

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

22 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT: Councillor L Burgess (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, M Clements, T Damms,
P Haith, C Hogarth, C Rosling-Josephs and Dr A Billings

CFO J Courtney, QFSM, DCFO M Blunden, ACFO A Johnson,
S Booth and A Jenkinson (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Service)

M McCarthy, L Noble, M McCoole and I Rooth (Barnsley MBC)

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

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor C Ransome and Councillor J Satur

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Burgess congratulated CFO Courtney, on behalf of the Authority, on being awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal in the New Year's Honours List, in recognition of the work he had undertaken during his career in the fire service both nationally and in South Yorkshire.

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

Members provided a summary of the visits and meetings attended since the last Authority meeting held on 27 November 2017.

Councillor Haith encouraged Members to sign up to the United Nation's 'HeForShe' Gender Equality Campaign; she would provide Members with an online link via email.

Councillor Burgess informed Members of the opportunity to attend meetings of the Senior Management Team and Watch Managers at various SYFR fire stations, which would provide a good insight into the internal SYFR working relationships.

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 27 NOVEMBER 2017

Members requested that they be provided with summary notes of the Corporate Advisory Group meetings, to ensure that Members unable to attend were updated.

The Director of Support Services stated that a decision had been made to defer the report that was scheduled to be presented at today's meeting, in relation to the approach for the Barnsley Fire Station tender and to propose the implementation of the living wage in relation to the Facilities Management procurement; the report would be presented to the Authority meeting in February 2018. The decision had been reached due to the sickness absence of the Property Manager, workloads and the requirement to appoint a lead officer at Barnsley Fire Station.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Agreed that the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 27 November 2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.
- ii) Be provided with summary notes of future Corporate Advisory Group meetings where Members are unable to attend.
- iii) Noted that a report would be presented to the Authority meeting in February 2018 to address:-
 - The approach for the Barnsley Fire Station tender.
 - To propose the implementation of the living wage in relation to the Facilities Management procurement.

- iv) Noted that L Noble would seek two Member volunteers to sit on the Evaluation (Interview) Panel alongside the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- v) Requested that all reports should be provided to Members in a timely manner.

10 SYFR RESPONSE TO THE GRENFELL INCIDENT

A report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery was presented to outline the work undertaken by SYFR's Business Fire Safety (BFS) Department and Emergency Response since the Grenfell incident.

SYFR's BFS Department had undertaken a large proportion of work with local authorities and private owners of high rise buildings. A total of 43 local authority buildings, 44 privately owned high rise buildings and a number of NHS buildings had been inspected, and various advice had been provided. Only 7 buildings had required additional activity; the majority of issues had now been resolved. The Metis Apartments in Sheffield continued to have a prohibition order in place due to the use of the refuse shoot, in order to protect the residents within the building. A number of additional low rise building inspections had been undertaken and support had been provided to operational staff regarding the buildings to be visited.

A total of 18 freedom of information (FOI) requests had been received post Grenfell, and two high rise building fires had been encountered within South Yorkshire.

SYFR continued to push for the installation of the sprinkler system into new buildings and retrospective fitting wherever possible; SSCR funding was being targeted at those high rise buildings where vulnerable people resided. SYFR had a sprinkler position in place and continued to support the National Fire Chiefs' Council's (NFCC) Sprinkler Team. SYFR attended meetings of the National Sprinkler Safety Network, which provided an avenue to promote the sprinkler installation message further.

The NFCC had responded to a Government consultation exercise post Grenfell, with a position statement that sprinklers should be fitted in all high rise buildings for life risk purposes; it was hoped that the Grenfell incident would persuade the Government to agree to the response, although it was difficult to predict the outcome.

All enquiries would predominately be dealt with by ACFO Johnson and her team, and FOI requests would be received by SYFR's Corporate Governance Team. Checks would be made to ensure that the contact details were clearly visible on the SYFR website.

SYFR had liaised with various housing associations post the Grenfell incident, and written guidance and literature had been provided; engagement would continue.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the work undertaken by SYFR Business Fire Safety Inspectors and operational crews within Emergency Response along with the ongoing support and advice that was being given to members of the public and partner agencies.
- ii) Be provided with a report to set out SYFR's implications arising from the findings identified within Dame Judith Hackitt's report.
- iii) Noted that issues or concerns would be reported to the Authority by exception.
- iv) Noted that checks would be made to SYFR's website to ensure that the contact details were clearly visible.

11 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION BOARD PAPERS

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Development was submitted to provide Members with background information on the Policing and Crime Act 2017, together with an update on the progress being made on current areas of collaboration with South Yorkshire Police.

Councillor Burgess thanked Dr Billings for the arrangements made in organising the Collaboration Workshop, which had been extremely useful and informative.

Members would be provided with the notes from the Collaboration Workshop either via email or as part of a report to be presented to the Authority meeting in February 2018.

The SYFR and SYP teams which were currently based at the Lifewise Centre, would become a joint team to deliver community safety to the whole of South Yorkshire.

Members were reminded that the LIFE Pilot would shortly draw to a conclusion. The LIFE Team consisted of two PCSO's seconded from SYP, and two SYFR staff on a fixed term contract who would be subject to redeployment within the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Be provided with the notes of the Collaboration Workshop by email.

11a Police and Fire Collaboration Board Minutes of 20 December 2017

Members were presented with the minutes of the Police and Fire Collaboration Board meeting held on 20 December 2017.

Members noted that the interviews for the Joint Head of Estates position would take place in January 2018. SYP had last undertaken a review of the estates some 3 years ago and it would be reviewed again due to the recommitment to neighbourhood policing, with a view to maximising the joint assets as much as practicable.

Councillor Burgess requested that future Police and Fire Collaboration Board minutes be accompanied with a covering report.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the minutes of the Police and Fire Collaboration Board held on 20 December 2017.
- ii) Agreed that the minutes of future meetings be appended to this standing report to Authority meetings.

12 APPRAISAL PROCESS FOR INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to provide Members with a draft appraisal form for consideration.

The appraisal process had been agreed by Members at the Authority meeting held in January 2017, whereby Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee would be subject to an appraisal process after their first term of four years, with no automatic re-appointment to the second (and final) four year term.

Councillor Ayris expressed concern that a newly appointed Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee could encounter difficulties in conducting an appraisal process. He suggested that, in such circumstances, an experienced Member should conduct the appraisal process.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered and agreed the appraisal form at Appendix A and the process as set out in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the report.
- ii) Agreed that an opportunity be provided for an experienced Member to cover the role of Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee to conduct the appraisal process, in the event of a newly appointed Chair to the Committee.

13 VOLUNTARY SCHEME PAYS - FIREFIGHTER PENSION SCHEME

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Development was presented to outline the position on the annual allowance arrangements as they related to Firefighters' Pension Schemes and detailed the changes to the annual allowance arrangements that led to the need for the Authority to consider whether voluntary scheme pays arrangements should be put in place.

The 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme had been reviewed by the Government in approximately 2004. Due to the long term sustainability of the 1992 scheme, a new scheme had been introduced in 2006 which had subsequently been reviewed by the Government's Actuarial Department in 2013. The Firefighters' Pension Scheme had been introduced in 2015.

The Deputy Clerk informed Members that the Monitoring Officer had been consulted and was assured of the guidance provided by the LGA to assist Members in making a decision.

The Local Pension Board acted as a scrutiny board, to oversee the Firefighters' Pension Schemes and to challenge West Yorkshire Pensions who administered the scheme.

Dr Billings put forward a motion, which was seconded by Councillor Damms, that the report be referred to the Local Pension Board in the first instance. The motion was not carried.

DCFO Blunden had recently attended a LGA Tax Implications Workshop, which had reviewed the changes to the Legislation from 2015 onwards; Members would be provided with a copy of the workshop slides.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Agreed that voluntary scheme pays should be put in place.

All Members voted in favour that the voluntary scheme pays proposal should be put in place, with the exception of Dr Billings who abstained from voting.

- iii) Be provided with the LGA Tax Implications Workshop slides.
- iv) That consideration be given to the timing of certain reports in order to ensure adequate deliberation by Members of the Authority.
- v) Requested that officers in drafting reports consider the inclusion of an Executive Summary. It was agreed the Clerk would work with the Chair on a new report format which captured these comments.

14 KEY ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PERFORMANCE AND SCRUTINY BOARD HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2017

Members were presented with a key issues paper arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 23 November 2017.

Councillor Ayriss requested that Members be provided with feedback on the lessons learned from the post implementation review of the Support Services Review.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the key issues arising from the Performance and Scrutiny Board held on 23 November 2017.
- ii) Be provided with feedback on the lessons learned from the post implementation review of the Support Services Review.
- iii) Be informed of any issues arising from future Performance and Scrutiny Board meetings.

15 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2017

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 27 November 2017.

CHAIR