

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

30 NOVEMBER 2015

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

CFO J Courtney, DCFO J Roberts, ACFO M Blunden, S Howe
and M Wright (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

A Frosdick, J Bell, F Foster, M McCarthy, L Noble and
M McCoolle (BMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor
S M Richards, Councillor J Satur and B Sandy

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 Item 17 entitled ‘Disposal of Sites’ 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**

In her capacity as Lead Member for Equality and Inclusion, Councillor Cave had attended a meeting with the officers from the Service on 22 October, to discuss concerns that the Fire Authority’s momentum around equality and inclusion would slip following the dissolution of the Workforce and Organisational Board in September, and also to ensure that the Fire Authority continued to be compliant with the Equality Duty. Councillor Cave had received reassurance that the Authority was compliant in terms of the legislation. From spring 2016 an annual report would be produced which would cover legal requirements and what the Service had been doing to meet its equality and inclusion objectives. Externally, equality and inclusion was managed within Prevention and Protection and reported via the Stakeholder Engagement Board (SEB); links between the FRA and SEB in

terms of reporting needed to be strengthened. Members had expressed concerns as to how equality and inclusion would be monitored, and this could be reported to the Fire Authority within the People Strategy. A brief session would be held at the conclusion of the Fire Authority Meeting on 4 January 2016 to discuss how equality and inclusion would be reported in the future. Additionally, it was important that Members had access to learning and development on the subject. Councillor Cave confirmed that an awareness session for new Members would be held in the New Year.

Councillor Atkin gave thanks to the staff at the Lifewise Centre, for the recent update on the Service's strategies to keep people safe in the home. He had also attended the opening of the Dementia Café at Adwick Fire Station last week. Councillor Atkin thanked everyone involved in project, and in particular the volunteers, and he looked forward to this being rolled out into community rooms across the County.

Councillor Ransome had attended the Doncaster School for the Deaf with Councillors Atkin and Munn for an SSCR cheque presentation. She encouraged Members to visit the school.

Councillor Haith had attended the opening of the Stocksbridge First Responder, where she had spoken to firefighters. She had also visited Thorne Fire Station where she had listened to CPC concerns, in particular gaining entry into properties when YAS had not provided backup, together with concerns that the black fleece jackets did not match the navy uniforms. Councillor Haith gave thanks to S Helps and A Thompson for her visit to the Lifewise Centre in relation to the initiatives with DMBC with the Health and Wellbeing Board and working with SYFR.

Councillor Hughes gave thanks to Thorne Fire Station, following her recent visit where she had watched a training demonstration. She also gave thanks to the organisers following her recent visit to the Emergency Fire Services Museum.

Councillor Buckley referred to the recent Scrutiny Board meeting where a presentation on outcome based accountability and home safety checks had been received; the presentation would be scheduled for a future Fire Authority meeting, and a copy would be forwarded onto all Members together with a key issues paper. The Scrutiny Board had recommended that CPC be removed as a standing agenda item, to be revisited upon the conclusion of the building works.

Councillor Cave referred to a visit with Councillor Andrews to the Lifewise Centre. There is an issue with some Barnsley schools not taking up the offer to visit, but she and Councillor Andrews would liaise with the necessary officers within Barnsley MBC.

Councillor Andrews commented that the Lifewise Centre was free of charge, but some schools could not attend due to travel costs. Members noted that S Helps and ACFO Blunden were working to include the NHS element within the Lifewise Centre, which would provide a wrap-around service for Year 6 children.

Councillor Munn, in his capacity as Business Continuity Lead Member, had met with the Emergency Planning Officer who had assured him that all appropriate measures were in place. He had also visited the National Emergency Services Museum, an SSCR cheque presentation at the Da Hood Boxing Club, a visit to the Doncaster Deaf School and the Lifewise Centre.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 19 OCTOBER 2015

Councillor Haith enquired how negotiations were progressing in relation to the aerial appliance at Doncaster.

DCFO Roberts commented that this would be implemented in line with the IRMP, as it had not been possible to reach an outcome between the Service and the FBU.

Councillor Hughes commented that she had not received statistical data around the use of the aerial appliance in the last 5 years for South Yorkshire, and in particular Doncaster. ACFO Blunden commented that he would email the information onto Councillor Hughes today.

Councillor Hughes had recently re-visited the Control Room to follow up on a number of issues previously raised. Staff had indicated that, on occasions, the whole system had closed down for 20 minute periods.

DCFO Roberts commented that the issue in relation to the computer system for emergency and non-emergency telephone calls had now been resolved. A system was in place for WYFR to automatically receive SYFR's calls if the system closed down. The Service continued to apply pressure onto Systel, the system provider, to ensure that improvements were continuously made. A number of other Fire and Rescue Authorities used the Systel system which included West Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, and tenders had been put out for North Wales, Scotland and Essex.

Councillor Andrews queried whether any problems had been encountered with Systel at West Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Services.

DCFO Roberts reported that the system was bespoke for each individual Fire and Rescue Service but, generally, every Service had encountered the same problems as South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 19 October 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS RELATING TO FUTURE CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted following a request from Members at the last Fire Authority meeting to be provided with further details and costing in relation to options 3 and 4 of the future arrangements for contingency. The report highlighted the costs of both options based on the current contingency establishment and any potential risks associated with those options.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed:-

- i) To option 4 of the future arrangements for contingency.
- ii) A letter be sent on behalf of the Fire Authority to the Fire Minister to urge a resolution to the pensions dispute.

11 ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014/15

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk was submitted to present Members with the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Annual Report for 2014/15.

DCFO Roberts commented that it was a priority for Fire and Rescue Authorities, under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, to be accountable to communities for the service that they provided, which included transparency, accountability and scrutiny arrangements. It was necessary for all Fire and Rescue Authorities to publish an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and an Annual Statement of Assurance to help meet those expectations.

Members noted that the Annual Report, which detailed its performance and achievements over the past year, would be available on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's website.

DCFO Roberts commented that the Service endeavoured to engage with as many partners agencies as possible; national data had been received from the Department of Work and Pensions for people over the age of 65, which was the most vulnerable age group. A data sharing inventory was being produced to collate all sources of data received.

Councillor Ayris queried why the review of the Emergency Call Management Performance systems had not yet been implemented, due to issues with the new system.

DCFO Roberts referred to problems encountered in transferring information from the system onto the analysts. Progress was being made to resolve the issue.

Councillor Haith expressed concern at the increased number of fire deaths and injuries in 2014/15 in comparison to 2013/14.

CFO Courtney commented that this had resulted from an unfortunate incident earlier in the year that had resulted in 5 fatalities which had significantly impacted on the 2014/15 figures.

Councillor Furniss welcomed a discussion with the Service and SY Police in relation to the high volume of vehicle arson incidents in the Fox Hill area of Sheffield; a total of 14 cars had been set alight since January 2015.

DCFO Roberts commented that the Service was engaged in dialogue with SY Police around vehicle arson in this area.

Councillor Atkin suggested that the report be distributed to all elected Members within South Yorkshire. He would convey the message back to RMBC, to indicate the great work undertaken by the Service in such financial difficulties.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted and approved the report.
- ii) Agreed that the report be distributed to all elected Members within South Yorkshire.

12 CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION - 8-9 MARCH 2016

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted in relation to the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2016 on 8-9 March 2016, at the Marriott Hotel, City Centre, Bristol.

M McCarthy commented that Member representation had been sought, and provisional bookings had been made.

RESOLVED – That Members approved representation at the LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2016.

13 SEPTEMBER 2015 PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Treasurer was presented to inform Members of the projected revenue and capital spend for the 2015/16 financial year based on the first six months of the year and taking into account other known factors.

Councillor Ayris queried the projected underspend of £100,000 for smoke alarms.

ACFO Blunden commented that 35,000 smoke alarms had been installed during 2010/11, and a greater focus would now be placed upon vulnerable people within the home. This issue had been raised at Scrutiny Board on 26 November.

Councillor Buckley commented that the Home Safety Checks presentation on the outcome-based performance received at the recent Scrutiny Board meeting would be presented to a future Fire Authority meeting.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the report.

14 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

A report of the Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted to provide Members with context and assumptions behind the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) which would form the basis to the Authority's budget setting process for 2016/17 and beyond.

Members noted that it was likely that the report would be updated once the details of the Local Government Settlement were known.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the information provided within the report.
- ii) Would receive an updated position when the details of the recent Local Government Settlement had been examined.

15 MALTBY UPDATE

M Wright informed Members of the proposal to close Maltby Fire Station, and to relocate into Hellaby Police Station. The project was on target to be opened in the summer of 2016. Kier, the appointed construction partner, would provide a price for the specification agreed by SYFR and SYP.

A report would be presented to the Fire Authority meeting in January 2016, at which point the specification, price and finalised programme would be available.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the verbal update.

16 EQUALITY AND INCLUSION UPDATE

DCFO Roberts informed Members that a report would be presented to a future Fire Authority meeting on the compliance against equality duties and staff profile, together with a refreshed People Strategy.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the verbal update.

17 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 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.

18 DISPOSAL OF SITES

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to update Members regarding the planned disposal of the three vacated fire stations.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Confirmed the acceptance of 'Offer B' for Mosborough Fire Station site, subject to the conditions set out in the report.
- ii) Instructed the Head of Asset Management to remarket the sites at Darnall and Mansfield Road by private treaty.

CHAIR