

**COUNCIL SEMINAR
21st March, 2017**

Present:- Councillor Atkin (in the Chair); The Mayor (Councillor Pitchley); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Beaumont, Brookes, Buckley, Cooksey, Cowles, Cutts, Cutts, Elliott, Ellis, Jarvis, Mallinder, Marriott, Napper, Pitchley, Russell, Sansome, Senior, Sheppard, Simpson, Walsh, Williams and Wyatt.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jepson, Khan, Reeder, Rushforth and Julie Turner.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councillor Atkin, the Council's representative on the South Yorkshire Fire Authority, welcomed Members to the seminar and introduced Jamie Courtney, Chief Fire Officer, and Martin Blunden, temporary Deputy Chief Fire Officer, who gave the following presentation on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP):-

What is an IRMP?

Every fire and rescue service is required to produce plans which

- Set out the resources we need and steps we are going to take to reduce fires and make people safer
- Accurately reflects different types of local risk
- Are publicly available and reflect consultation with local people
- Delivers our services within a balanced budget

Funding Comparison 2010-2020

Funding	2010/11 £M	2019/20	(Reduction) /Increase %	(Reduction) /Increase %
Central Funding	36.770	24.140	(12.630)	(34.3)
Council Tax	22.972	25.122	2.150	9.4
Total	59.742	49.262	(10.480)	(17.54)

Duty Systems

Whole time Duty System

- One appliance immediately available 24/7. Staffing is typically 28 personnel

Close Proximity Crewing (CPC)

- One appliance immediately available. The station crewing changed from 28 personnel to 14 personnel. Savings circa £400,000 per station per year

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 21/03/17

Day Staffing

- Two appliance station crewing changed from 48 to 40. One appliance is immediately available 24/7; the second is immediately available during the day and available during the night on a retained basis. Savings circa £300k per station per year

Retained Duty System

- Staff are at home or at their place of work and called in to crew the appliance as and when required. Response times typically 5-15 minutes

Our funding context

Since 2010 funding cuts mean we have already:

- Reduced management costs by cutting executive team and senior manager numbers
- Carried out two reviews of support services, reducing staff costs to protect frontline services
- Reviewed non-pay spending across the service to become more efficient
- Removed second appliances at three full time fire stations (Elm Lane, Darnall and Mansfield Road)
- Replaced Mosborough, Mansfield Road and Darnall fire stations with new ones at Birley Moor and Parkway
- Removed the 'retained' appliance at Edlington
- Closed Royston fire station
- Disbanded the Technical Rescue Unit

Our change journey so far

Other changes to the way we work include:-

- Launched schemes at Rossington, Stocksbridge and Dearne fire stations which mean firefighters attend some types of medical emergencies
- Introduced smaller response vehicles (Small Incident Units) at Cudworth and Birley Moor
- Provided four new fire engines (Heavy Rescue Pumps) to give us enhanced capability at specialist incidents
- Introducing a different crewing system at four fire stations, reducing costs with minimal impact on our immediate 999 response from those stations
- Made the second appliances at Barnsley and Rotherham fire stations day staffing

IRMP 2013-17

Approved by the FRA in 2012, the last remaining commitments not yet implemented are:-

- The aerial vehicle at Doncaster will become retained in 2019. Currently it is switch crewed
- The second appliance at Doncaster will become day staffed, night time retained in 2019

IRMP 2017-20

Key Principles

- To deliver an equitable service to the people of South Yorkshire
- To have five firefighters on the first available fire appliance all of the time by managing leave in a different way
 - It is the best way of providing our service to the people of South Yorkshire
 - It is the safest way of working for our firefighters
- To keep the same number of fire stations and fire engines. Other than the changes already outlined, we are not proposing any further significant changes to our core 999 services
- To change our prevention work to ensure we are making the biggest difference to those most at risk
- To proactively explore collaboration opportunities with blue light services as the new statutory duty now makes it a requirement for us to do

What are we proposing?

Emergency response

- Have five firefighters on the first available fire appliance all of the time by managing leave in a different way
- Make the second appliance at Central day staffing, night time retained but with a commitment to keep it as a wholetime if our funding allows
- Add two additional second appliances (day staff, night time retained) at stations in South Yorkshire. This meets the Government's requirement for greater use of retained firefighters
- Rebuild Barnsley fire station with consideration for the opportunities this may provide to enhance our community safety work
- Diversify our workforce by recruiting firefighters to maintain our resources in line with our retirement profile

Making people safer

- Change our Home Safety Checks Service so that it is only offered for free to those we know are most at risk of fire
- Expand the delivery of Safe and Well checks across the county so that our work to 'make South Yorkshire safer' extends to more than preventing fires
- Greater use of third sector organisations to deliver prevention work on our behalf either through referral partners or charities
- Expanding our intervention work with young people by extending our Princes Trust Team Programme to the whole of South Yorkshire
- Bolder advocacy of sprinklers in high risk homes to protect the most vulnerable from fire

Collaboration

- Proactively exploring opportunities for collaboration is now a legal duty for us and will extend to all areas of the organisation

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 21/03/17

- The LIFE team is a good example of where we are already working with 999 partners and our vision is for that team to extend to the rest of the county
- Shared physical assets, such as joint police and fire station in Maltby, will now be considered at every opportunity
- Other opportunities will include joint delivery of community safety work and opportunities which may exist within support services

Timeline and consultation

- Our draft plans were presented to Fire Authority members in February who instructed us to begin formal consultation on their contents
- We are currently in a formal consultation period on the draft plans which ends on 27th March
- The feedback from public is being analysed and a final plan will be presented to Fire Authority members in April for their formal approval

Discussion ensued on the presentation with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- The Service had seen a £10m budget reduction since 2010/11. Every year since the austerity measures there had been a reduction in fire fatalities until last year. The Government had now fixed the funding for three years
- An impact assessment had been carried out on the time difference between the first and second appliance attending an incident (21 seconds)
- First appliance attendance times were measured and getting better at hitting the target time on a more regular basis
- The Service worked with the Yorkshire Ambulance Service who provided the clinical governance and training at their cost. Every call the Service attended was charged to the Ambulance Service
- The Service worked across borders and had had no problem with attendance time but the First Responder Scheme tended to operate within its own station. It was only mobilised where it could make a difference e.g. heart attacks
- Consultation on the 2017-20 IRMP had taken the form of writing to all partners, local newspapers, social media and public events. The current IRMP was consulted upon in 2012/13 which had contained proposals to change the way fire appliances were crewed, attendance times and standards. There had been similar consultation/feedback on both IRMPs

REPORT FOR INFORMATION - 21/03/17

- The Community Safety Team attended the four Dementia Cafes which were held on a monthly basis. A request could be made for the attendance of a Fire Community Safety Officer to any community event
- The aim of the second appliance becoming day crewed in addition to the two additional pumps during the day was to provide more capacity during the day to enable more prevention work to be carried out
- The national standard of fire cover had been removed by Government some time ago. Currently South Yorkshire had four firefighters on an appliance but working towards five. It was hoped to have the new system in place by January 2018 of less appliances but more firefighters
- Statistics showed that fire deaths predominantly occurred during the day. Those at night tended to be worse because they took longer to discover. However, attendance times were generally quicker due to there being little traffic on the roads
- One hundred fire fighters were being recruited. Fire fighters under the pre-2015 pension scheme retired after thirty years services; after 2015 they retired after forty years' service
- In Rotherham, the previous week, four fire stations, five appliances and two shifts, in seven days had been called out fifty-five times. The Rotherham fire station had turned out thirty-one incidents across seven days and two shifts – eighteen during the day and thirteen at night

Councillor Atkin thanked Jamie and Martin for their presentation and Members for their attendance.