

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**5 JANUARY 2015**

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

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

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

A Frosdick, F Foster and D Hanson (BMBC)

M Farrell (DMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Cave and C Ransome

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Atkin congratulated Councillor Andrews on being awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's New Year's Honours list.

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 entitled 'Co-location of South Yorkshire Police and Fire and Rescue Services at Maltby Police Station'.

Item 19 entitled 'Minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 8 December 2014'.

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

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Bosmans referred to a meeting with D Cutting and R Winter prior to Christmas 2014 in relation to the Hillsborough inquest costs; he was assured that all necessary procedures were in place. A further report would be presented to the Audit Committee in March 2014. Councillor Bosmans assured Members that Hillsborough costs, although significant, were being challenged where they should be and that an audit trail was in place.

Councillor Satur had visited Lowedges Fire Station on 12 December 2014 and Aston Park Fire Station on 19 December 2014, to gauge the fire crews' views on how close proximity crewing (CPC) was working. Both stations were happy with CPC and were getting used to the system; the only negative aspect had been that other members of the original crews from those stations had had to move elsewhere. Councillor Satur suggested that in the future there should be a mixture of different crewing systems throughout South Yorkshire, to provide crews with a choice of how they worked.

Councillor Satur had attended the Carol Service at the Lifewise Centre on 16 December 2014, which had been an excellent event.

Councillor Atkin gave thanks to T Carlin, S Green and others who permitted him to observe the recent Crew Manager selection process; he recommended other Members to attend in the future.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 24 November 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 15 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 15 December 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**11 SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW (SSR)**

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Development was submitted which provided an overview on the outcomes of the consultation and the presentation of Support Services structures for approval by Members.

In February 2014, a review of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Support Service functions had been initiated with each of the Heads of Function required to apply 'lean methodology' to the work undertaken within their respective functions.

Councillor Bosmans commented that the level of scrutiny and challenge undertaken had been robust and he welcomed the fact that Members' views had been taken on board in the production of the document.

Councillor Richards referred to 'The Shared Service Architect's Efficiency Matrix', and added that she would prefer the Authority to look at opportunities for joint working, partnership and co-operation with other public sector authorities rather than just outsourcing.

Councillor Richards commented that the funding for Maltby Police Station was now known and welcomed the possibility that the station could become a three blue light station (to include the Ambulance Service).

Councillor Andrews commented that it would be necessary to look in-house to determine where matters could be as cost effective as possible, together with partnership working with blue light services, local authorities and social enterprises.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the outcomes arising from the Support Services Review.

**12 THE FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEME 2015 - PROPOSALS FOR NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

A report of the Deputy Clerk was submitted which outlined the requirement under the Public Services Pensions Act 2013 for public sector pension schemes to establish a Pension Board, in this instance for Firefighters' Pension Schemes.

M McCarthy commented that the draft Constitution and Terms of Reference would be presented to the Policy Development Group on 3 February 2014 for consideration, and a report setting out the proposals would be presented to the Authority Meeting on 16 February 2015.

Councillor Ross requested that the report should set out the thinking and purpose behind it.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.

- ii) Agreed that the Policy Development Group considered proposals to establish a Pension Board.
- iii) Agreed that a further report be submitted to the February meeting of the Authority.

13 OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND FIRE PEER CHALLENGE ACTION PLAN

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which introduced the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge Action Plan.

Members noted a number of key areas within the Action Plan had taken a more proactive approach. A progress report would be presented to the Scrutiny Board on a 6 monthly basis to ensure Members were kept fully informed.

Councillor Buckley, as Chair of the Scrutiny Board, commented that the report was excellent, and looked forward to a progress report being presented to the Scrutiny Board on a regular basis.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge Action Plan.

14 PRESENTATION ON SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES RESERVE (SSCR) FUNDED PROJECT: 'FAKES CAUSE FIRES'

The Authority received a presentation from M Farrell, Tobacco and Alcohol Education Officer at Trading Standards DMBC, on the 'Fakes Cause Fires' SSCR Funded Project, which highlighted the increased fire risk through the use of counterfeit electrical goods and cigarettes.

Members noted the following key objectives of the project:-

- To raise awareness of the dangers of fake electrical goods and counterfeit and cheap cigarettes.
- Refer people to the Fire Service for free home safety checks.
- Refer people to Stop Smoking Services.
- Encourage people to report those thought or known to be selling fake electrical goods and counterfeit or foreign cigarettes.

The Project was designed to target the three localities of each town or city with the highest incidence of fires from target categories within the last year.

Pre-campaign awareness questionnaires had been completed by 249 people, with a varied age range. Post campaign questionnaires would be completed in Doncaster from May 2015 onwards.

The campaign had been launched as a roadshow style event on 28 November 2014 in Doncaster, which Councillor Phillips had attended.

Members noted the progress made to date:-

- The first stage of the campaign in Rotherham, Barnsley and Sheffield would be completed in early 2015.
- Ongoing promotional opportunities had been booked for 2015 i.e. educational events for schools, and promotional DVD's to be played at the Lifewise Centre for youngsters.
- Work was underway with Children and Young People Services, local youth clubs and community groups.
- Following the launch in Doncaster, there have been 100 referrals for Home Safety Checks.

Councillor Richards queried whether the promotional DVD's could be shown as advertisements in local cinemas. M Farrell would look into this further.

Councillor Richards gave thanks to R Bywater, who had spoken at a recent national community safety conference about the SSCR including 'Barnsley Babies' as one of the case studies, which had spread the word outside of South Yorkshire.

Councillor Andrews thanked M Farrell for an informative and thought provoking presentation.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the presentation.

15 DRAFT BUDGET 2015/16

A report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which set out the implications of the provisional finance settlement and the latest draft budget for 2015/16, along with consideration of issues relating to the medium term financial position.

On 18 December 2014 the provisional settlement had been announced, which would result in the Authority losing £2.8m in funding for 2015/16, which was slightly more than previously indicated from the Government. From 2016/17 onwards, grant cuts were set to continue.

Members noted the council tax freeze grant details for 2015/16, which were announced by the Government, were equivalent to a 1% Council Tax increase. Councillor Andrews indicated that the Authority would not agree to the council tax freeze.

RESOLVED – That Members received the report.

16 FRA BUSINESS PLAN - PERFORMANCE MEASURES: JULY 2014 - DECEMBER 2014

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to provide Members with the fifth update on the progress against the agreed FRA Business Plan Performance Measures for July 2014 – December 2014.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the six-monthly update.

**17 KEY ISSUES FROM THE WOD BOARD HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2014**

Members were provided with a summary of the key issues discussed at the Workforce and Organisational Development Board (WOD) held on 10 December 2014.

Members' attention was drawn to an error within the report; agreement on the introduction of self-rostering had not been reached between the Service and the Fire Brigades' Union (FBU).

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

**18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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 CO-LOCATION OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES AT MALTBY POLICE STATION**

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted in relation to the co-location of South Yorkshire Police and Fire and Rescue Services at Maltby Police Station.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Approved the development of the project as described in the report.
- iii) Agreed to receive further updates and reports when the project was at a point to consider the appointment of a design and build contractor.

**20 MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 8 December 2014 be noted.

CHAIR