

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

13 JANUARY 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)
Councillor T Damms (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, T Cave, P Haith, C Hogarth,
P Price, C Ransome, S M Richards, C Ross and Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, T/DCFO T Carlin, S Booth and L Murray
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

A Frosdick, M McCarthy, N Copley, L Noble and M McCoole
(Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R Frost,
M Potter, S Norman and T/ACO S Helps

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

3 URGENT ITEMS

Members were referred to a letter received from the Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) which proposed the creation of a dedicated comprehensive spending review team for the sector, until Autumn 2020.

A contribution of £8,000 was sought from the Authority towards the establishment of the team, which would work with the sector and the Home Office to help set out the business case for funding the fire and rescue service to the Treasury, whilst considering the need for increased funding to the sector as a whole; this would not affect the Authority's ability to lobby on an individual basis. It was envisaged that contributions would be sought nationally from all fire and rescue services.

Councillor Taylor referred to the recent Joint Liaison Forum (JLF) meeting where discussions had commenced on both the individual and collective lobbying approaches. Members noted the fire and rescue service lobby, established by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and Government representatives, to be held at the Houses of Parliament on 14 January 2020.

Members noted that the contribution of £8,000 would be sourced from the 2019/20 budget. The Service would be provided with feedback from the dedicated team via the NFCC, and inform the Authority accordingly.

RESOLVED – That Members supported the request for a contribution of £8,000 towards the establishment of a dedicated comprehensive spending review team for the sector, until Autumn 2020.

4 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Members noted that agenda items 19 and 20 entitled 'Appendices B and C to the Progress Report on Estates and Facilities Service Improvements' would be considered in the absence of the public and press, due to the security element to prevent the building plans of the fire stations being made widely available.

RESOLVED – That agenda items 19 and 20 entitled 'Appendices B and C to the Progress Report on Estates and Facilities Service Improvements' 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, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 25 November 2019 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 SYFR HMICFRS INSPECTION REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented outlining the outcome of the HMICFRS inspection report for SYFR. The report provided a summary of the main findings for the three categories (pillars) of inspection - effectiveness, efficiency and people - on which SYFR had been rated 'good' in all three of the areas, with ten out of eleven sub categories rated as 'good'. The

inspectors had identified some areas for improvement, and an action plan and appropriate measures would be implemented to address these. The review and action plan would be undertaken by T/GM Rowland in preparedness for the next inspection which was anticipated for Spring/Summer 2021. The Service would review all of the tranche 3 inspection reports from the other fire and rescue services, in order to achieve learning points. All of the 45 fire and rescue services in England would be inspected for a second time. The State of Fire and Rescue report would be published in January 2020.

CFO Johnson had today met with the FBU to discuss a variety of issues including the leave policies for carers and special leave, and training planning in order to maximise firefighter numbers on fire appliances. A great deal of work and positive action was underway in relation to equality of opportunity, and workforce development plans were in place via a workforce planning group, which involved the trade union representatives and senior managers within the organisation.

Councillor Taylor congratulated the Service on the outcome of the inspection, whilst recognising the extent of the preparatory work undertaken. SYFR was now recognised as one of the very best fire and rescue services within the country.

Dr Billings acknowledged the good HMICFRS inspection report which he considered to be very encouraging. Both SYP and SYFR were inspected by the HMICFRS and had both received good outcomes, which he considered should provide huge reassurance to members of the public within South Yorkshire. He suggested that the Authority should have sight of the action plan once it had been devised. He stated that following the HMICFRS's Inspections of the Force, there was a requirement to respond formally to the Inspectorate, and he queried whether SYFR had an obligation to do the same.

CFO Johnson stated that a press release had been issued following receipt of the HMICFRS inspection report. She would ascertain whether a formal response was required to be sent to the Minister, and inform Members accordingly.

Councillor Ayris congratulated the Service on the outcome of the report. He queried the timescales for management of the actions of areas for improvement within the action plan, to enable Members to be informed of the progress made.

Members noted that initially T/GM Rowland would undertake a detailed review of the inspection report in order to ascertain the scale of the work needed and the additional resources required. This would enable timescales to be produced for each action and determine whether additional funding was required.

Councillor Ayris requested that a link to the report be included within the minutes of the meeting.

Councillor Ross endorsed the congratulations already conveyed to the Service and suggested that a report be presented to the Authority to highlight the comments made by the Inspectorate, and the progress made to address the areas of concern.

CFO Johnson commented that this would be built into departmental business plans.

Councillor Richards requested that, following the review of all of the tranche 3 inspection reports from the other fire and rescue services, that the Authority be provided with information on any additional learning points that had been ascertained. She requested that acknowledgement should be given to CFO Courtney on his retirement, for the good HMICFRS inspection report received during his time as Chief.

Councillor Haith expressed her thanks to all SYFR staff for the excellent inspection report. She queried why the report had indicated 'risk' as an area for improvement.

CFO Johnson stated that this related to the number of risk premises within South Yorkshire. Nationally, there was no clear description of what was classed as high or low risk premises. SYFR had requested clear guidance from HMICFRS to determine high or low risk premises, in order to ensure that the Service had attended those high risk buildings, and whether more/less visits should be made to those buildings.

Councillor Taylor considered that attendance times was another area that required clarity, which had a mixed approach nationally. He looked forward to receiving the action plan.

CFO Johnson commented that there was no definition of attendance times, and this was reliant upon each individual fire and rescue service to set accordingly. The Service was looking for HMICFRS guidance on the issue.

RESOLVED – That Members discussed the outcome of the SYFR HMICFRS inspection and agreed the monitoring arrangements for the action plan.

11 CLOSE PROXIMITY CREWING (CPC) - UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with an update in relation to the resourcing of SYFR's remaining Close Proximity Crewing fire stations (CPC). This was the latest report provided to Members since the judicial review of the CPC arrangements that had been delivered by the High Court ruling in May 2018, which had determined that the CPC duty system at Edlington, Aston Park, Tankersley and Lowedges Fire Stations was non-compliant, unless a collective agreement could be reached with the representative bodies. The return of the Grey Book compliant 2-2-4 duty system at all CPC stations had begun to be initiated in early 2019, following no collective agreement being reached.

Currently, Aston Park and Tankersley Fire Stations were the only two remaining CPC stations in operation within the Service, and refurbishment works would be undertaken during 2020. Planning would commence in early 2020 for Tankersley Fire Station. Edlington and Lowedges Fire Stations were currently being refurbished to ensure that the facilities were fit for purpose for firefighters on the 2-2-4 duty system. Aston Park Fire Station provided a water rescue capability, and expressions of interest for volunteers to move onto the station were sought. It was anticipated that the 2-2-4 duty system at Aston Park Fire Station would commence in mid-2020.

Members were provided with assurance that the Service was managing the move from CPC to the 2-2-4 duty system on the fire stations, in close liaison with the Health and Safety Executive.

Councillor Ransome queried the Service's recruitment programme, and when additional firefighters would be recruited.

Members noted that volunteers were sought internally within the Service for a sideways move onto the 2-2-4 duty system stations. Currently, the Service was not specifically undertaking firefighter recruitment, but CFO Johnson was in negotiations with the representative bodies around the issue.

CFO Johnson had met with the FBU today with a view to reaching an agreement for a process in which firefighters would be moved onto the 2-2-4 duty system stations, in order to balance the Watches; discussions would continue. It was anticipated that there would be an increase in the numbers on the next firefighter recruitment course from 18 to 24 individuals, which would facilitate cover for retirement and workforce planning etc.

Dr Billings queried whether the associated risks were recorded on the Risk Register, and whether the Risk Register was for the Service or the Authority.

CFO Johnson stated that the Service and the Authority had separate Risk Registers.

T/DCFO Carlin added that both the Authority's and Service's Risk Registers would be considered at the Audit and Governance Committee meeting to be held today. CPC had remained on the Service's Risk Register for a considerable amount of time. Risks would be de-escalated as the risks were reduced.

Members noted that the Authority's Risk Register was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee meeting on a quarterly basis (the same as the Service Risk register), and that an annual report is also presented to the Authority on the work of the Audit and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Endorsed the ongoing, positive progress and improvements made so far to return the remaining stations back to the 2-2-4 duty system.

12 GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY PHASE 1 REPORT - TRAINING GAP ANALYSIS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which provided a gap analysis of the current position relating to the training provision at SYFR, following publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry: Phase 1 Report of the Public Inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017.

Councillor Taylor referred to the Local Government Association's Fire Commission, which would hold a special meeting on 24 January 2020 to discuss issues surrounding the outcome of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to date. Members noted that Councillor Taylor would be happy to relay any information, views or questions to the special meeting on their behalf.

Councillor Ayris queried how the National Operational Learning Secretariat operated, the implications, and whether it was fit for purpose.

T/DCFO Carlin stated that the National Operational Learning Secretariat required every fire and rescue service nationally to upload learning onto the system. In terms of the success of the system, the information provided had been useful, albeit there had been instances of events that had occurred in other areas of the country which had been raised through the news and social media, with a lag of information coming in through the learning system at a later stage.

Members noted that the Regulatory Reform Order 2005 was the legislation used by the Business Fire Safety to ensure that buildings within South Yorkshire were safe i.e. where people worked and visited, with the exception of homes; the legislation had moved the burden from the Service onto the owners/occupiers. It was considered that the Grenfell Tower Inquiry may result in a shift of the responsibility back to the fire and rescue service, and the resources required to pick up this work will need to be discussed.

Councillor Ross queried the Service's position in relation to the 'stay put' policy within Gap 2 of the Gap Analysis, as opposed to evacuation.

Members were informed that the Service had worked very closely with the responsible owners/occupiers of every high rise building with ACM cladding within South Yorkshire to determine their fire strategy, and in the event of a 'stay put' strategy, to ascertain whether it was the appropriate strategy for the building. There were only three high rise buildings remaining within South Yorkshire, most of which the cladding had been removed, or small amounts of cladding remained, prohibition notices had been placed on bin chutes which were at the side of the cladding, and other buildings had a 'waking watch' system.

CFO Johnson was comfortable that appropriate measures had been implemented at high rise buildings within South Yorkshire, together with the arrangements made for additional fire appliances to attend when necessary. There was still a potential for additional buildings containing cladding to be identified within South Yorkshire. She had recently taken part in a telephone conference with the majority of other Chief Fire Officers across the country and they had discussed how to provide assurance in this area. The Service could assure Members and the Government that they had visited all of these premises, had spoken to the responsible persons, that SYFR's firefighters had been trained and were aware of the buildings that had been visited. Should a building be determined not to contain dangerous cladding and all of the fire precautions were in place, then the 'stay put' policy would be the safest option.

Councillor Haith referred to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service who had implemented a mid-night order on a number of their properties. She queried whether this had also been implemented within SYFR.

CFO Johnson stated that the issue had been raised as part of the telephone conference, which had discussed the letters issued by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to the responsible owners of high rise buildings, in order to ascertain the plans and strategies. The NFCC had since made the letter available to be utilised by all of the fire and rescue services nationally. The Service was reviewing a small number of properties, where the owners had not been forthcoming about the types of cladding used etc. CFO Johnson confirmed that those high rise buildings with safety issues within South Yorkshire, had now either had the cladding removed or interim measures imposed. There were outstanding issues with just one privately owned building to ascertain funding in order to replace the cladding.

SYFR was fully compliant with the NFCC agreed guidance on the interim measures on suspending the 'stay put' policy.

Dr Billings suggested that most of the individuals that resided in high rise buildings would be surprised to learn that SYFR was not involved in all stages of the planning, building and refurbishment works of those buildings. He considered that further work should be undertaken to enable the fire and rescue service to be fully engaged in the process. He queried whether the Service had liaised directly with the residents of the high rise properties, and whether any safety advice had been provided. He also queried why Grenfell and the Phase 1 recommendations did not currently sit on the Corporate Risk Register.

CFO Johnson stated that the Grenfell report in isolation did not sit within the SYFR Corporate Risk Register, but elements within it – e.g. firefighter training, safety and the role of Business Fire Safety would all be included in the SYFR Risk Register to recognise the significance of the measures required to avoid a repeat of this terrible tragedy. Following the Grenfell Tower incident, the Service had visited all of the high rise premises in South Yorkshire, and had met with residents wherever possible to provide assurance. SYFR had also liaised with the four local authorities on the matter. Following the Dame Hackett Review, a number of SYFR firefighters had been embedded within the London Fire Brigade, through the NFCC.

Members noted that SYFR would continue to push for sprinkler installation in all buildings, and in particular in the high rise buildings in South Yorkshire.

Councillor Hogarth queried whether the Service was able to inspect those new buildings that had been built with retrospective planning permission.

CFO Johnson stated that SYFR had the right to enter premises, and attempts would be made to arrange visits wherever possible. Crews would inform SYFR's Business Fire Safety of any new buildings, and local authorities would be contacted to ascertain building plans and arrange for visits to be made.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report and approved further action for the development of training against the recommendations.

13 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21 NOVEMBER 2019

Members were presented with the key issues paper arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 21 November 2019.

Dr Billings welcomed the report which he considered provided the appropriate level of detail for Members, together with the actions arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED - That Members noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 21 November 2019.

14 DRAFT POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION BOARD MINUTES OF 11 NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Police and Fire Collaboration Board held on 11 November 2019.

15 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Appointments Committee held on 15 November 2019.

16 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2019

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 25 November 2019.

17 PROGRESS REPORT ON ESTATES AND FACILITIES SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide Members with the details on progress to improve the Estates and Facilities Service within SYFR. The report was the latest in a series of reports presented to Members since June 2017, regarding the improvement plan for the Estates and Facilities service. The report provided details of the improvements and progress made to date, the major work and projects that were currently underway and their present status, alongside proposed new schemes that would need to become part of the capital programme in 2020/21.

Councillor Hogarth queried whether a Service Level Agreement was in place with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) in respect of them utilising the fire stations.

L Murray commented that her team was liaising with YAS in relation to their different requirements at each of the fire stations, and that individual agreements were in place with the fire stations to ensure that the relevant accommodation costings were paid, whilst ensuring that all of the Service's costs were covered at no detriment to the Service.

Councillor Ayris queried if and when Members would have sight of the outline business case.

Members noted that the outline business case would form part of the SYP and SYFR Collaboration Board minutes that were submitted to the Authority. The normal route for decision making around collaboration was made at the Delivery Board at which the outline business case would be presented to the meeting on 26 February 2020. Subject to approval at that meeting, it would progress onto the Police and Fire Collaboration Board which was attended by Councillor Taylor, Dr Billings, CFO Johnson and Chief Constable Watson.

Councillor Ayris referred to past issues which had been encountered post inspection of the completion of works. He queried the current situation regarding post inspection of the works, the percentage of works that were inspected, and how it tied into best practice elsewhere.

L Murray stated that the new interim team consisted of more building surveyors including an additional fixed term building surveyor, to enable capacity for the works to be checked as matters progressed. Currently, feedback from the helpdesk regarding the surveyors had been very positive from J Tomlinson, the Hard FM contractor, and other sources of information. Consideration was being given to a facility within the wider team for a similar clerk of works function, to ensure that work was checked as matters progressed, in order to prevent any future issues.

Councillor Ross queried where the additional funding for the potential circa £250,000 for the construction of the multi-use community building at the new Barnsley Fire Station would be sourced. He also queried the temporary equipment outside Lowedges Fire Station, and the latest position regarding the green roof at Birley Fire Station.

S Booth referred Members to the report previously submitted to the Authority, which had flagged up numerous potential supplementary estimates that may be required for Barnsley Fire Station, and the financial envelope of £4m provided in 2015. At that time tenders for the works had not been received, and the Service had raised with the Authority that additional funding may be required for the temporary accommodation and multi-use community building. He was fairly optimistic that the costs would be contained within the £4m envelope. In the event that the costs could not be contained within the £4m envelope, a separate report would be submitted to the Authority to seek a supplementary estimate, and this would be included as part of the capital investment programme, to be presented to the Authority meeting in February 2020.

L Murray commented that the works had been completed at the Lowedges Fire Station on 10 January 2020. The temporary accommodation would be used for the works at Aston Park and Tankersley Fire Stations; a Member visit could be arranged if required. In relation to the green roof at Birley Fire Station, a number of specialist reports had indicated that when the material had initially been laid, the soil had contained an overly high level of zinc, which had prevented the roof from 'greening up'. Discussions had been held with the original contractor who would undertake further work on the roof over a 12 month period. If, by the end of the

period, the roof was still not green enough, arrangements would be made with the contractor to replace the roof entirely. The Service had engaged with STRI Ltd, who was the leading global pitch design and consultancy specialist for professional sports surfaces. STRI Ltd had commissioned the reports into the zinc issue and was working alongside the main contractor to ensure that the necessary maintenance was undertaken.

Councillor Ransome thanked L Murray for the work undertaken and the progress made. She queried whether the Estates and Facilities Services had a full complement of staff.

Members noted that the only vacant position was the Property Services Manager; the role was currently being covered partly by the Senior Building Survey who was on a fixed term contract. Consideration was being given as to how the post could be shared between both the SYFR and SYP Estates and Facilities Services teams.

Dr Billings gave thanks for the report presented. He acknowledged the huge task placed on the Head of Joint Estates and Facilities for SYFR and SYP in supporting both organisations on two Estate Strategies. Dr Billings felt the aspiration moving forwards should be a joint Estates Strategy for both organisations.

Members noted that in November 2019, L Murray had brought the vision and target operating model for the Estates and Facilities Management to both the Delivery and Collaboration Boards. At that time, a total of six options had been presented; two of the options had been discounted and four options were now being worked up with the Project Team to present to the Delivery Board on the 26 February 2020, the Police and Fire Collaboration Board, and potentially to the Authority. The four options for future service delivery consisted of operating as currently under a Joint Head of Estates and Facilities Management whilst enhancing the experience from the last 12 months' learning. The other three options related to adopting a lead authority model with one organisation responsible for both estates.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report in particular the future proposed capital investment schemes for the following financial year.
- ii) Endorsed the ongoing, positive progress and improvements made so far in Estates and Facilities as part of the Service's improvement journey towards becoming an effective and efficient support service of SYFR.
- iii) Approved the proposed updates to the Estates Plan.

Action Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To provide Members with feedback from the dedicated comprehensive spending review team for the sector.	ASAP	CFO Johnson	
2	The Authority to have sight of the action plan, following a detailed review of the HMICFRS inspection report.	ASAP	T/GM Rowland	
3	To inform Members whether SYFR had sent a formal response to the Minister following receipt of the HMICFRS inspection report.	By the next FRA 10-2-20	CFO Johnson	A formal response from CFO Courtney was not sent following receipt of the final Report, and not believed to be required/expected. A full formal response was sent to the preceding Draft Report, as required.
4	To include a link within the minutes to the HMICFRS inspection report.	By the next FRA 10-2-20	M McCooles	https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/publications/frs-assessment-2018-19-south-yorkshire/
5	A report to be presented to the Authority to highlight the comments made by the inspector on the HMICFRS inspection report and the progress made to address the areas of concern.	By the next FRA 10-2-20	T/GM Rowland	This may form part of Action 2 above (reporting of the Action Plan).
6	The Authority to be provided with information on any additional learning points that had been ascertained from the review of all of the tranche 3 HMICFRS inspection reports from the other fire and rescue services.	ASAP	T/GM Rowland	This may form part of Action 2 above (reporting of the Action Plan).

CHAIR

Please follow the link below for further information on the updates of the actions arising from the Fire and Rescue Authority meetings:-

<https://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD1250&ID=1250&RPID=402996&sch=doc&cat=13039&path=13039&zTS=D>