

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

25 JULY 2022

PRESENT: Councillor T Damms (Chair)
Councillor C Hogarth (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Sansome, B Johnson, S Ball, D Hutchinson,
S Ayris, A Khayum, P Turpin, S Alston and Dr A Billings

DCFO T Carlin, ACO A Strelczenie, S Slater, S Kelsey and
C Toovey
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

J Field, N Copley, M Bray, M Potter and D Nuttall
(Barnsley MBC)

S Abbott (Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime
Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Smith,
Councillor A Cherryholme, S Norman, CFO C Kirby and
M Buttery

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 14 entitled ‘Immediate Detriment 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, 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 AGM MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority AGM held on 20 June 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2022

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority Ordinary Meeting held on 20 June 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 ANNUAL REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT 2021/22

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive/Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented which set out the Authority's and Service's arrangements for managing risk during the financial year 2021/22. This was in accordance with the Authority's Corporate Risk Management Strategy. The report detailed the Governance arrangements around Corporate Risk Management and risk management developments during the year.

Members recalled that in January 2021 there had been a change to the capturing of risk into a new joint Authority and Service Corporate Risk Register. Reports to present the position of the joint Authority and Service corporate risks were regularly presented to the Audit and Governance Committee, which had delegated powers to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management which was embedded throughout the Service's programme and project processes. Councillor Sansome, Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, was the Lead Member for risk management.

Following a detailed gap analysis of the Orange Book in 2020/21, no new gaps had been identified above and beyond the actions accepted via the Internal Audit review of risk. The Service had adopted and cross referenced the five principles which were set out within the Orange Book.

The Risk Management and Effective Audit training session had last taken place in October 2021, and was provided to Members on an annual basis.

Councillor Sansome referred to the fantastic work undertaken by the Service and partners during the recent extreme weather conditions that had resulted in the extremely high proportion of fires that had occurred both nationally and within South Yorkshire on 19 July 2022. He queried whether the Service would review the work undertaken during this time and he hoped that the Risk Register would highlight the lessons learnt. In relation to the Service's communications equipment which was utilised through the Airwave system, Councillor Sansome requested the final costing against the timescale for the emergency services network upgrade that should have been implemented.

In response, DCFO Carlin commented that he would provide Members with the details of the final costings and timescale outside of the meeting. Within the Service's funds, the grant money had not been accessed for the emergency services network upgrade, as a move away from the Airwave system. The Airwave handsets were currently being refreshed in anticipation of continuing to utilise the system for a longer period. He reassured Members that the Airwave system was an extremely robust and reliable system with multi-agency channels that enabled information to be confidentially shared between the organisations. The Service functioned very well on the current Airwave system.

In relation to the high proportion of fires that had occurred on 19 July 2022, DCFO Carlin commented that this been a step change for the fire and rescue services nationally, which had prevented the usual level of support to be available from over the border and nationally. The Service required the necessary resources to deal with such events that may reoccur in the future. He had been liaising with the Fire Brigades Union and the representative bodies on the matter.

On 19 July 2022, the Service had attended a total 228 incidents, with 60 stacked calls at one point due to not having the resources available; such an instance had not been experienced before at a national level. DCFO Carlin commented that the work undertaken by the crews during this period had been phenomenal. CFO Kirby and Councillor Damms were in dialogue regarding how to take the learning forward. An holistic review would be undertaken and evaluated. The CRMP was reviewed on an annual basis, and the recent events would feature within the Service's next set of planning.

Councillor Ayris welcomed the report. He sought reassurance regarding the mechanisms for horizon scanning, to ensure that the Service had identified the potential risks going forwards.

The Service attended many of the National Fire Chiefs Council groups in relation to vehicles, operations and procurement etc. The Service's Resilience and Planning Team focused upon the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Risk Registers, South Yorkshire Risk Registers and the Service's Risk Registers. Managers within the Service focused upon risk and future risk which were planned on an annual cycle basis.

In response to a series of questions raised by Dr Billings regarding the high volume of fires that had occurred during the recent extreme weather conditions, DCFO Carlin referred to the hot debrief and the full debrief that had been undertaken by the LRF, who had declared a major incident on the evening of 19 July 2022. In terms of collaboration and best practice, many parts of the Service were involved in the planning sessions. He wished to reassure the public that the Service had risk assessed and risk managed all of the calls received on 19 July 2022, and that the Incident Commanders and crews had determined whether they could safely leave the field fires to relocate and commence dealing with property fires in different locations. The triage of calls that had been experienced on that day were dealt with by South Yorkshire Police and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service on a more regular basis, to which the Service would gain learning. Learning would also be gained through Operation Willowbeck, which was an arrangement between the control rooms regarding call handling support, which had been instigated several times on 19 July 2022. The priority incidents had been attended, although the Service's timeframe to attend them had been seriously affected. The Service's communications and media engagement had been exemplary, and the managers had attended the sites where people had lost their homes to engage with the public. Each individual incident was investigated. The communication between the organisations would be reviewed together with the internal communication within the Service arising from the debrief process.

Councillor Alston expressed her thanks to the emergency services for the work undertaken during the recent extreme weather conditions. She queried whether the Service's review would involve individuals at all levels to include the frontline firefighters, whether the experiences and learning could be shared with other fire and rescue services across the country, and how quickly the review could be completed.

Members noted that the Service's debrief process included those individuals on the frontline, who had already been engaged with by the Service. The FBU would also engage with those individuals. The Service would look to implement the lessons learnt as soon as possible. The Service would post its learning onto the national operational learning platform, where it would access the learning from other fire and rescue services. Through the Service Improvement Programme, the Service would report on the actions and developments to the Authority.

Councillor Khayum made a suggestion for a report to be presented to a future Authority meeting to outline the lessons learnt and the contingency plans to be put in place.

Councillor Damms commented that he would consult with Members and officers with a view to writing to the Fire Minister to highlight the resourcing issues within the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the Risk Management Annual Report, and the assurance provided, as part of its overall consideration of the Fire and Rescue Authority's control framework.
- ii) Noted that Councillor Damms would consult with Members and officers with a view to writing to the Fire Minister to highlight the resourcing issues within the Service.

12 FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSE TO THE WHITE PAPER

ACO Strelczenie referred Members to the draft consultation response to the Fire Reform White Paper that had been prepared on behalf of the Service and the Authority. On 27 June 2022, a Corporate Advisory Group Workshop had been attended by Members, the Service's Senior Leadership Team and the representative bodies which had assisted in the formulation of the draft consultation response.

The submission of the final consultation response was required before 12 noon on 26 July 2022.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Ayriss, ACO Strelczenie confirmed that the Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee would be provided with the draft consultation response today for their input.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

13 GRENFELL ACTIONS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE - PRESENTATION

T/AM Toovey provided Members with an update on the Grenfell actions implementation, which provided information on the 46 recommendations for the Service. A total of 21 of the recommendations directly affected the Service and 7 recommendations indirectly affected the Service. The Service had addressed all 46 recommendations to ensure that it was compliant. Members were referred to the updated presentation slides, which would be circulated to Members via email.

At the Authority meeting held in January 2021, the Service had signed off 13 recommendations through the Service Improvement Board. Since that time, a total of 31 recommendations had been signed off through the Service Improvement Board.

The Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 had recently closed which had covered eight additional modules. The recommendations of which would be reviewed through the Service Improvement Board.

Members were referred to the BBC Podcasts on the Grenfell Tower Inquiry which were available online.

DCFO Carlin referred to the work undertaken by the Service in relation to sustainability which had enabled the Green Plan, the committee and the team to be in place. He wished to congratulate P Fieldhouse, Property Services Manager and K Rocket, Sustainability Officer who had applied for Salix funding on behalf of the Service, which was a series of funding schemes that were dedicated to enabling the public sector to reduce carbon emissions in line with the UK net zero by the 2050 target. The Service had been awarded a total of £547,686. The funding would be utilised as follows:- Phase 1 to produce detailed drawings of the buildings within the estate to include the thermal properties, layout plans and to identify how the buildings were currently heated. Phase 2 would enable building physics modelling to be undertaken where simulations would be produced to enable

consideration of the options for heating, lighting and water etc. to ensure that the buildings across estate were as compliant as possible. Phase 3 would focus upon the creation of options based upon cost, energy, carbon levels and the ease of implementation.

In response to a query received from Dr Billings regarding whether the Service had a mechanism in place to capture the issues that the crews may encounter as a result of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, T/AM Toovey referred to the Business Fire Safety Inspectors that carried out low to high risk audits and also dealt with the building plans that were received for approval. The crews would report any issues or concerns to the Business Fire Safety Team, which had an on call out of hours provision. The development of a new system was currently underway to replace the existing system.

ACO Strelczenie added that as a result of Grenfell Tower tragedy, there was a requirement for all of the fire and rescue services to inspect all of the high rise buildings. Over a 12 month period, the Service's Business Fire Safety Inspectors had inspected approximately 230 high rise buildings as part of the building risk review programme; all of which were inspected on a regular basis. He reassured Members that the Service had inspected all high rise buildings consisting of 6 floors and above within South Yorkshire.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

14 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.

15 IMMEDIATE DETRIMENT UPDATE

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented which provided Members with an update in relation to Immediate Detriment.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the recommendation as outlined within the report.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/Update
1	In relation to the Service's communications equipment, to provide Members with the final costing against the timescale for the emergency services network upgrade to be implemented.	ASAP	DCFO Carlin	<p><u>Update 10.08.22</u></p> <p>Members were emailed the response provided by S Locking.</p> <p>Please see further information appended to the minutes</p> <p>ACTION DISCHARGED</p>
2	A report to be presented to a future Authority meeting to outline the lessons learnt and the contingency plans to be put in place following the high volume of fires that had occurred during the extreme weather conditions on 19 July 2022.	To a future FRA meeting	DCFO Carlin	

CHAIR

Update on Action 1 - In relation to the Service's communications equipment, to provide Members with the final costing against the timescale for the emergency services network upgrade to be implemented

Please see below a response received from Steve Locking, ICT and Digital Services Manager at SYFR:-

The Emergency Service Mobile Communication Project (ESMCP) is a national programme to replace Airwave for all the 3 Emergency Services. The National programme whole life cost currently stands at £11.2 Billion. SYFR have received over £1 million since the start of the project. Systel have successfully implemented the new ESN ready control room upgrade and we currently have over half the funding still available to deliver the transition and implementation of devices throughout the county.

The project is continuing to have delays centrally which the Home Office is dealing with Motorola about and we are still hoping to be able to test by the end of 2022.

The link below provides further information from the Home Office, last updated at the end of July:-

[Accounting Officer memorandum: Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme \(ESMCP\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)