

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

ROTHERHAM TOWN HALL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2015

PRESENT:

Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Barnsley MBC
Councillor Roy Allan, Nottinghamshire CC
Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor John Burrows, Chesterfield BC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Simon Greaves, Bassetlaw DC
Councillor Glyn Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Ron Mihaly, Derbyshire CC
Councillor Chris Read, Rotherham MBC
Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Ann Syrett, Bolsover DC

Julie Kenny CBE, Rotherham MBC
James Newman, SCR Local Enterprise Partnership
Karl Battersby, Rotherham MBC
Huw Bowen, Chesterfield BC
Peter Dale, Doncaster MBC
Andrew Frosdick, Monitoring Officer
David Hewitt, SCR LEP
Julie Kenny CBE, Rotherham MBC
Wes Lumley, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Anthony May, Nottinghamshire CC
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Ben Still, SCR Executive Team
Neil Taylor, Bassetlaw DC
Diana Terris, Clerk / Barnsley MBC
Craig Tyler, Joint Authorities Governance Unit
Eugene Walker, S151 Finance Officer
Fiona Boden, Sheffield City Region Executive Team
Julie Hurley, SYPTE
Andrew Gates, SCR Executive Team
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mayor R Jones, A Rhodes and A Western

The meeting was opened by the Clerk to the Authority.

1 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

It was agreed that no agenda items require voting rights to be confirmed on non-constituent Members

2 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair were invited.

Cllr Burrows nominated Cllr Houghton for the Chair of the Combined Authority. This nomination was agreed by the members present.

Cllr Houghton nominated Cllr Burrows for the Vice Chair of the Combined Authority. This nomination was agreed by the Members present.

RESOLVED:

1. That Cllr Sir Houghton CBE is appointed Chair of the SCR Combined Authority for the forthcoming year (2015/16)
2. That Cllr John Burrows is appointed Vice Chair of the SCR Combined Authority for the forthcoming year (2015/16)

Cllr Houghton assumed the Chair of the meeting

3 APOLOGIES

Members apologies were noted as above.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were noted.

5 URGENT ITEMS

No urgent agenda items were requested.

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

None.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were noted.

8 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No reports of questions from Members were raised.

9 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS / PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCR COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 15TH MAY 2015

It was noted that the previous minutes omitted to reference the apologies of J Newman (LEP Chair)

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 15th May are agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

11 GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE - REFINED PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN SHEFFIELD CITY REGION'S GOVERNANCE

Further to the outline papers presented at previous meetings, Members were presented with a report detailing the intended proposals to strengthen the City Region's governance arrangements.

It was reported that since the previous submission, the SCR Chief Executives have proposed that an additional two Executive Boards should be established focused on Housing and Transport. This reflects the widening of the Executive Boards' proposed remit to focus on strategy and policy development, as well as the delivery of our Growth and Devolution Deals.

Summary portfolios for the 5 proposed Boards were presented for discussion and agreement.

Members were further advised of a proposal to conserve 'dual key' accountability provisions by means of all Board delegations residing with both the lead Chief Executive(s) for that theme and the SCR's Head of Paid Service.

It was noted that the Boards' logistical requirements were due to be considered in detail. This will accord the Boards with the 6 weekly meeting cycles, culminating with the meeting of the Combined Authority and at which the Boards' decisions will be presented for endorsement and challenge.

It is proposed to convene Combined Authority and LEP Board meetings on the same day.

Revised meeting timetables will be circulated in due course.

J Newman thanked Members for their confidence in the private sector and welcomed the inclusion of private sector LEP members on the Executive Boards.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members (with report references):

1. Agree the proposed structure of the Executive Boards (paragraph 3.2, Figure 1) and their proposed respective broad portfolios (paragraph 3.5, Table 1).

2. Agree that the Executive Boards should be focused on the delivery of our current Growth and Devolution Deals, in addition to the development of policy and strategy for the City Region (paragraph 3.4).
3. Agree the high level, broad remits that will be used to form the terms of reference for the Executive Boards (paragraph 3.6, Annex A).
4. Agree the proposed lead Member and officers for the different Executive Boards and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Combined Authority (paragraph 3.7, Annex B).
5. Agree that delegations from the Combined Authority to the Executive Boards should reside with the lead Chief Executive(s) and the SCR Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the other members of the Executive Boards (paragraph 3.9).

12 GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE - SCR ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Members were advised that the proposed changes to the governance structure of the Sheffield City Region (SCR) need to be reflected in our Assurance Framework.

It was noted that the document has been updated to reflect the evolution of the proposed model (discussed under the previous agenda item) and the establishment of a single end-to-end programme management lifecycle process for all SCR investments.

The updated document was presented to Members at Annex A to the main report.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members approve the updated Assurance and Accountability Framework.

13 SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS TO THEMATIC EXECUTIVE BOARDS

Members were presented with a report focusing on the proposed constitutional changes required to implement changes to decision making responsibility within the Combined Authority through the operation of five Thematic Executive Boards in accordance with principles approved by the Authority elsewhere by way of the 2 previous agenda items.

Appended to the report was the proposed amendment for the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority Constitution to take account of these proposed changes (at APPENDIX A).

It was confirmed that inception meetings for the various Boards will now be arranged to consider next steps in more detail.

RESOLVED - that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Give formal approval to the Scheme of Delegations to Executive Boards contained in Appendix A to the report and note that appropriate amendments are to be made to the Constitution of the Authority.
2. Instruct further discussions take place between relevant officers and the newly constituted Boards to refine their detailed operating arrangements and any more specific documentation of their Terms of Reference.
3. Note that in reference to the previous resolution, further reports will be provided to the Authority to revise the terms of Reference of any Board.
4. Note that the Terms of Reference of the Transport Committee are to be reviewed in the light of the role of the new Transport Board.

14 RAIL COLLEGE

A report was presented to update Members in respect of the development of the rail college.

The report noted considerable progress made to date and confirmed that the next stage in the process will see the development of a business case and a joint bid to Government (BIS/SFA) and the Combined Authority for the capital costs required to build the college. This application, which is being co-ordinated by the overall college project manager from HS2 Ltd., will constitute a single application for both identified central BIS funding and LEP allocations.

Members were advised that as part of the SCR Growth Deal 2 allocation, a skills capital allocation for the rail college was notionally awarded. However, it was noted that the final decision on this Growth Deal 2 allocation is not expected until the Autumn approval for a commitment of £6 million to be included in the business plan and capital application due to be submitted to government on July 16th is therefore being sought.

Members expressed concern that the government has changed its stance on how the college will be funded and introduced the requirement for the Combined Authority to act as a financial backstop. It was suggested that lessons can be learnt from this situation and caution needs to be observed in the future to protect the Combined Authority's finances from the 'fragility of funding promises' and the risk to funding other priority initiatives.

E Walker agreed that this was not ideal position to be in and drew Members' attention to recommendation 2 which instructs officers to continue to press the Department for Business Innovation and Skills for a rationalised approach to the funding of this project.

J Newman noted how the private sector holds similar concerns to the Members and agreed that BIS needs to reaffirm their funding commitment to the project. It was asked whether Birmingham is in the same position as Doncaster.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Confirm continued support for the National College of High Speed Rail (NCHSR) in the SCR.
2. Instruct officers to continue to press the Department for Business Innovation and Skills for a rationalised approach to the funding of this project and the CA's Local Growth Fund allocations.
3. Confirm a commitment of £6m of SCR capital to the NCHSR business plan (and associated funding application) which is due to be submitted to the department for Business Innovation and Skills in July 2015 and agreed by autumn 2015.
4. Agree that a single appraisal process that results in the approval of the NCHSR business plan and capital application will satisfy SCR governance requirements and secure the release of the funds in line with the NCHSR delivery programme.
5. Agree that this commitment is expressed in the NCHSR capital funding application/business plan in the form of a letter from the CA chair.
6. Will receive feedback on whether Birmingham is in a similar funding position from P Dale.

15 SCR INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

Item deferred.

16 IAB RECOMMENDATIONS

A paper was provided presenting recommendations from the Infrastructure Advisory Board for Upper Don Valley business case and FARRRS phase 2 project.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Agree the recommendation from the IAB on the Upper Don Valley to progress to Stage 1B, noting the conditions.
2. Agree the recommendation from the IAB on the FARRRS phase 2 to progress to Stage 2, noting the conditions.

17 CAPITAL PROGRAMME - RGF INVESTMENT STRATEGY

A report was presented setting out the profile of the £52m of RGF/LGF secured as part of the Growth Deal(s) and the process by which decisions will be made, and seeking endorsement of outline investment strategy for the programme and the required delegations in order to deliver this programme.

Members were advised of the proposal for operational responsibility for investment decisions to be given to a RGF Panel (consisting of the lead Chief Executive for A2F workstream, a lead elected member, at least 1 LEP board member, a delegate of the CA's s.151 officer and other individuals with relevant experience (either

drawn from the existing panel, the A2F advisory board, the Business Growth Board or otherwise)). It was confirmed that this panel will report to the Business Growth Executive Board.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Approve the outline investment strategy (set out in Sections 4 of the report).
2. Delegate operational responsibility for investment decisions to the RGF Panel, subject to the parameters and outline investment strategy set out in this paper and subject to alignment with the broader SCR-level Governance arrangement deal with elsewhere on this agenda.
3. Agree that the CA's S151 officer 'capitalises' all eligible programme management costs incurred in the delivery of this activity, and funds those costs from the RGF capital resource.
4. Agree that the SCR Finance Directors should (a) support the development of an appraisal manual and document that sits behind this fund; and (b) review the progress of this fund 12 months after launch – and consider if changes need to be made to programme design.

18 SCR MARKETING STRATEGY

Members were advised that work on the development of a cohesive SCR Marketing Strategy is underway. A costed proposal will be worked up via a future meeting cycle.

19 CA REVENUE OUTTURN 2014/15

A paper was presented detailing the revenue outturn position for the Combined Authority and its subsidiaries over financial year 2015/16.

Members were reminded that the CA's operations are divided between South Yorkshire transport activity and the wider CA/LEP.

It was reported that before one-off adjustments, both work streams underspent against budget by c.£60k (£62k transport, £59k CA/LEP). This represents a marginal improvement on the positions reported in Q3.

After one-off adjustments designed to support budget sustainability, however, CA/LEP activity accumulated a surplus of c.£613k, whilst transport activity created a surplus of £39.7m due to the award of a second capital grant from the CA to SYPTE.

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Note the underspends on transport and CA/LEP activity
2. Note the one-off adjustments made in 2014/15 that support future moves towards budget sustainability

3. Note the ongoing work in collaboration with SYPTE and district partners to develop medium-term financial strategies for both work streams

20 WEBCASTING OF SCR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

A report was presented requesting the Combined Authority Members note plans for the continuation of webcasting of meetings of the SCR Transport Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Audit Committee.

Members also agree to facilitate the webcasting of future Combined Authority meetings, subject to the facility being operable at the AMP (the agreed venue for meetings for the next year).

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Note an initial short term extension to the current webcasting contract to align with Barnsley MBC's webcasting contract renewal date (7th August 2015) followed by a further renewal for 1 year.
2. Agree to the webcasting of Combined Authority meetings, subject to the resolution of any technical issues.

21 APPOINTMENTS TO THE SCR TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

A report was presented advising Members of the SCR districts' nominations to the Transport Committee and requesting endorsement of the nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.

Nominations (and vacancies) were confirmed as:

District	Members
Barnsley MBC	Cllr Roy Miller Cllr David Leech
Bassetlaw DC	Cllr David Pidwell
Bolsover DC	1 x vacancy TBC
Chesterfield BC	1 x vacancy TBC
Derbyshire Dales DC	1 x vacancy TBC
Doncaster MBC	Cllr Joe Blackham Cllr Bill Mordue Cllr Steve Cox
North East Derbyshire DC	Cllr Michael Gordon
Rotherham MBC	Cllr Maggie Godfrey Cllr Denise Lelliott
Sheffield CC	Cllr Terry Fox Cllr Garry Weatherall Cllr Alan Law Cllr Ian Auckland 1 x vacancy TBC

RESOLVED, that the Combined Authority Members:

1. Note the districts' nominations to the Transport Committee
2. Endorse the nomination of a Doncaster MBC Member as Chair of the Transport Committee for 2015/16 (to be confirmed by Doncaster MBC)
3. Endorse the nomination of Cllr Terry Fox (Sheffield CC) as Vice Chair of the Transport Committee for 2015/16

22 MINUTES OF THE SCR CA TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8TH JUNE

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the SCR Transport Committee held on 8th June be noted.

CHAIR

SHEFFIELD CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

THE AMP TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, WAVERLEY, ROTHERHAM, S60 5WG

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2015

PRESENT:

**Councillor Sir Steve Houghton CBE, Barnsley MBC (Chair)
Councillor John Burrows, Chesterfield BC (Vice Chair)**

**Councillor Graham Baxter MBE, North East Derbyshire DC
Councillor Julie Dore, Sheffield CC
Councillor Simon Greaves, Bassetlaw DC
Mayor Ros Jones, Doncaster MBC
Councillor Chris Read, Rotherham MBC
Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, Derbyshire Dales DC
Councillor Ann Syrett, Bolsover DC
Councillor Jo White, Bassetlaw District Council**

**Ruth Adams, SCR Executive Team
David Armiger, Bassetlaw District Council
Fiona Boden, SCR Executive Team
Andrew Frosdick, Monitoring Officer
David Hewitt, SCR LEP
Julie Hurley, SCR Executive Team
James Newman, SCR Local Enterprise Partnership
Julie Kenny CBE, Rotherham MBC
Wes Lumley, Bolsover DC / NE Derbyshire DC
Stella Manzie CBE, Rotherham MBC
John Mothersole, Sheffield CC
Andrew Shirt, South Yorkshire Joint Authorities
Ben Still, SCR Executive Team
Gareth Sutton, Sheffield CC / SCR
Diana Terris, Clerk / Barnsley MBC**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Rhodes, J Miller, N Taylor, C Tyler and E Walker

1 VOTING RIGHTS FOR NON-CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

It was agreed that no agenda items require voting rights to be confirmed on non-constituent Members.

2 APOLOGIES

Members' apologies were noted as above.

3 ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were noted.

4 URGENT ITEMS

No urgent agenda items were requested.

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

None.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were noted.

7 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

No reports of questions from Members were raised.

8 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No petitions were received.

The Chair informed Members that a list of questions had been received from Mr Nigel Slack, Sheffield for Democracy, regarding the new 'Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill'. Mr Slack asked the Combined Authority:

1) Who is leading the negotiation?

The negotiations will be led by the Sheffield City Region Executive Team, supported by the SCR Chief Executives. Combined Authority Members' will help shape negotiations.

2) Will they accept a directly elected Mayor?

There is a general view that the Authority would prefer to operate the Combined Authority Model, without a City Region Mayor. However, this will be subject to Government Ministers' approval, and Ministers have been clear that they expect devolution will be in return for a directly elected Metro Mayor.

- 3) Will the public be consulted and their opinion sought?

Yes, there will be public and business consultation, if the Combined Authority did agree to a City Region Mayor.

- 4) Will the individual Councils and most importantly, their Councillors be consulted, and their opinion sought?

Yes, the individual Councils' and Councillors' would be consulted and their opinion sought.

- 5) Will the SCRCA resist a deal that is inappropriate for the make-up of the City Region, with its cross county ties, or will it compromise its principals through fear of falling behind an imagined brighter future gifted to Manchester, through their wholesale capitulation?

The preferred option for Devolution will need to be agreed and satisfy all nine SCR Local Authorities. The CA will submit its 'Asks' to Government to see if a deal can be made.

9 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SCR COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON 22 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Authority held on 22 June 2015 be agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

10 DEVOLUTION UPDATE

Members were advised that as part of the Summer Budget 2015, the Chancellor had announced a commitment to further devolution deals with the Sheffield City Region, Liverpool City Region, Leeds, West Yorkshire and partner authorities, to be agreed in parallel with the Spending Review in September 2015.

It was noted that the City Regions would need to submit formal, fiscally neutral proposals and an agreed geography to the Treasury by 4 September 2015.

Significant devolution deals would need to be signed-off ahead of the November 2015 spending review. The conclusions of the spending review would be announced on 25 November 2015.

If agreement can be reached, the SCR CA and LEP would submit a proposal, building on its Strategic Economic Plan.

The Joint Authorities Governance Unit would be arranging Informal briefings with SCR Leaders over the coming weeks regarding the SCR's proposals to Treasury.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

11 EXECUTIVE BOARD UPDATES AND DECISIONS

Members received an update regarding the inaugural meetings of the SCR Executive Boards, as set out below:

i) Skills, Employment and Education Executive Board

The Skills, Employment and Education Executive Board had met on 17 July 2015, where they had:

Approved the North Notts LGF scheme for skills capital investment – Total scheme value £933,500 total grant value £380,055 (33%);

Approved funding to support project management costs associated with progressing the LGF skills capital funding for the Glass Academy, subject to a number of agreed caveats; and

Accepted, from BIS, the revenue funding for the SCR Skills Bank in the financial year 2015-2016, for the SCR Executive to directly commission.

ii) Infrastructure Board

The SCR Infrastructure Plan was progressing well; a workshop would be held shortly to agree the review of evidence and challenges for growth, which would form the baseline for the infrastructure needs to support growth.

The SCRIF continued to progress a number of business cases and funding agreements, noting that the Board would be reviewing programme delivery to ensure spend for 2015/16.

The Board continued to make progress in relation to the SCR IIP, developing the approach to housing, financial options, spatial modelling, evidence and needs for infrastructure.

The Board had considered the Central Independent Appraisal Team's Business Case in relation to Superfast Broadband for South Yorkshire, which they had recommended be approved by the CA. (Please see Minute 12, which sets out the Combined Authority's approval).

iii) Housing Board

The Board had considered the draft Housing Business Plan and agreed to expand this over a four year period.

A large amount of work had been undertaken by the SCR Heads of Planning Group and fed through to the Board.

The first meeting of the Joint Assets Board had been held; a Chair and Vice-Chair had been appointed. The Terms of Reference were being reviewed to determine the scope of work.

It had been agreed that a paper would be developed and presented to the CA setting out an update on the Duty to Cooperate and Spatial Planning.

iv) Transport Board

The inaugural meeting of the Transport Board had been held to consider its role and its inter-dependences with the Combined Authority's Transport Committee/Boards and links to the Infrastructure Board.

v) Business Growth Board

At the Board meeting held on 8 July, Members considered a revised Inward Investment Strategy for the SCR and received updates on each of the five Growth Hub Spokes (Access to Finance, Exports, Innovations, Skills Bank and new Businesses).

It was noted that the second Board meeting would be held on Tuesday 4 August 2015.

RESOLVED – That Combined Authority Members note the updates and endorse the decisions taken by all the SCR Executive Boards.

12 RECOMMENDATION FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY BOARD FOR SUPERFAST BROADBAND BUSINESS CASE

A paper was presented asking the CA to formally agree the recommendations of the Infrastructure Executive Board for accelerated and enhanced Superfast Broadband connectivity to South Yorkshire's Enterprise Zones and strategic Business Parks.

Members noted that the South Yorkshire Superfast Broadband programme was aimed at raising access to superfast broadband to 98% of premises across South Yorkshire by 2017. The Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) Extension Programme launched in 2013 required a local match funding commitment. The four South Yorkshire Authorities were seeking £10.6m SCRIF funding for the local match funding.

The initial economic case presented estimated the economic outputs of public sector investment in South Yorkshire superfast broadband as a GVA uplift of £416m and 1,054 net additional FTE jobs between 2021 and 2031.

The scheme promotor had satisfied the Infrastructure Executive Board that the scheme was likely to provide value for money, and that the scheme had a strong strategic case and was deliverable.

RESOLVED – That the SCR Combined Authority:-

- i) Supports the recommendation of the Infrastructure Advisory Board (IAB) to progress the roll out of enhanced Superfast Broadband connectivity to South Yorkshire's Enterprise Zones and strategic Business Parks; and

- ii) Agreed to provide full approval for the scheme from local match funding from the SCRIF of up to £10.6m.

13 MINUTES OF THE SCR CA TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 JULY 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the SCR Transport Committee held on 20 July 2015 be noted.

14 MINUTES OF THE SCR PASSENGER TRANSPORT PENSION FUND COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8TH JUNE 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the SCR Passenger Transport Pension Fund Committee meeting held on 8 June 2015 be noted.

CHAIR

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

27 JULY 2015

PRESENT: Councillor J Andrews (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: A Buckley, P Haith, E Hughes, R Munn and
S M Richards

R Bywater, M McCarthy, L Noble and A Shirt (South Yorkshire
Joint Authorities)

J Roberts and S Chu (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

A Frosdick, J Bell and F Foster (BMBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Cave,
Councillor G Furniss, Councillor C Ransome, Councillor
C Ross, Councillor J Satur, CFO J Courtney, ACO M Blunden
and B Sandy

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 the following agenda items be considered in the absence of the
Public and Press:**

Item 19 – Human Resources Review;

**Item 20 – Disposal of Sites to be vacated on the completion of Birley and Parkway
Fire Stations; and**

Item 21 – Safer Stronger Communities Reserve (SSCR) Round 2.

**5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO
ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA.**

**Councillor Andrews declared an interest in agenda item 21 'Safer Stronger
Communities Reserve (SSCR) Round 2', in relation to a bid which had been
submitted by Groundwork in South Yorkshire, by virtue of him being on the Board of
Directors for Groundwork Dearne Valley.**

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS.

Councillor Haith reported that she had visited Doncaster Fire Station last week where she had experienced first-hand the new turntable ladders.

Councillor Haith stated that she had concerns regarding the 2nd appliance at Doncaster Fire Station not being crewed to full capacity; she understood that the 2nd appliance at Doncaster Fire Station was currently not on the run today, due to crewing issues.

DCFO Roberts explained that there were two appliances stationed at Doncaster Fire Station; the first appliance was always available immediately, staffed on a jump crew basis. DCFO Roberts stated that he was not aware of the issues reported at today's meeting regarding the 2nd appliance not being on the run today and agreed to investigate accordingly.

Councillors Atkin and Cave had visited Aston Park and Lowedges Fire Stations on 22 July 2015.

On 23 July 2015, Councillors Atkin, Cave and Andrews had visited Dearne Fire Station.

Councillor Munn informed the Authority that he had attended the Middle Managers' Engagement Days on 16th and 17th June and viewed the Aerial Appliance.

Councillor Munn had attended his induction meeting on 16 June 2015 at Fire Headquarters.

Councillor Munn had also visited Elm Lane Fire Station on 17 June 2015.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS.

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual Authority meeting held on 29 June 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Ordinary Authority meeting held on 29 June 2015 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 PUBLIC AFFAIRS STRATEGY

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented which set out the Service's Public Affairs Strategy. The Strategy had been developed to direct and support the development of an ongoing relationship between the Service and the political establishment, individual elected Members and the wider political environment in which the Service operates.

Councillor Richards asked if the Strategy was intended to be a joint Fire Authority and Service Public Affairs Strategy.

S Chu confirmed that the Strategy would be delivered by the Service in conjunction with the Authority and other partners.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the report; and
- ii) Thanked officers for producing a comprehensive Public Affairs Strategy.

12 COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS ANNUAL REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide Members with a review of all complaints received during the period April 2014 to March 2015 inclusive.

During the period, the Service had received fourteen complaints, of which one was upheld, ten were not upheld, two were withdrawn, and one complaint was transferred for investigation under Human Resources procedures.

A total number of 131 compliments were received by the Service over the same period.

No complaints had been received about the Authority or officers of the Authority during the period.

Members were also provided with information, for comparison purposes, detailing 3 years' data measuring against the same period of financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14.

Councillor Haith asked if future reports could show a breakdown of the compliments received by each District.

S Chu informed Members that a wider review regarding how the Service reported compliments, particularly with the rise in compliments via social media, to the Authority would be undertaken over the coming months.

Councillor Richards asked if a selection of the compliments received could be included in future reports. S Chu agreed to this request.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Note the report; and

- ii) Authorise a review of how best to report compliments in the social media age.

13 HOPE TRAUMA SUPPORT GROUP

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted informing Members that 'HOPE', the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and RTC Trauma Support Group, has been an unincorporated part of the Service since May 2007.

The voluntary group had provided invaluable support to members of the South Yorkshire community affected by the loss of life, through fire, Road Traffic Collision (RTC) or rescue incident through its trauma group meetings and support.

The Executive Committee of HOPE had now recognised the potential for the group's expansion into a charity to further expand its work for the people of South Yorkshire.

The aim was for HOPE to be innovative and to help support the Service, particularly in light of the Support Services Review and further cuts to the organisation.

The report also recommended the appointment of a new Executive or 'Trust' Board for HOPE comprising of five Charity Trustees. Two of which are for Ex- Officio trustees, namely the Chair of the Authority and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and a further two members from the HOPE Executive Board, along with a Member of the Authority.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Support the progress of HOPE, the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and RTC Trauma Support Group, in to a charity.
- ii) Agrees the proposal to move HOPE to becoming a Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) as the first steps towards charitable status, as detailed in the report.
- iii) Supports the move for the Prevention and Protection Directorate to financially support the group with an annual £5,000 budget.
- iv) Approves the new constitution for HOPE which will enable the Service to increase community involvement in South Yorkshire through education, to raise the awareness of home and road safety, risk and how to stay safe.
- v) Nominate Councillor Hughes to the post of charity trustee, and member of the new HOPE board.

14 THE FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME 2015: CREATION AND OPERATION OF LOCAL PENSION BOARDS - AMENDMENTS TO LOCAL PENSION BOARD CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

A report of the Deputy Clerk was presented which reminded Members that, further to a report submitted to the Authority on 16 February 2015, the final Guidance had

now been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in respect of the governance arrangements for Local Pension Boards.

Following the receipt of the Guidance, this had necessitated some amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's Local Pension Board.

Members noted that the amendments were considered at the inaugural meeting of the Local Pension Board held on 13 July 2015, which concluded that they were content with recommending the changes to the FRA for approval.

The Board had also received a request from the Fire Brigades' Union (FBU) for an additional employee representative to reflect the number of members they represent. The Guidance from CLG required an equal number of employee and employer representatives. The Board, therefore, agreed to two additional places (one employer and one employee representative), and this was also referred to the FRA for their approval.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered and approved the revisions to the Local Pension Board Constitution and Terms of Reference set out at Appendix A to the report now considered; and**
- ii) Agreed to the appointment of two additional members of the Board (one employer representative and one employee representative).**

15 MINUTES OF THE FIRE LOCAL PENSION BOARD HELD ON 13 JULY 2015

Members were presented with the draft minutes from the inaugural meeting of the Fire Local Pension Board held on 13 July 2015.

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes from the inaugural meeting of the Fire Local Pension Board held on 13 July 2015 be noted.

16 MAY 2015 PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT

A joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Treasurer was submitted to inform Members of the projected spend for the 2015/16 financial year based on the May 2015 outturn position.

Members were informed that it was very early in year to be able to report a figure with any certainty, particularly during the challenging times that the Authority is currently facing.

The projected position currently suggested an under-spend of £386,000, however, there remained a possibility that the outturn position may fluctuate during the year as issues are clarified. This would be kept under constant review and reported in future monitoring reports.

Areas of key variances were noted and explanations provided.

Councillor Richards referred to the Support Staff budget asking if the staff who were currently unplaced as a result of the Support Services Review had been unsuitable for posts advertised which had necessitated external recruitment.

DCFO Roberts explained that as part of the Support Services Review, the Service had only recruited externally, when the skills set of existing employees 'at risk' had not been suitable for the posts advertised.

In relation to the capital programme, Members asked for clarification as to why the costs had reduced significantly in respect of appliance bay doors at Rivelin Fire Station. DCFO Roberts agreed to investigate and report back to Members.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

17 BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT (BCM) REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with the current position relating to the Business Continuity (BC) Management arrangements within South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and a summary of BC activity and developments within the last 12 months.

Members noted that the Service's BC Manager had presented at the BCI World Conference in November 2014, and had been asked to present again in 2015.

Members asked that their thanks be passed onto R Parramore (the Service's BC Manager) for his excellent work.

Members also thanked Councillor Ross in his capacity as the Lead Member for Business Continuity.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the report;
- ii) Requested that R Parramore be thanked for his excellent work; and
- iii) Thanked Councillor Ross in his capacity as the Lead Member for Business Continuity.

18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 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.

19 HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW

A joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk was submitted requesting Members to consider a report presenting options of a joint review for the future delivery of Human Resources (HR) services (incorporating Organisational Development) within both Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR).

RESOLVED – That Members approve the commencement of a 12 week consultation period to determine whether the Service:-

- 1) Should maintain a solely in-house HR function.
- 2) Should progress the development of a joint HR function with HFRS.
- 3) Should consider an outsourced solution for HR.

20 DISPOSAL OF SITES TO BE VACATED ON THE COMPLETION OF BIRLEY AND PARKWAY FIRE STATIONS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to advise Members of the proposed methodology and reporting process prior to confirming any sales regarding the disposal of the stations to be replaced (Darnall, Mansfield Road and Mosborough).

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Declare Mansfield Road and Mosborough surplus once Parkway and Birley are complete and handed over to South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue;
- ii) Authorise the Head of Asset Management to progress marketing and negotiations where applicable, then submit a further report to the Authority outlining the proposed terms for sales; and
- iii) Confirms that the Chair of the Fire Authority's delegated decision in respect of Darnall to accept the highest offer and instruct solicitors to proceed with the conveyance and disposal and to approve the disposal of the substation site at Mosborough on the terms outlined in the report.

21 SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES RESERVE (SSCR) ROUND 2

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented which provided an update to Members on the submissions to the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve Fund Round 2. Additionally, the report also updated Members on the assessment process and the projects that the Assessment Board had recommended to receive Round 2 funding.

Members felt that given the unique nature of the Fund, and the Government's drive for collaboration, the Fund should be publicised further; nationally, regionally and locally.

Members thanked Officers from the Authority and Service for all their hard work in carrying out a first filter of the bids received.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approve the list of recommended projects;**
- ii) Agree to release of funds to projects, subject to completion of the service level agreements;**
- iii) Approve the monitoring and governance arrangements; and**
- iv) Agree to receive a further report to the September Authority meeting to consider approval for projects that are submitting revised bids, based on feedback from the Assessment Board.**

CHAIR

S41 MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE



AUGUST 2015

Please find below information from your Section 41 Member representative on South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority:-

I had the pleasure of visiting Doncaster Fire Station last week (23rd July) and was keen to see what the Service's new turntable ladders could do.

Having previously been up on a turntable ladder appliance many years ago at the station, I was more than happy to get strapped in the cage of the new vehicle and experience first hand what they are capable of.

"It was good to see the crew and lots of familiar faces," said Cllr Haith.

"I previously worked as a cook at Doncaster station from 1972 through until the mid 1980s- and I'd been up in an old turntable ladder then."

"It was really noticeable how the new appliance is much smoother and faster when compared to the old and jerky ones I had been in before."

Here I am pictured with **Doncaster Blue Watch**, who also discussed current topics affecting the fire sector with me during my visit.



Stronger Safer Communities Reserve update

19 projects from the 64 applications to Round 2 have been approved by the Fire Authority and will go on to develop service level agreements with SYFR. A further 9 projects have been asked to consider submitting revised bids by working collaboratively with other similar projects, or making changes to their project plan that will result in more value for money from the funding.

As in Round 1, the projects cover a broad range of approaches to community safety including diversionary work with children and young people, fitting sprinkler systems to protect some of our most vulnerable residents, and support for grass roots community groups who can assist with getting fire safety messages out to hard to reach residents.

A full list of successful projects is listed can be found on the Fire Authority's website at www.southyorks.gov.uk or via a hyperlink [here](#).

Please direct any enquiries to the SSCR Co-ordinator Rhona Bywater on:
01226 772851
Email: rbywater@syfs.gov.uk

Fire service funded early years learning package wins global recognition

A successful scheme to improve safety education in South Yorkshire is gaining international recognition, thanks to a fire service funding grant.

The education package has been developed by Sheffield Children's Centre working closely with children, families and carers to help form appropriate, age specific safety messages to reduce deaths and injuries.

An Early Years Practitioner Guide, Fire Safety Song Book and Heroes & Heroines story book have been developed as a result

of the £40,000 grant from South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority's Safer Sustainable Communities Reserve.

Now, a new suite of qualifications for early years practitioners is being developed after the learning package gained recognition from industry bodies including the Pre-School Learning Alliance and National Day Nursery Association. The qualifications will seek to set a national standard for teaching fire and other safety messages to young children.

The project has established international links as some of the education materials have been developed with the help of young people from Mexico, who worked with children here in South Yorkshire to bring the early years story books to life through writing and illustrations.

It's hoped that thanks to these links, and recognition from bodies like UNICEF and Equality and Human Rights UK, the resources will be adopted in Mexico and other parts of the world too.

Chrissy Meleady MBE, Chair of the Sheffield Children's Centre Advisory Support Group, said: *"Through the centre's outreach work with children and families and services across South Yorkshire, we found that fire safety and home safety resources for early years children and their families lacked real world emphasis."*

"The key safe messages were not being fostered as well as they should be for the sake of children and families, and nor were they aligned to meet regulatory requirements. We are pleased that our innovative approach to tackling this issue has been recognised nationally and believe our work will make a real impact in improving the quality of fire safety education worldwide."

Head of prevention and protection Steve Helps, said: *"This project is a perfect example of how a relatively small funding award can quickly snowball into something which has the potential to improve the quality and range of safety education to youngsters worldwide."*

"What makes the scheme truly unique is that it's children themselves- whether here in South Yorkshire or further afield- who have been instrumental in creating resources which are appropriate for young people and their families."

The first round Safer Sustainable Communities Reserve saw dozens of registered charities, community organisations and partner agencies come forward and apply for grants from the £2 million fund, which had been set aside from the Authority's reserves.



Back row (l-r) - Molly Hanley, Steve Helps, Head of Prevention and Protection, SYFR, Lucy Wragg (behind her), Jane Wragg, Caroline Goldthorpe, Alicia Cannon, Kay Burke. Front row - Kloe Addey, Cllr Jackie Satur, SY Fire and Rescue Authority, Konain Malik (big boy in suit), then in front of him- Ryaan Malik, Alayna Zulfi, Kelly Jenkins, Equality and Inclusion Adviser, SY Fire and Rescue.

Two new Sheffield fire stations open doors for first time

Two multi-million pound fire stations in Sheffield have opened and are responding to 999 calls for the first time.



Parkway

The stations at Parkway and Birley Moor will allow South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue to provide a better service to the community, particularly to the south-east Sheffield area.



Birley

Area Manager Phil Shillito, head of emergency response, said: *"These two new fire stations are central to the provision of our service in south and east Sheffield. They are located in the optimum positions to enable us to respond quickly and effectively to emergency incidents."*

"The stations at Darnall, Mansfield Road and Mosborough have been part of our communities for more than half a century, but their lives as working fire stations had come to an end and it's time to turn to an exciting new chapter in the provision of our core, emergency response service."

"The facilities highlight, in spite of a challenging economic backdrop, our relentless commitment to providing the best possible fire cover to the people of Sheffield and beyond."

With the opening of the new stations, Darnall, Mansfield Road and Mosborough stations have closed. Darnall fire station opened in 1956 and Mansfield Road in 1965. Mosborough transferred from Derbyshire to Sheffield Fire Brigade in 1967.

The new, full-time station at Birley Moor will cover a much greater area of South Yorkshire than the existing part-time station at Mosborough, right on the Derbyshire border, was able to. It will house one full time and one part time fire engine.

Darnall and Mansfield Road stations were built to address risks in Sheffield's major industrial sites, including the city's major steelworks. The new Parkway station will be better placed to protect new housing developments in the area, plus road traffic collisions on Sheffield Parkway and the nearby road infrastructure. It will house a full time fire engine and an aerial appliance.

Thousands watch fire service safety film as growth in electrical blazes revealed

A rise in electrical fires across South Yorkshire has been blamed on everything from phone chargers to e-cigs.

Fire officers say that whilst nearly every type of fire has reduced significantly during the last decade, thanks to safety visits and better awareness of risks, electrical incidents have stubbornly refused to drop.

Electricity is involved in about two thirds of all accidental house fires, with household appliances the most common culprits.

There were 190 house fires involving electricity in 2014/15, up from 165 the previous year and 150 in 2012/13. The kitchen is the most likely room in the house where electrical fires will start.

Sometimes fires are caused by faulty goods, which could be small items like mobile chargers, or big things like washing machines and dryers.

Fires are also caused by people misusing electrical appliances, for example by leaving them plugged in for too long or covering them up allowing them to overheat.

Fire officers are so worried about the problem, they have launched a safety video to try to educate people about the most common risks. The film has already been viewed more than 25,000 times on Facebook.

Head of community safety Kevin Ronan, said: *"This isn't about scaremongering but about making sure that consumers have all the available safety information. The vast majority of electrical goods are manufactured to very high safety standards, but sometimes if they are misused or if there is a fault with the device they can start a fire."*

"The simple truth is that homes have more small electrical devices in them than probably any time in our history- from tablets and mobile phones, to e-cigarettes and games consoles. Unfortunately, we can't get round everyone's home to check the safety of their electrics for them. But by releasing this film, we hope we can give people the knowledge to check their own electrics and hopefully prevent a serious fire."

The fire service has issued the following advice to stop fires:

- **Don't buy cheap, unbranded chargers** and make sure chargers are compatible to the device you are using
- **Don't leave things to charge overnight** or beyond the recommended charging time. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- **Keep electrical items away from flammable materials** when charging
- **Don't overload sockets**— long, strip adaptors are safest, but can only take a total of 13 amps

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue is also calling on electrical manufacturers to do more to make people aware when faulty products are recalled.

The number of fires caused by faulty large kitchen goods like fridges, washing machines and tumble dryers has increased from 42 fires in 2012, to 56 in 2013 and 60 in 2014.

A man died in a house fire in Gawber, Barnsley in 2012 in a blaze caused by a faulty fridge.

Manufacturers are required by law to notify people if they know one of their products poses a fire risk and needs to be recalled. But millions of faulty products remain in people's homes.

"The average success rate of a recall is only 10-20%, which means that there are potentially millions of dangerous electrical products in homes across the UK.

"For consumers, we know that returning a recalled product is not always convenient, especially if it's an item that you use every day, but recall notices are issued to keep people safe. The small inconvenience of returning a recalled item is worth it when you consider that faulty products can electrocute or cause a fire," said Kevin.



To view South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's safety video, visit www.syfire.gov.uk or to check the safety of your home electrics visit 13orbust.co.uk

You can find out whether an electrical product you own has been recalled via the Electrical Safety Council website <http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/product-recalls/>

Two new turntable ladders maintain South Yorkshire's rich firefighting heritage

A century after Sheffield became the first fire service in the country to use a turntable ladder, the very latest vehicles to rescue people from height have come into service.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) has two new turntable ladders, believed to be the best specification vehicles of their kind anywhere in the world.

The vehicles have been manufactured by German firm Metz XS and supplied to SYFR through the Rosenbauer Group in the UK.

After specifications were submitted by companies interested in providing the vehicles, extensive testing by a working group consisting of staff in various roles across the fire service took place.

The L32A model has superior accuracy and agility compared to the services current aerial ladder platform (ALP), deploying in 90 seconds it is also much faster in its operation. Its ladder can reach 32 metres and has the ability to work below the horizontal axis.



The £1.2 million vehicles arrived in South Yorkshire earlier this year and have been kitted out and used for training by firefighters before going on run at Doncaster and Parkway fire stations.

Area Manager Phil Shillito said: *"Aerial appliances are important vehicles because they allow us to tackle fires from above and rescue people from height in a way we are not able to do with a traditional fire engine."*

"These turntable ladders were chosen with the help of the people who will use them every day- frontline firefighters. The overwhelming feedback was that these appliances are the best specification vehicles currently on the market."

Sheffield Fire Brigade - one of the four district brigades which went on to form South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue in 1984 - became the first fire service in the country to use a turntable ladder in 1903.

The German built horse drawn vehicle was bought after Superintendent William Frost had first spotted it at a fire exhibition in Earls Court, London.



The appliance was converted to a motorised vehicle in 1921 at a cost of £1,200- more than £50,000 in today's money- and was stationed at West Bar police and fire station, now home to the National Emergency Services Museum.

"We have a long history of using the very best resources to provide emergency cover to the people of South Yorkshire. These vehicles are testament to the fact that, in spite of the current challenging economic backdrop, we will continue to provide the very best firefighting resources to our frontline crews," said Phil.



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Follow the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority on Twitter



@SYFireAuth

S41 MEMBER BRIEFING NOTE



SEPT 2015

Please find below information from your Section 41 Member representative on South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority:-

Getting around the Fire Stations

I have had the pleasure recently of visiting both Edlington and Adwick stations. It gave me the opportunity to discuss the a range of issues, including the advantages and disadvantages of the new crewing system.

Schools urged to install sprinklers as number of fire revealed

Fire officers are calling on the region's schools to consider installing sprinkler systems, after attending more than 50 blazes in two years.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue says many of the incidents were deliberately started fires on school grounds, such as bin and grass fires.

But other incidents involved school buildings, prompting safety officers to issue their warning.

Technical fire safety manager, Amy Jenkinson, said: *"When you consider the huge costs associated with a school fire such as rebuilding, temporary relocation, loss of equipment and pupil's academic work, it seems like an obvious move to install a sprinkler system, but many schools still don't. Above everything else, sprinklers give added protection to the pupils and staff at the school, and the firefighters who respond to tackle the fire."*

The fire service was called to 59 incidents at schools between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2015. Of these, 15 started accidentally whilst 43 were arson and one was an unknown cause.

Sprinklers are the most effective way to ensure that fires are suppressed or even extinguished before the fire service can arrive. They save lives and reduce injuries, protect firefighters who attend incidents and reduce the amount of damage to property.

Sprinklers also reduce environmental damage by limiting the amount of smoke which enters the atmosphere and reducing water runoff from firefighting.

In 2012 firefighters attended a blaze at the then newly opened Parkwood Academy in the early hours of the morning, but a sprinkler system activated immediately, containing the fire and raising the alarm.

In contrast, a fire at Campsmount school in Doncaster in 2009 caused millions of pounds worth of damage and the entire facility had to be rebuilt. The school did not have sprinklers fitted.

Fire also destroyed Edlington Comprehensive School, which had recently closed, in January 2009.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue has already helped pioneer a drive for sprinklers to be installed in residential properties. In 2011, sprinklers were retro-fitted into a block of flats in Gleadless after a grant from the British Automatic Fire Sprinkler Association. It was the first scheme of its kind in the country.

'Connor's story' highlights arson dangers



Police and fire officers have recently launched a hard-hitting campaign to target the number of young people deliberately starting fires.

Dubbed 'Connor's story', the campaign tells the fictional story of local teenager, Connor, who, alongside his friends, sets fire to the contents of a wheelie bin which explodes in his face leaving him disfigured with severe facial burns.

The campaign, which is a joint South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service initiative, will run until the end of the year with a focus on reducing the amount of arson incidents involving young people.

Last year, the force dealt with 681 incidents of arson- a 17% reduction on the previous year (2013- 799 crimes).

Analysis of arson related incidents over the last year (August 2014 – June 2015) showed that 80% of offenders were male with most aged between 11- 16 years.

The campaign will also be using the hashtag **#ConnorsStory** to promote messages on Twitter and other social media channels. Hundreds of stickers will also be placed on wheelie bins across the county as a reminder for people to take their bin out on the morning of a collection. This follows a large proportion of fires that have been started after bins were set alight after been left out overnight for a collection the following morning.

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue head of community safety Kevin Ronan, said: *“Three quarters of all the fires we attend are started deliberately, which is a massive drain on our resources. Starting fires is reckless and costs lives, as even small fires like bin and rubbish fires can quickly spread, take fire engines away from more serious incidents and put you and the people you love in real danger.”*

Superintendent Colin McFarlane, South Yorkshire Police's lead officer on anti-social behaviour, said: *“The aim of this campaign is to make young people and their parents sit up and realise the very real consequences associated with incidents of arson.*

“I make no apology for the graphic nature of the image we are using to promote the campaign as setting fire to someone's bin may be seen by a lot of people as not much more than a prank but this type of anti-social behaviour can have fatal and life altering consequences.

“I would hate to think that this type of thing could happen to anyone's child and I would urge parents to continue to speak to their children about the absolute dangers of playing with fire.”

South Yorkshire community groups to benefit from UK first fire service grant scheme

Thousands of South Yorkshire's most vulnerable people will be made safer thanks to a £700,000 fire funding windfall.

Nineteen charities, community groups and health partners have been awarded money under the second round of South Yorkshire Fire Authority's Safer Stronger Communities Reserve fund.

The scheme, now in its second year, is the only fire service backed grant scheme of its kind anywhere in the country.

Sixty-four bids were received for the fund which had been set aside from the Authority's reserves, before these were whittled down to the final shortlist.

Key objectives for successful bids included prioritising the most vulnerable people in society and projects which combined fire safety with improving people's health and wellbeing. Groups could bid for a maximum of £150,000.

Highlights of the successful bids include:

- A 12 week personal development programme at Barnsley fire station for 16 to 25 year olds who are not currently in education, employment or training.
- A 'fire buddies' scheme which will recruit and train volunteers to visit the homes of isolated older people in some of Sheffield's poorest neighbourhoods.
- Pop-up safety stations to provide fire and personal safety information for people in Edlington, Doncaster.
- A Rotherham-based project to develop road safety education materials suitable for people with autism and learning disabilities.

Fire Authority Chair Cllr Jim Andrews, said: *“By giving these grants to well researched, well planned projects to support our work in some of South Yorkshire's most vulnerable neighbourhoods we are, in effect, fire proofing the county.*

“The first year of funding highlighted how even a small amount of financial support from the Fire Authority can enable local

communities to make a real difference in improving fire safety.

"This year, the fund was once more heavily over-subscribed so 19 projects the Authority has decided to award funding to really are the best of the best."

Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Roberts, said: *"Fires have been falling steadily in South Yorkshire for many years and the county is safer now than it has been at any time in its history. But for as long as people continue to suffer the devastating effects of fires, there will always be more work to do."*

"The best way for us to further reduce emergency incidents is to work with partners like those which have applied for support from this grant scheme. It's these organisations which can help us reach the most vulnerable people in our communities."

"A particular focus for us in coming years is the wider positive impact the fire and rescue service can make in our communities, particularly in terms of improving people's health and wellbeing. Many of the schemes we've awarded funding to reflect this aspiration."

SY Fire and Rescue Support Group becomes a Charity



HOPE, the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and Road Traffic Collision Trauma Support Group, was established in May 2007. This voluntary group provides invaluable support to members of the South Yorkshire community affected by the loss of life, through fire, Road Traffic Collision (RTC) or rescue incident through its trauma group meetings and support.



Since 2007 many people have accessed support from HOPE following the loss of a loved one including whole families,

individuals and also children. HOPE doesn't provide counselling, it provides ongoing peer support.

HOPE has been successful in being recognised as a Charity. This will allow the Group to develop other strands to their work, apply for funding and not only educate people about the hazards and dangers of fire but be proactive in supporting the communities to prevent fires in the first place – the elderly, the vulnerable. The vision is to build HOPE into a recognisable brand of support, education and safety.

HOPE can be contacted at hope@syfire.gov.uk or 0114 253 2445. Please leave a message – someone will always call you back.

Or you can download a referral form from the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue website [here](#).



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