

# SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

17 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: Councillor A Cave (Chair)  
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, P Haith, S Howard,  
E Hughes, B Johnson, C Ransome and G Weatherall

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Akther,  
Councillor J Satur and D Terris

## 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

## 2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Cave thanked B Sandy on behalf of the Authority, for all her hard work and commitment provided to both the Service and the Authority and she wished her every success for the future.

CFO Courtney commented that the SYFR Efficiency Plan had been submitted to the Home Office by the deadline date of 14 October; the Plan was available on the SYFR website.

## 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

None.

## 6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Atkin had attended an LGA Fire Commission meeting on behalf of the Authority in London on 14 October. The new Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, was

due to attend but had been substituted by Dan Greaves, Home Office Civil Servant. The following key issues were raised:

The Fire Commission were in discussions with the Local Government Association (LGA) regarding the possibility of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) taking over the fire and rescue services. It was hoped to establish an independent assessment panel who would determine whether there was sufficient interest for PCC's to take on responsibility for fire and rescue.

- The inspection regime had now been signed up to, and it was hoped to undertake something similar to the HMIC model to go live in April 2017 with the first round to hopefully be completed by April 2018; this would be complementary to the LGA Peer Reviews already undertaken.
- The Government was also keen to boost transparency, and had received 2,000 responses to a recent survey. Additional data, particularly in relation to diversity, would be published on the Government's website.
- In respect of the workforce, the Government hoped to ascertain more flexibility for the fire and rescue sector. The Government would shortly publish the Thomas Review, and the Fire Minister hoped to establish a professional framework to review evidence along the lines of that previously undertaken by the College of Policing.
- The Government hoped to repeat the procurement challenge undertaken last year; they had acknowledged the difficulty to match one fire service to another and would look for more collaboration to increase efficiencies. I Curry had also given a presentation in relation to the range of procurement goods available.
- The Government would look to work with fire and rescue authorities and the LGA to drive transformation and diversity, to have themed reviews and consider the future of the negotiation committees.

A presentation had been received from A Fry, Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA). The CFOA had now been restructured and a National Fire Chiefs Council established from April 2017 based on the police model. The new NFCC will have a full-time Chair who will serve a two to four year period. The Council will be made up of all of the Chief Fire Officers across the UK. The full-time Chair would initially be funded from CFOA's own reserves. However, the intention is to have a full-time, permanent post funded by the fire and rescue authorities.

Councillor Ransome had attended a Middle Managers' Engagement Day at the Service's Training and Development Centre (TDC), Handsworth on 12 October. The session had been hosted by AM Helps and had included an array of interesting speakers covering topics including Modus Solutions, equipment damage, data quality and sprinklers. Councillor Ransome had found the session to be both interesting and enlightening. Councillors Haith and Weatherall had also attended the event.

Councillor Haith commented that Councillors Ransome, Weatherall and herself had also been given a tour around TDC on 12 October which included a visit into the Incident Room which had various scenarios faced by crew managers.

Councillor Haith gave thanks to AM Helps and his team for the recent visit to the Lifewise Centre, Hellaby where she had observed the fantastic developments which provided a real bonus for the South Yorkshire children attending the centre. Councillor Haith had also attended the Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Association on behalf of the Authority. A presentation had been received from Wakefield City Council regarding their new work on continuous professional development which had highlighted the amount of savings achieved by the introduction of the scheme in both hours and monetary terms; they had also spoken on the implications of Brexit for employers and the pay negotiations coming through for local government.

Councillor Howard requested that the Authority recognised the success of Sheffield Central White Watch, who had won first place in the national breathing apparatus challenge and had successfully defended their title for the second year running.

Councillor Ransome referred to an invitation she had received for audit training, to which she enquired whether the audit training was mandatory and when the rules had changed. She considered that there was a conflict of interest in utilising the BMBC Internal Audit trainer, and she requested that the training be provided by an independent trainer i.e. CIPFA.

Councillor Cave commented that the matter would be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee.

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 SEPTEMBER 2016

Councillor Ayris commented that he had made it clear at the last Authority meeting that the pre-meetings held by himself and Councillor Ransome were not of a political nature, merely to ensure they were fully briefed on Authority matters in advance. He felt that owing to the nature of the discussion which ensued, the minutes should have reflected the fact that Councillor Ransome and himself were from different political parties.

A Frosdick commented that, given the nature of the discussion at the last Authority meeting, the point being made was that the nature of independent member appointments to the Authority's Audit Committee was such that any involvement in meetings involving politically appointed representatives outside of Authority meetings, could be construed as being at odds with independent representation. The Authority could not prevent or compel any member from joining such meetings, although the advice of the Statutory Officers was that it would be unwise to do so.

Councillor Ransome commented that she did not agree that the Authority was not political in its decision making. She requested that the minutes be amended to

reflect that she had attended the Real Junk Food Project, and she suggested that the last four paragraphs under Item 2 'Reports by Members' be redrafted to better reflect Councillor Ayris' and her own views. Councillor Ransome also expressed concerns in respect of correspondence she had received from the Clerk to the Authority in respect of her interaction with an independent member of the Authority's Audit Committee.

Councillor Haith requested that the minutes be further amended to reflect that she had requested an update on fitness testing rather than Councillor Hughes. Councillor Haith sought an update on the position.

DCFO Roberts commented that, since the last Authority meeting, the FBU and the Brigade Committee had met in relation to the fitness testing which had been accepted by the Fire Brigades' Union and the policy was now in place.

Councillor Ayris commented that he had not received a reply to his question as to whether any further contact had been made with previous employees in relation to Wirral Cladding and Roofing Ltd.

A Frosdick referred to ongoing matters that the Audit and Governance Committee was monitoring. Clarification would be established on the precise point to determine whether any follow up had been made with the employees and inform Councillor Ayris accordingly.

CFO Courtney commented that, at the last Audit and Governance Committee meeting, the BMBC Head of Internal Audit had reported that he had now contacted the two previous employees, but that this had not brought about any significant change in the position at that time.

Councillor Ransome commented that she had stated at the previous meeting that there appeared to be more than two employees involved in this large chain of events, and that a disproportionate amount of time had been spent on chasing these two employees. She added that there were people within the Authority that worked within procurement who would know what was happening.

Councillor Ransome requested that the minutes be amended to reflect that she had been the first person to congratulate Firefighter North on his presentation on extrication given at the last meeting.

Councillor Ayris referred to Item 11 'Independent Members – Audit and Governance Committee' which had indicated that it had been agreed at the Authority's AGM on 27 June 2016 to significantly reduce the membership of the Committee from 10 to 5 elected Members. He commented that he had certainly not supported the decision, but that his recollection was that the Authority had noted to reduce the membership of the Audit and Governance Committee. He added that, at the last Authority meeting, he had suggested consideration of an increase of independent members on the Audit and Governance Committee.

Councillor Haith commented that the Authority had agreed to reduce the number of elected Members on the Audit and Governance Committee to 5, that the number of independent members remained at 3 and that a review would take place in 2017.

A Frosdick referred to the comment Councillor Ayris had made, in that he did not support the resolution that the Authority had passed. He suggested that Councillor Ayris could have recorded his vote against that resolution of the Authority at the time. He added that the minutes would be revisited, although officers' recollection was that it had been a decision of the Authority to change its governance arrangements, and officers were acting upon the basis of that decision on the work being undertaken in terms of the future composition of the committee. Officers would report back if the decision of the minutes had been misunderstood.

RESOLVED – That subject to the amendments requested above, the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 19 September 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION - 7-8 MARCH 2017

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to seek expressions of interest from Members to attend the LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2017, on Tuesday 7 March to Wednesday 8 March 2017 at the Hilton Hotel, Newcastle Gateshead.

Councillor Cave suggested that Authority representation be limited to 6 individuals.

Councillor Ayris enquired whether Authority representatives had attended the conference last year, and whether a feedback report had been provided to the Authority from a value for money aspect on the benefits of sending such a number of representatives.

L Noble commented that a formal report had not previously been provided to the Authority, but that a very comprehensive Member bulletin had been provided to the Authority after the conference each year which attached all of the presentations and links to the LGA website. Members could give consideration to providing a formal report to the Authority in 2017.

Councillor Ayris suggested that, in light of the dispute around attendance at the Labour Party Conference, and considering that the Authority was looking at reduced financial resources as referred to in the report, that it was essential to provide a written report back to the Authority.

Councillor Haith added that the representatives at the LGA Fire Conference had also provided verbal reports to the Authority following the conference. She added that it was important for the Chair to attend the conference, as it was pertinent for her to attend the Association of Metropolitan Fire Authorities meeting which was held within the event.

A Frosdick commented that it was general practice in the sector that LGA events were attended by most Member Authorities, and Members were being asked to support the sector conference organised by the LGA.

Councillor Ransome suggested that the conference be limited to 3 individuals.

Councillor Ayris added that he had no objection to individuals attending the conference, and he agreed that representation should be limited to 3 people. He added that SCC had ceased to send representation to the LGA conferences as part of a best value saving exercise. He suggested that the Authority should give consideration to this before sending representatives. He requested that a formal report came back to the Authority.

M McCarthy commented that, historically, given the nature and make-up of the Joint Authority; consisting of representatives from the four local authorities across South Yorkshire, that the recommendation had usually been to seek representation from at least one Member from each of those respective governance areas.

Members agreed that Councillors Cave, Weatherall, Buckley and Haith would represent the Authority at the conference.

RESOLVED – That Members approved representation at the LGA Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition 2017.

11 UPDATE ON PRINCE'S TRUST, INCLUDING PRESENTATION AND PRINCE'S TRUST TEAM PROGRAMME VIDEO

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide an update on the Prince's Trust Team Programme which was delivered by South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR) and South Yorkshire Police (SYP).

AM Helps informed Members that 10 young people had successfully completed the second 12 week Prince's Trust Team programme that had recently concluded at Barnsley Fire Station, to which they had gained the associated qualifications. Many of the individuals upon completion of the programme had moved onto further education, employment or training. The first two programmes had proved to be a huge success. The latest Barnsley programme had been nominated for the Barnsley Community Impact Award and the Prince's Trust Community Impact Award. The Prince's Trust awards regional finals would shortly be held in Leeds and the final would be held in London.

Members noted that, as a result of ongoing discussions with SYP and the Prince's Trust to identify further locations for delivery of the programme, that consideration was currently being given to commencing a new team programme in the S5 area of Sheffield to be delivered from Elm Lane Fire Station commencing in Spring 2017. An update would be provided at the next Authority meeting. Promotional material to promote the joint delivery of the Prince's Trust by SYFR and SYP had been created which included banners, posters, social media advertisements and a DVD.

AM Helps commented that it was envisaged to run 3 programmes from each of the 6 sites per academic year. A total of approximately £21,000 of funding had been generated from Barnsley College per programme to date; the programme was being delivered cost neutral. A total of four courses would have been completed within 2016.

AM Helps commented that he could arrange for Members to meet the Prince's Trust team and students if required.

Councillor Atkin commented that he had attended the recent Prince's Trust award presentation at Barnsley Town Hall. It had been evident that the programme had helped to improve the confidence of the young people, who had all spoken individually on the activities undertaken within the programme. Councillor Atkin had recently visited the young people commencing on the third course at Dearne, where they had been in the process of setting up the equipment for a 'Dragon's Den' type exercise.

Councillor Cave commented that it had been absolutely amazing to see the young people when they had completed the initiative.

Councillor Howard added that the awards presentation had been very emotional, and that it had been fantastic to see the difference that the programme had made to the young peoples' lives. Councillor Howard referred to Joe, one of the individuals on the DVD that Members had introduced to the Dearne Area Council Manager and team. Joe was now volunteering with the Ward Alliance to improve his skills further.

Councillor Ransome gave her thanks for the excellent presentation. She enquired what time the training sessions were held, and whether school children were involved.

AM Helps commented that the 12 week training session programmes were held Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm, and were available for school leavers from the age of 16 to 25 years. Members were requested to provide AM Helps with a few days' notice prior to making a visit due to residential, project or apprenticeship work being undertaken.

Councillor Atkin referred to the Prince's Trust project in Swinton to revive the flower beds in the precinct, which was being undertaken in collaboration with schools who had taken part in the exercise previously. A sponsored walk had recently been held at Parkgate with the youngsters dressed in onesies, as part of a confidence building exercise. The youngsters involved in the recently concluded programme had painted the railway bridges at Goldthorpe, and the Salvation Army had provided them with refreshments; the whole village and Network Rail had been involved in the initiative.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the updated information within the report.

12 SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015/16

A report of the Chief Fire Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted to present the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Annual Report for 2015/16.

Councillor Hughes gave thanks for the very useful report which identified the work undertaken on a monthly basis.

DCFO Roberts commented that he would pass on Councillor Hughes' compliments to the report authors.

RESOLVED – That Members noted and approved the report.

13 CONTROL COLLABORATION PROJECT (CCP) UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer, Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was presented to provide Members with the quarterly update on the progress of the joint Control Collaboration Project which was being undertaken in conjunction with West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (WYFR). The project would deliver a combined mobilising system which was being developed and provided by SYSTEL.

Councillor Haith queried whether the remaining £37,982 had been allocated for spend or whether this would be returned back into the budget.

DCFO Roberts commented that the matter was still to be confirmed. The project had overrun in terms of the system being delivered along with the project timescales. From the inception of the project to the current position, the Service was now in the process of moving from the airwave radio, which was used by all emergency services, to a new programme which was an emergency services network and mobile communication programme. It was difficult to determine costings at this stage. He added that SYSTEL was a standalone project, and that there was no reason why it should total any more than budgeted.

Councillor Hughes queried the definition of middleware.

DCFO Roberts commented that he would ascertain the definition.

Councillor Cave commented that middleware enabled the software to talk to the hardware.

Councillor Ransome enquired how the staff were coping with the new system.

DCFO Roberts commented that the system was now stable, although many difficulties had been encountered initially, as could be expected when moving onto a new software platform. The hardware used by the control operators had not changed, and the operators were now more confident in using the new system. The stability of the system was fundamental, and had been extremely stable of late.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the progress of the project to date.

14 CO-LOCATION OF SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES AT MALTBY POLICE STATION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to inform Members that the agreements had been completed with South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and Kier, the construction partner, to enable the construction phase of the project to commence on site on 25 October 2016 and that the site would be operational in mid-April 2017.



Councillor Hughes questioned whether the fire, police and ambulance services could be united on that site.

M Wright referred to discussions over the last 2 years with his opposite numbers to consider estate options and plans for change. The ambulance service was covered by the NHS who covered the whole of Yorkshire, whereas the Service and South Yorkshire Police (SYP) had common boundaries. SYP had a clear instruction to reduce their overheads with regard to property. The Edlington scheme had been borne from such discussions, and this was envisaged to come into effect within the next 12 months. The Maltby scheme had been partly funded by Government Transformation funding which had not met the ambulance service's requirements at the time of the submission of the application. The Authority had previously given the Service approval for the disposal of the site, and talks were underway with the local authority regarding the disposal of the existing station, which would tie in with their timetable for the disposal of the adjacent library. Options included a joint disposal, or to obtain a district valuers valuation for the site. Members would be kept updated on developments. The target for the disposal of the existing site was during the second quarter of 2017.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the content of the report and progress to date.

CHAIR