

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

11 APRIL 2016

PRESENT: Councillor J Andrews BEM (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

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

J Bell, F Foster, M McCarthy, L Noble and M McCoole
(Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor G Furniss and A Frosdick

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 18 entitled ‘Control Collaboration Project (CCP) Update’ 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 AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2016

Councillor Haith queried when the Authority would be provided with a further report on how the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR) funding would be utilised.

M McCarthy commented that a report would be presented to the next Stakeholder Engagement Board meeting before submission to the Authority meeting in June.

Councillor Richards referred to the two presentations received at the February Authority meeting, which Members had found to be very useful. She suggested that consideration be given for a presentation provided to every alternate Authority meeting, to provide Members with an understanding of all aspects of the work undertaken by the Service.

Councillor Satur requested an update on the disposal of the former station site at Mansfield Road, Sheffield.

B Sandy commented that the paperwork had now been completed, and the matter was anticipated to conclude within the next few weeks.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 15 February 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 FIRE STATION CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which set out the framework and resources required to project manage the construction works now being undertaken at the key Fire Stations of Maltby, Edlington, Lowedges, Aston Park and Tankersley.

Councillor Richards referred to the last two major schemes that had been considerably over budget, and she queried what guarantees were in place to ensure that this would not happen again.

B Sandy commented that the budget costs had been underestimated at the start of those two major schemes. In relation to this scheme, the Service had agreed a fixed price with Kier, who had been appointed as consultants to deliver the construction works at all sites. RLB, the Authority's quantity surveyor, had reviewed the figures and the Service was confident that the budget would remain within the amount specified; any cost overrun or any savings would be funded/retained by Kier.

Members noted the vacancy for a building surveyor. It was the intention, if approved, to utilise a senior programme management resource to ensure that all projects could be completed on time, within the scope and within the fixed budgets already agreed. It was anticipated that the total cost of the role would be in the region of £162,000 which represented a 6% fee level against the original budget costs of £1.2m for Maltby and £1.635m for the CPC works.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Approved the proposals with regard to the project management arrangements for the construction projects.

11 REGIONAL CHARTER ASSESSMENT 2016

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to inform Members of the Regional Charter Assessment 2016.

Members noted that the Authority had become the first Fire and Rescue Authority in Yorkshire and Humberside to achieve Regional Charter Status in 2012. The Authority had agreed in June 2014 to work towards re-assessment for Charter Status in 2015, or for the higher award of Charter Plus. On 25 February 2016 the formal re-assessment had been conducted, and the Authority had successfully been re-awarded the Charter Status for the next three years.

Councillor Haith referred to the verifiers' suggestion for a common personal development plan document which would be a more efficient and effective way of ensuring that learning and development needs were met. She queried whether this would be undertaken.

L Noble commented that a personal development plan was currently in place, but that consideration would be given to the versions used by the other District Councils to check if improvements could be made.

Councillor Richards gave thanks to L Noble for the work undertaken on the self-assessment documentation.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the Assessment report, and the Authority's successful re-award of Charter Status.
- ii) Noted the improvements recommended at pages 9 and 10 of the Assessment Report – Continuous Improvement and Verifiers' Suggestions.

12 SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW - OUTCOMES FROM IMPLEMENTATION

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Development was presented to provide Members with background information relating to the Support Services Review (SSR) including confirmation of the outcomes from the implementation of the SSR.

Members noted that it had been approved at the Authority meeting in December 2014 for the release of £1,523,000 from reserves to deal with the costs associated with Early Voluntary Release (EVR) redundancy payments, and related pension payments where applicable. A number of staff had taken up the opportunity for EVR and no compulsory redundancies had been made. DCFO Roberts commented that the SSR had concluded on 31 March 2016, and was expected to yield £1.3m of savings, however to date it would achieve £1.2m of savings. Due to

the collaboration with Humberside FRS ending, HR, Training and Occupational Health now need to be reviewed.

Councillor Buckley expressed his disappointment that the report did not provide enough information for the Members to challenge upon. He proposed, within his capacity of Chair of the Scrutiny Board, that the Board undertake a post implementation review.

Councillor Haith requested sickness level information in relation to stress, to determine whether the SSR process had been a factor.

Councillor Andrews commented that the sickness level information would be provided to the Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the report.
- ii) Agreed that the Scrutiny Board undertake a post implementation review of the Support Services Review.
- iii) Noted that sickness level information in relation to stress be provided to the Scrutiny Board.

13 QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA)

A quarterly report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA). The statutory guidance required that the Authority should receive a quarterly update of the use by the authority of surveillance and use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS).

DCFO Roberts referred to an Inspection of RIPA within the Authority which had taken place on 8 January 2016 with Assistant Surveillance Commissioner HH Norman Jones Queen's Counsel (QC) who had stated within his report that the 'Service should be commended for the efforts that had been made to achieve a proper level of compliance with complex statutory provisions'.

Members noted that there had not been any occasion of telecommunications details being obtained by the Authority under RIPA in the last 12 months; DCFO Roberts proposed that this be incorporated into the quarterly performance report.

Councillor Haith requested that Members thanks be conveyed onto the staff involved in the work.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Agreed that future RIPA updates be included within the performance report.

14 FITNESS TESTING - UPDATE

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Development was presented to provide Members with an update with regard to the introduction of fitness testing within South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR).

DCFO Roberts informed Members, that since the production of the report, national guidance had been agreed with the NJC; the Service was now in the process of aligning its processes with national guidance, to which it was hoped to achieve an agreement. The Service had recruited a Fitness Advisor who had the necessary qualifications and experience to oversee the fitness testing and development arrangements within the Service.

Councillor Ayris queried whether the fitness tests being carried out had been hindered by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) not being in agreement with the implementation of the Fitness Policy into the Service.

DCFO Roberts commented that very little fitness testing was currently taking place; an amnesty period would be enforced when the policy was rolled out. It had been the intention to implement a draft policy from January 2016 to June 2016, at which point a testing period would commence.

Councillor Satur queried the percentage of firefighters that had undertaken fitness testing on an informal basis, together with the consequences of failing a fitness test.

DCFO Roberts commented that there had been a full schedule for firefighters to undertake the fitness test, and the uptake had been high across the Service, but this had been significantly compounded by the FBU's current Trade Dispute, and Action Short of Strike, which confirmed that FBU members would not comply with SYFR fitness testing requirements. If a firefighter failed a fitness test within the national guidance, a gym test would be undertaken to assess cardiovascular fitness; if the standard was not achieved then an occupational health test would be undertaken to assess heart and lung function. The Service would put measures in place for individuals to become fit enough to undertake the fitness test. If the fitness standards could not be met then a decision would be made to determine whether the individual would be internally redeployed or referred to a medical body, and for the Authority to consider early release from the Service.

Councillor Richards requested that further progress reports be submitted to the Authority.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the report.

15 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EQUALITY FRAMEWORK - SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE (SYFR) GAP ANALYSIS

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Development was presented to inform Members of the United Kingdom (UK) Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework which set out three levels of attainment in relation to equality across all areas of service provision. The Service was currently at the Achieving Level against the Framework.

DCFO Roberts commented that Members' guidance was sought in relation to an application being submitted for accreditation as an 'Excellent' Fire and Rescue Authority. The Support Service Review had reviewed all of the Service's internal processes and day to day work. Members were informed that additional resources would be required if it was agreed that the Service should work towards the 'Excellent' Level of the Framework.

Members noted that any equality and inclusion issues, both nationally or internally, would be reported to the Authority following the dissolution of WOD Board.

Councillor Haith queried the number of bi-lingual volunteers that the Service would recruit. She also queried when a report would be presented to the Authority on the review of the 2013-18 Consultation Strategy.

DCFO Roberts commented that he was unsure of the total number of bi-lingual volunteers. A great deal of work was currently underway in relation to the review of the 2013-18 Consultation Strategy, and work would shortly commence to refresh the new integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). He would chase up the position of the Consultation Strategy and ensure that it was brought back to the Authority.

Councillor Ransome queried how the data would be shared.

DCFO Roberts commented that the Data Protection Act had not been refreshed to align with new technologies; exiting data work had been undertaken nationally which provided a whole raft of data which was useful to identify individuals deemed vulnerable. It was unclear what the Home Office position would be for the transfer of data and information, to ensure that the public bodies responsible for care within the communities could access information freely.

Councillor Atkin referred to a recent data sharing meeting with AM Shillito. He would attend a Safer Rotherham Partnership Board meeting today at which an item on data sharing would be discussed, and he hoped this would go from strength to strength.

Councillor Cave expressed her thanks to F Edmonds for production of the comprehensive report.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the Gap Analysis and related Action Plan.
- ii) Provide officers with a direction on the way forward for the Authority.

16 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER THREE - 2015/16

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to provide Members with the details of corporate performance for quarter three of 2015/16, and set out the current position for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's (SYFR's) suite of Local Performance Indicators (LPIs).

Councillor Buckley commented that the report had been submitted to the Scrutiny Board in March. He gave thanks on behalf of the Board, to the Service, for the revised report format which enabled Members to better digest the information.

Councillor Ayris referred to the peak in primary arson incidents during August and October, and he queried whether any Police evidence was available to establish the cause of the peak in August.

ACFO Blunden commented that there was a tendency for primary arson incidents to peak over the summer months and holiday periods. Members were referred to the Authority meeting held in November 2015, where a Member had raised the issue of a high volume of vehicle arson incidents in the Fox Hill area of Sheffield. Following the meeting, the Service had worked in collaboration with South Yorkshire Police, who had identified and detained one individual in connection with the incidents; car arson trends were in-line with previous years.

Councillor Richards referred to the recent peak in primary vehicle arson incidents in the Wath and Dearne areas. She queried whether the Service looked at the overall causation factors and whether assurance could be given that random cars tended not to be targeted.

DCFO Roberts commented that the Arson Reduction Officers worked closely with the local policing teams to ensure individuals/gangs were identified, and that the law enforcement agencies would be informed of any intelligence to suggest targeted attacks.

Councillor Hughes referred to the number of mobilisations to false alarms, and she queried whether these had ever coincided with a real fire thereby preventing an appliance from being mobilised.

DCFO Roberts commented that such analysis was not collated, but that the Service would always ensure that an appliance was available for re-deployment where necessary.

Councillor Munn requested that the 17 to 25 year old category be included within the table to identify the number of people rescued from RTCs from April to December 2015, together with in-depth information to establish the cause of the collisions.

Councillor Haith referred to the six deaths which had occurred due to fires during quarter 3, four of which had been due to accidental dwelling fires. She queried whether there had been any particular cause where community safety advice could be targeted.

ACFO Blunden referred to the Health Conference held in February 2016, where key personnel from across the four metropolitan boroughs had met to establish key data sharing agreements. In relation to the four deaths due to accidental dwelling fires, it had been established that the individuals had been known to other agencies. One of the incidents had been kitchen related and the other three incidents had occurred in homes that did not have smoke detection within the premises.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.

- ii) Scrutinised and commented on the information presented within the report.

17 DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2016/17

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which set out the first draft of the Framework for 2016/17. The Performance Management Framework was reviewed annually to ensure that it reflected the Service's key priorities and to enable the outcomes related to those priorities to be monitored.

Members noted that, for the first quarter of 2016/17, provisional targets would be set to enable the Service to continue to monitor its performance, and would be revised once the outturn figures for 2015/16 were known. The finalised Performance Management Framework for 2016/17, together with the agreed targets, would be presented to the Scrutiny Board on 23 June 2016 and the Authority meeting on 27 June 2016.

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 CONTROL COLLABORATION PROJECT (CCP) UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to provide Members with an update on the progress of the joint Control Collaboration Project which was being undertaken in conjunction with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (WYFRS).

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the progress of the project to date.
- ii) Agreed that periodic reports be submitted to the Audit Committee.

CHAIR