councillor Ransome to Handsworth Training Centre; he expressed thanks to Station Manager Stewart Nicholson and all the staff concerned for the warm welcome they had received.

Councillor Ross had recently attended an initial meeting with the Service in his capacity as Business Continuity Fire Authority Champion for 2014/15; update meetings would be held every four months.

Councillor Richards had attended a recent meeting of the Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership, where she had raised safety issues within private sector housing. Councillor Richards noted that colleagues on equivalent boards in other districts were also addressing the issue.

Councillors Andrews and Cave had recently presented a cheque to the Barnsley Midwives' Sleeping Safely Project, a SSCR funded project which was hoped to be rolled out to the other three districts. R Bywater would meet with the midwives this week, to determine how to contact members in the other health authority areas.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 28 July 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted which sought Member approval to re-appoint Christine Marshall as an Independent Member of the Audit Committee to the end of September 2016, which would be her final term of office.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the re-appointment of Christine Marshall to the role of Independent Member of the Audit Committee to the end of September 2016 when her term of office would expire.

11 SSCR PROJECT - VARIATION TO CONTRACT

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted which informed Members about contractual changes to Phoenix Futures, which was one of the successful Round 1 projects.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the report.

12 QUARTER 1 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which provided Members with details of corporate performance for quarter one of 2014/15 and set out the current position for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's (SYFR's) suite of Local Performance Indicators.

Members noted the following:-

- The Service assisted the Ambulance Service in moving bed-ridden/house bound bariatric patients for medical attention.
- The Service undertook animal rescues, to help prevent members of the public putting themselves in danger.
- The Primary and Secondary Arson Incidents had been well below the lower tolerance level during the first quarter of 2014/15.
- An increase in arson figures had resulted from partner agencies changing their policies/ways of working i.e. a number of bin fires had occurred between 3pm and 10pm, which coincided with children walking home from school.
- The Service monitored any impact on work with partners due to reducing budgets.
- The Charger Safety Campaign advised the public to ensure only correctly manufactured chargers were purchased, and to follow manufacturer's guidance. Nationally Fire and Rescue Services had gained a great deal of media attention as risks changed over time.
- Home safety checks incorporated rigorous appliance checks to help prevent electrical fires.
- There had been a slight increase in cooking related fires with vulnerable people with mental health issues or the elderly. The Service was trying to make interventions through community safety work.
- The number of people rescued in South Yorkshire would continue to be monitored by the Scrutiny Board and Authority.
- Further work would be undertaken to establish the reason for the marked increases in special service incidents in June and July 2014.
- Home Safety Checks (HSE) would continue to be brought to the Scrutiny Board.

Councillor Atkin referred to the daily arson reports which Members had previously received and queried whether these could be reinstated. J Roberts would discuss the matter further with S Chu.

Councillor Andrews requested that a letter of congratulations be sent to the new Lord Scriven, whom he hoped would be an advocate for the South Yorkshire grant.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Scrutinised the information presented in the report.

- ii) Agreed a letter of congratulations be sent on behalf of the Authority, to the new Lord Scriven.
- iii) Noted the contents of the report.

13 JULY 2014 PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which informed Members of the projected spend for the 2014/15 financial year based on the July 2014 outturn report.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Agreed a further letter be sent to the Fire Minister, on behalf of the Authority, to seek a formal response to the original letter sent regarding expenditure in relation to the National Firefighter Industrial Action and the Hillsborough Inquest.
- ii) Noted the contents of the report.

14 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Members were presented with the Audit Committee's Annual Report 2013/14 which provided evidence of the arrangements the Authority had in place to monitor, challenge and hold to account those responsible for managing its governance arrangements, and the production and approval of its Annual Governance Statement.

Members expressed their gratitude to Councillor Bosmans for the work undertaken in his capacity of Chair of the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the Annual Audit Letter which had been published on the Authority's website before the 31 October 2013 deadline.

15 KEY ISSUES FROM THE WORKFORCE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD HELD ON 16 JULY 2014

Members were provided with a summary of the key issues discussed at the Workforce and Organisational Development Board (WOD) held on 16 July 2014.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

CHAIR