

Meeting: Combined Fire Authority**Date: 11th December 2017****Subject: Operational Update****Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer****Author: Steve Lunn (Chief Fire and Rescue Officer)****For: Information**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide elected members of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) with the regular update in respect of key operational developments that have occurred between September 2017 and December 2017.

2. Recommendations

The CFA is requested to note the contents of this report.

3. Executive Summary

A number of operational matters have impacted the Service during the period September to December 2017. This report sets out the progress; or otherwise, that has been achieved in relation to these matters and provides an overview of the current operational position. The subject matter areas that are covered in this report include:

1. An update in relation to the delivery of key corporate and integrated risk management planning (IRMP) objectives;
2. An update in response to the Grenfell tower block tragedy;
3. An update in relation to wholetime firefighter recruitment and appointment;
4. An update in relation to firefighter pay negotiations; and,
5. An update in relation to operational activity levels.

4. Report Detail

4.1 Update – Delivery of Corporate and IRMP Objectives

Further progress has been achieved in delivering the key corporate and IRMP service improvement objectives that the CFA have previously agreed. By way of a summary, set out below are the main aspects that have been; or are about to be delivered/implemented:

- The upgrade of duty systems from on-call to incorporate wholetime day-crewing status at Market Harborough and Lutterworth fire and rescue stations has now been fully implemented;
- The change of duty system from wholetime regular to wholetime day-crewing plus status at Wigston fire and rescue station has now been implemented. Staff are currently based in temporary accommodation and work to deliver the necessary building changes at the station will commence early in the new year;
- The rollout of Tactical Response Vehicles (TRV) to replace the second fire engines at Loughborough, Market Harborough, Melton, Coalville and Oakham fire and rescue stations is progressing well. The first TRV has been deployed to Loughborough and has been operational since August. The remaining four TRVs are now in the Service and will become operationally active just as soon as all staff have received relevant training;
- The reviews of management, fleet and estate arrangements have been completed work remains ongoing to fully implement the improvement objectives;
- The development of Coalville fire and rescue station so that it becomes a 'bluelight' hub for fire, police and ambulance is nearing completion and it is anticipated that the new facility will be completed by mid-December 2017; and,
- The Braunstone Blues multi-agency partnership continues to deliver significant benefits to local communities and plans are now being developed to expand the operating principles across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

All other corporate and IRMP service improvement objectives are on track for completion within the defined timescales.

4.2 Update – Response to Grenfell Tower Block Tragedy

Following the tragic fire at the Grenfell tower block in June 2017, there continues to be a national focus on the safety of high-rise buildings. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, it was identified that the response to Government and public concerns could only be managed via a multi-agency approach.

Our priorities in response to this tragic fire are:

- To confirm that all 'rise' buildings are safe and fit for the purpose they are being used for; and
- To provide public reassurance and advice about safety concerns.

A fire safety 'specific' inspections programme supported by a public and community safety support package was very quickly developed and this has formed the basis of the multi-agency high-rise response strategy. To date, the following actions have been implemented:

Priority 1: To address all of the concerns as they apply to buildings that consist of 8 or more floors.

We have identified 69 premises across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

that are categorised as high-rise (over 8 floors). All of these premises have been subject to either a risk assessment or specific inspection and this phase of work has now been closed.

Priority 2: To address all of the concerns as they apply to buildings that consist of 6 or 7 floors.

We have identified 133 premises across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland that fall within this category ('medium-rise'). Fire Protection officers have completed all of the necessary work on these premises and this phase has also now been closed.

Priority 3: To address all of the concerns as they apply to buildings that consist of up to 5 floors.

The premises that fall into the Priority 3 work will be subjected to a comprehensive risk assessment process and a regulatory audit and inspection of these premises will only be undertaken if a vulnerability issue is identified i.e. presence of aluminium composite cladding or other identified risk. This will involve the Service working closely with our partners and will be ongoing for some time.

Community Safety Initiatives

We have carried out public and community safety events at more than 40 premises across Leicester and Leicestershire, delivering community safety advice to over 1000 residents of 'rise' buildings.

Following the commencement of the University academic year, crews have completed the delivery of a programme of community safety advice to students who will be residing in 'rise' buildings.

Finally, on 5th October 2017 a 'business breakfast' meeting was hosted in partnership with Leicester City Council to provide advice and guidance about fire safety in high-rise buildings to 'responsible' persons. More than 60 'responsible' persons attended the breakfast meeting and all confirmed how valuable it was.

4.3 Progress Update – Wholetime Firefighter Recruitment

The wholetime recruits have now completed their basic training and 24 of them 'passed out' following a demonstration of their new skills at the Fire Service College on the 10th November 2017.

During the next 2 years, each person will be subject to a 'carousel' development programme whereby they will:

- Serve at 3 different fire stations that operate with different levels of resource provision including different duty systems; and,
- Be subject to a 12 week block placement in specialist operational support teams in order to get a much broader understanding of how the mechanics of the prevention, protection and operational planning functions contribute to frontline service delivery.

4.4 Update – Firefighter Pay Negotiations 2017

As elected members will be aware, on 13th September the Fire Brigades' Union (FBU) notified the National Joint Council (NJC) employer's representatives that

following consultation with the membership, they were formally rejecting the offer of a 2% pay increase for 2017. In addition to this, the FBU also notified the NJC that they were instructing their members to cease all participation in Emergency Medical Response (EMR) pilots as of 18th September.

As of the beginning of December 2017, pay negotiations remain as ongoing with a further offer of a 1% pay increase being subject to consideration by the membership of the FBU.

4.5 Update – Operational Activity Levels

Performance against the vast majority of operational targets remains broadly in line with expectation for the period 2017/18.

There have been a number of fires and other emergencies that elected members should note.

On 22nd October at approximately 0500 hours, a private car was in collision with a fire engine on Lubbethorpe Way, Leicestershire. As a consequence of the collision, the male driver of the private car tragically died and his passenger received injuries that required hospitalisation. None of the crew members on the fire engine received injuries and this matter is now being dealt with by the Police and the County Coroner.

On 17th November at approximately 0445 hours, crews responded to a report of a fire involving a building located on Hamilton Road, Leicester. The building is owned by LPC UK Limited and is used as a paper mill and warehouse. At the height of the incident, 11 fire engines and a number of special appliances were in attendance to deal with the fire that took in excess of 24 hours to resolve. At the same time that this incident was being managed, further crews were also mobilised to a report of fire received from an automatic fire detection system in a high-rise building in Leicester City Centre. A total 5 fire engines were mobilised to respond to this incident that turned out to be a false alarm.

Finally, elected members should also note that towards the end of November 2017 there has been a 'spike' in the number of serious road traffic collisions that have resulted in members of the public being killed or seriously injured. We will continue to work closely with our multi-agency partners to raise awareness and reduce risk on our roads.

5. Report Implications/Impact

5.1 Legal (including crime and disorder)

None identified.

5.2 Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

There are no direct financial implications from this report.

5.3 Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

None arising from this report.

5.4 **Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)**

None arising from this report.

5.5 **Environmental**

None identified

5.6 ***Impact upon Our Plan Objectives***

The matters set out in this report inform the progress that has been achieved in delivering the key corporate and IRMP service improvement objectives that the CFA have previously agreed.

6. **Background Papers**

None.

7. **Appendices**

None.