

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

3 APRIL 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, P Haith, S Howard,
E Hughes, C Ransome, M Rooney, J Satur and G Weatherall

CFO J Courtney, T/DCFO M Blunden, T/ACO M Mason,
S Booth, P Jones and A Mills (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Service)

N Copley, A Brown, M McCarthy, L Noble, M McCoole and
D Cutting (Barnsley MBC)

Dr A Billings (OPCC) and M Buttery (Office of the
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Cave
and Councillor B Johnson

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

Members noted that Councillor Cave had been diagnosed with Meniere's disease, a balance and hearing disorder. She had been advised to rest by her doctor.

Dr Billings requested that the Authority's good wishes be conveyed onto Councillor Cave.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Atkin welcomed N Copley to the meeting.

Members noted that Luke Hines, a Year 11 student at Holy Trinity School was in attendance at today's meeting, as part of his work experience with BMBC.

M McCarthy referred Members to a letter received from Councillor A Cowles, UKIP Group Leader at RMBC. He sought permission to read out the contents of the letter at Item 13 'Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP)' on the agenda.

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

RESOLVED – That:-

- i) There were no declarations of interest.
- ii) Members were requested to complete and return the 2016/17 Declaration of Register of Business Interests forms.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Buckley had recently attended a presentation made by Becky Ramsey at Rotherham Town Hall, who following the death of her son Dillan 6 years ago from swimming in open water, had begun to raise the dangers of open water swimming to others. The presentation had been very moving and had included the unveiling of the first throw line water safety equipment at Holy Reservoir in Rotherham; it was intended to install further throw lines within South Yorkshire.

Councillor Atkin referred to the huge response received from members of the public who had offered their assistance to raise awareness of the dangers of swimming in open water; Councillors had also retweeted the message. The cost of a throw line was approximately £600, and Rotherham MBC were hoping to purchase a total of 15.

Councillor Buckley, together with Councillor Atkin, had attended the ARC Passing Out Parade in Rotherham on 31 March, which had provided a fantastic opportunity to observe how the young people had transformed themselves over the course of the week. The young people who had completed the course had been very proud of their achievements.

Councillor Haith had attended the LGA Annual Fire Conference on 7 and 8 March in Newcastle together with Councillors Atkin, Buckley and Weatherall; she had provided Members with a report on their experiences of the event. She had found the conference to be good overall, but she had been disappointed that delegates had received The Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP's presentation via a pre-recorded film, as he had been unable to attend the event.

Councillor Howard reported that Barnsley MBC had recently won the LGC Award for work in engaging with communities, which had focused upon engagement with young people taking part in the Prince's Trust initiative in the Dearne. As a result, community engagement had commenced which had started to make a real difference in the Dearne.

Councillor Ransome queried the membership/attendance of the Safety Solutions UK Ltd meeting to be held today.

D Cutting commented that there was an error on the agenda for the Safety Solutions UK Ltd meeting today. It should have indicated that it was an extraordinary meeting to be attended by all Members, and not a Board meeting. The meetings were not open to the public.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017

Councillor Ayris sought feedback on Dr Billings' attendance at the Authority's board and committee meetings. He also requested clarity within the Constitution for substitutes to attend meetings on the behalf of Members.

M McCarthy commented that after contact with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), it had been determined that Dr Billings would delegate representatives within his team to attend the other statutory meetings of the Authority on his behalf where necessary, and in an observer capacity.

Councillor Ayris queried whether Members had been provided with the detailed information on the increase in costs post-Brexit and the data for the response times for the second pump attendance in relation to the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that Members had been provided with the information by e-mail. He highlighted that the effect of the Brexit Referendum voting in November 2016 had resulted in a 9% sterling increase in build costs; he would re-send the information onto Councillor Ayris.

Councillor Buckley commented that the minutes were lengthy in comparison to the duration of the meeting. He suggested that in the future the minutes should provide a review of the meeting rather than a verbatim record.

Councillor Atkin agreed to Councillor Buckley's suggestion and he highlighted that the meetings were also webcast.

RESOLVED – That:-

- i) The minutes of the Authority meeting held on 13 February 2017 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) T/DCFO Blunden to provide Councillor Ayris with the information as requested.

10 SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH THE RNIB ' OPTIMEYES' PRESENTATION

The Authority received a presentation from P Jones, Partnerships Officer, on the Service's and the Royal National Institute of Blind People's (RNIB) partnership approach to reaching older people.

Members were referred to the Optimeyes project, which had commenced in 2015 in collaboration with RNIB and the Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB) as the local provider. Members noted the following key points:-

- The Optimeyes projects had been based around the six local eyesight charities in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, the RNIB, the Service and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- SRSB provided training to the Service's staff in a range of visual impairment awareness together with what to look for in the home and how to use the Eyes Right Toolkit.
- Home Safety Checks (HSC) were utilised to identify eye sight problems; a total of 22,000 HSCs were made per year.
- Referrals would be made for support to RNIB and SRSB.
- Older people with poor eye health were at an increased risk of fire and other accidents within their home.
- Partnership arrangements had been created between RNIB and SRSB to provide support, training and to share outcomes.
- 55 referrals had been made within the two year project to SRSB for residents identified for increased support with eye health.
- The Eyes Right Toolkit had been used at 25 events within South Yorkshire to support residents, to which over 700 Healthy Eyes leaflets had been handed out.
- The Service had been shortlisted for the 2016 Fire and Excellence Awards.
- A good practice guide had been created for the use of fire and rescue services for eye health and to support individuals with sight loss, and would be published nationally.

The following next steps were noted:-

- It was envisaged to roll out the Safe & Well Pilot currently running in Doncaster across South Yorkshire.
- Collaboration work with NHS Trusts in South Yorkshire.
- A referral route would continue to be provided into SRSB via the relationship built up within the project.
- To develop the work with the wider front line staff during HSC/Safe & Well Checks.

Councillor Haith suggested that the project be shared with other partners who dealt with drug and alcohol abuse, which could assist in reducing the number of fire related deaths to zero.

P Jones was congratulated for the work undertaken and he was thanked for an interesting and informative presentation.

RESOLVED – That:-

- i) Members received the presentation.

- ii) P Jones to provide Councillor Ransome with the referral figures of Doncaster residents who had requested increased support with eye health.

11 SCHEME MANAGER DISCRETIONS POLICY & REVIEW OF ILL-HEALTH AWARD OR EARLY PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT PENSION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to secure the decisions regarding discretions under the new Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 (the 2015 Scheme), Regulations 2014 SI 2014/2848.

Members noted a total of 52 discretions that were available for the Authority's consideration, with 3 discretions that the Authority was required to have an immediate position on within the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014:-

- Delegation (Regulation 5).
- Pensionable pay (Regulation 17).
- Contributions during absence from work (Regulation 111).

D Cutting informed Members that the 'Part 3 Scheme of Delegation to Officers' document presented at Appendix C was in fact an old version. He assured Members that the newer version currently being used reflected the new job titles.

RESOLVED – That Members approved:-

- i) The contents of the Scheme Manager Discretions Policy.
- ii) The Review of Ill-Health Award or Early Payment of Retirement Pension.
- iii) The amendment to add the additions to the Scheme of Delegation B:26 Firefighters Pension Scheme.

12 REVIEW OF FRA CONSTITUTION: PART 5C - FINANCIAL REGULATIONS & PART 5D - FINANCIAL PROCEDURES

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to provide Members with the proposed revised Part 5c – Financial Regulations and Part 5d – Financial Procedures to the FRA Constitution.

RESOLVED – That Members approved:-

- i) The revised Part 5c – Financial Regulations.
- ii) The revised Part 5d – Financial Procedures.

13 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) 2017-20

A report of the Corporate Communication Manager was submitted to provide Members with the final Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2017-20 following consultation with the public and other stakeholders.

M McCarthy read out the contents of a letter received from Councillor A Cowles, UKIP Group Leader at RMBC:-

“Dear Councillor Cave

I request that you read out my short note at the forthcoming meeting of the Fire Authority, and that the following question be put to the group for consideration.

At a recent meeting, 17/02, of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) of Rotherham Borough Council a question from a member of the public was allowed to be put to the council representative of the Fire Authority. The question related to the current public consultation covering the proposal to reduce by one, the number of pumps based at the fire station here in Rotherham at night. This consultation period is due to end next Monday 27/03.

The question came as a complete surprise to my-self and other members of the committee since we were completely unaware that such a proposal was under consideration. Following some discussion on the matter, there was a general acceptance that the proposal was not well understood and that the consultation had not been particularly effective. Indeed, our Fire Authority representative accepted that this was the case, and verification of this fact is available via the Rotherham website.

It was further agreed that a presentation in support of the proposals would take place 21/03, to wider group of RMBC elected members. And in the in between time, I have spoken to a number of friends, colleagues, the local press i.e. The Rotherham Advertiser, members of the public at surgery meetings and other groups to try to ascertain how many people were aware of the proposals, and of the consultation period and process. And I can confirm that no one I contacted was aware of the proposed actions.

Following the presentation of 21/03, a number of factors came to light:

- A funding surplus exists until 2021
- The proposed new model remains unproven
- The proposed plan has not been updated year on year since inception
- Fire deaths are on the increase
- Primary fires are increasing
- Calls received and handled are increasing
- Response times are increasing
- Predictive modelling data used does not take into account the removal of Rotherham's second night time appliance and needs further work to take place
- In Rotherham we are building more houses

The above list is by no means exhaustive following the presentation given by the Fire Authority to elected members here in Rotherham.

Thus my question is as follows:-

Here in Rotherham we remain concerned at the proposals, and therefore to ensure that the public are fully informed and engaged, we ask that the consultation period is increased to at least 12 weeks, and that further dialogue takes place with The Fire Brigades Union to find alternatives.

Kind Regards

Cllr Allen Cowles Sitwell Ward
UKIP Group Leader RMBC"

Councillor Atkin commented that N Carbutt had attended Rotherham MBC's Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 17 February 2017 as a member of the public, where he had asked a question. Councillors Atkin and Buckley had been absent from the meeting due to the LGA Annual Fire Conference. Councillor Atkin added that he had stated, from what he understood, that the consultation undertaken at Parkgate during the previous week had been unsatisfactory. He added that the consultation was in relation to the current IRMP and not the previous consultation, which had included the proposal to remove the second pump at Rotherham Fire Station. He considered it disingenuous for Councillor Cowles to write to the Authority, as the letter referred to two separate consultations.

- T/DCFO Blunden informed Members that for the current 2013/17 IRMP, there had been significant consultation over a period of 22 weeks. He was reassured, after reading the report presented to the Authority in 2013 which set out the proposals for the IRMP together with reading the online feedback, that there had been significant consultation around the removal of the night time pumps at Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster fire stations. The service has postponed those changes for as long as its funding has allowed, but it has now become necessary to implement them in order to achieve a balanced budget position.
- The day staffing model is a proven system of work across many fire and rescue services and has been successfully used within South Yorkshire since May 2015.
- The analysis of the impact of changing the crewing of 2nd appliances, as agreed by the Fire Authority in 2013, was last updated in 2016.
- Whilst there were sadly 10 fire related deaths in South Yorkshire in 2014/15 (tragically 5 in one house fire) and 14 fire related fatalities in 2015/16 (of whom five took their own lives), the figures for other financial years during the life of the 2013-17 IRMP are significantly lower. As a comparison, there were eight fire related deaths during 2016-17.
- Primary fires increased 5.7% in SY in 2015/16 when compared to the previous year, but that figure was lower than in 2012/13 and 2013/14. Officers reported to the Authority that this was primarily due to a 16% increase in car related primary fires (arson) when compared to the previous year. We have continued to experience a similar increase in 2016/17.
- Calls received and handled by Fire Control are decreasing.
- We have continually reviewed the position relating to our performance and have published this information on a quarterly basis and annual basis. The

overall impact has been that second appliance attendance times in Barnsley have increased by just 21 seconds when compared to the year prior to the implementation of the change of crewing pattern of the second appliance. The change to the second fire appliance at Rotherham was implemented on 20th March 2017 and the Authority will require the Service to continually review the performance in relation to attendance times in Rotherham. One other measure that the Service report to the Authority on a quarterly and annual basis is to measure our first pump response times and this figure has continued to steadily improve.

Dr Billings requested that in view of the factually inaccurate points raised within Councillor Cowles' letter, that Members be provided with a point by point explanation.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approved the contents of the IRMP 2017-20, and welcomed the commitment of the Service to explore opportunities around the proposal to retain the second appliance at Sheffield Fire Station.
- i) Be provided with a point by point explanation correcting the factually inaccurate points raised within Councillor Cowles' letter.

14 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER THREE - 2016/17

A report of the Chief Fire Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to provide Members with the details of corporate performance for Quarter Three of 2016/17 together with the current position for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue's (SYFR) suite of Local Performance Indicators (LPIs).

Members were referred to the performance summary and exception reports on LPIs, together with the headline figures.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Scrutinised and commented on the information presented in the report.

15 DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2017/18

A report of the Chief Fire Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to set out the first draft of the Performance Management Framework for 2017/18. The Framework was reviewed annually to ensure that it reflected the Service's key priorities.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

16 DISPOSALS POLICY

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to inform Members on the revised Disposals Policy that had been approved by the Fire and Rescue Service's Corporate Management Board that had become operational with effect from January 2017.

S Booth commented that it had been intended to present the report to the Performance and Scrutiny Board on 16 March, but Members had agreed to defer the report to today's Authority meeting.

Dr Billings queried the relationship between SYFR and South Yorkshire Police (SYP) in relation to the disposal of land and property.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that a slightly different approach was now being taken around property disposal, and these are now being discussed with SYP as a matter of course.

CFO Courtney recommended that the Disposals Policy should be extended to include the acquisition of land.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the revised Disposals Policy (Appendix A to the report).
- ii) Agreed that the Disposals Policy be extended to include the acquisition of land.

17 MINUTES OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
LOCAL PENSION BOARD HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED – That the Authority noted the minutes of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Local Pension Board held on 13 February 2017.

CHAIR