

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19 OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: Councillor J Andrews (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, A Cave, P Haith, E Hughes,
R Munn, C Ransome, S M Richards and J Satur

M McCarthy, L Noble and M McCoole (South Yorkshire Joint
Authorities)

CFO J Courtney, DCFO J Roberts, ACFO M Blunden and
B Sandy (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

A Frosdick, J Bell and F Foster (BMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor
G Furniss, R Bywater, D Cutting, I Rooth, G Kirk and
D Hanson

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Hughes referred to a recent fire station visit, where staff appeared to be wearing different colour uniforms.

ACFO Blunden commented that new shirts had been issued to firefighters and new trousers would shortly be introduced, to bring the uniform up to standard over the coming weeks.

M McCarthy reported that the Service's Stronger Safer Communities Reserve Fund (SSCR) had been shortlisted for Partnership of the Year and SYFR Communications and CFS for the Team of the Year Award at the Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards 2015; Members would be kept updated.

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

Councillors Satur and Haith had recently attended a Leadership Essentials Fire and Rescue Programme, which had enhanced their knowledge of how other fire authorities performed.

Councillor Hughes gave thanks to the firefighters at Doncaster Fire Station for her recent visit; she queried why the turntable ladder was only available on a part time basis at the station.

CFO Courtney referred to the task undertaken over the last 4 years to reduce the establishment in line with the diminishing budget. It had been agreed that Sheffield would retain one aerial appliance on a whole time basis, due to it having the largest number of high rise buildings within South Yorkshire, and that a second aerial appliance would be located at Doncaster on a retained basis. The Authority had agreed the IRMP, which was now in the process of being implemented.

Councillor Andrews requested that Councillor Hughes be provided with statistical data around the use of the aerial appliance in the last 5 years for South Yorkshire, and in particular Doncaster.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2015

Councillor Richards commented that the outcome of the Internal Audit review in relation to the overtime payments made to Principal Officers during periods of industrial action would be presented to the Audit Committee in November. Councillor Richards would continue to keep the Members of the Audit Committee up to date.

Councillor Hughes referred to her visit to the Control Room, where staff had indicated that issues in relation to the computer system, for emergency and non-emergency telephone calls, had not yet been resolved; she had since received a response from the Service in response to her concerns, but had not yet re-visited the Control Room to establish whether the situation had improved.

10 VARIATION TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT - PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS

A report of the Director of Service Development/Deputy Chief Fire Officer was submitted in relation to the variation to the terms and conditions of employment for part-time firefighters.

In 2013 a proposal had been developed to vary the terms and conditions of employment of Retained Duty Staff (RDS) firefighters, to ensure they became more aligned to their Wholetime counterparts for the wider provision of safety critical training and Maintenance of Compliance. A collective agreement had been reached on 24 March 2015 with the FBU at a meeting of the Joint Negotiating Meeting (JNM). Subsequently the FBU had indicated that they were not prepared to ratify the collective agreement, unless an agreement was made by managers for a payment to be made to each member of staff affected by the change. As a result of this, the type of incidents most RDS firefighters can respond to have been restricted until a resolution is reached.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Agreed to the proposal for a one-off pro-rata payment to the maximum of £750 (subject to tax and National Insurance) for firefighters engaged on RDS, to fit the contracted availability hours provided by each individual.

11 CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which set out a number of options relating to the ongoing provision of contingency arrangements in order that the Fire and Rescue Authority complies with the Fire and Rescue Act 2004 and the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

Councillor Richards requested that a report be presented to the November Authority meeting to provide costings for Options 3 and 4 in relation to the contingency arrangements, to enable a proper and informed decision to be made.

RESOLVED – That a report be submitted to the November Authority meeting, to provide costings for Options 3 and 4 in relation to the contingency arrangements.

12 AMENDMENT OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

A report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer was submitted requesting an amendment to the Contract Standing Orders to allow the Authority to procure from its trading company.

Members noted that Section 5 of the Authority's Contract Standing Orders dealt with exempt categories of contracts to which the full tendering exercise was not required.

RESOLVED – That Members resolved to amend Contract Standing Order 5 to include the SYFR trading company.

13 EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDING

DCFO Roberts commented that the Service had been accepted onto the national trial for emergency first responding, which would initially be launched at Stocksbridge Fire Station upon the completion of formal DBS checks. Following

which, it was the intention to go live at Rossington and Dearne Fire Stations in terms of co-responding, which would enable a more rapid response to be provided to the communities.

DCFO Roberts referred to co-responding which involved a dual response from both the Service and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS). It was anticipated that the Service would arrive first at an incident to provide medical intervention, due to the high volume of calls experienced by YAS of approximately 2,000 to 3,000 calls per day.

Members noted that YAS provided the Service with specific training over a period of 2 days, which included CPR training, provision of oxygen therapy and defibrillator training.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

14 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

It was noted that Members had agreed at the last Authority meeting to the dissolution of the Workforce and Organisational Development Board (WOD).

DCFO Roberts referred to a meeting requested by the Equality and Inclusion Lead Member, Councillor Cave, with staff from the Service's Equality and Inclusion Section which would take place on 22 October 2015. A gap analysis had been undertaken over the last 6 months against the Fire and Rescue Equality Framework to establish whether the Service was maintaining 'Achieving' of the Equality Framework, and the work required to move to an 'Excellent' rating. DCFO Roberts commented that a report would be submitted to a future Authority meeting once a number of queries on the gap analysis report had been resolved.

Councillor Richards referred to a report commissioned on the culture of Essex Fire Service. She requested that the Service produce a 'lessons learnt' report based on this report in relation to the way the Service was run to ensure that such issues did not arise in South Yorkshire.

Councillor Richards commented that at the last LGA Fire Conference the Fire Minister had referred to the Thomas Report, which had not yet materialised.

CFO Courtney commented that Adrian Thomas had recently suggested that the report was with the new Fire Minister and that it was for the Minister to decide whether the report would be published.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed:-

- i) A lessons learnt report, based on the Essex Fire Service's report, would be presented to the January 2016 Authority meeting.
- ii) A letter be sent on behalf of the Authority to the Fire Minister in relation to the Thomas Report, and copied to the Shadow Minister, to stress the importance of publishing the report as indicated by the previous Fire Minister.

CHAIR