

**PUBLIC PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
10 DECEMBER 2019**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR N H PEPPER (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors A N Stokes (Vice-Chairman), W J Aron, K J Clarke, Mrs C J Lawton, C R Oxby, L Wootten, R Wootten and C J T H Brewis

Councillors: L A Cawrey, C N Worth and B Young attended the meeting as observers

Officers in attendance:-

Steven Batchelor (LRSP Senior Manager), Les Britzman (Chief Fire Officer), Nicole Hilton (Assistant Director - Communities), Dan Quinn (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer) and Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer)

34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Kate Cook.

It was reported that, under the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, Councillor C J T H Brewis had been appointed as a replacement member for Councillor Mrs K Cook, for this meeting only.

35 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

36 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2019

It was agreed that the minutes be amended as follows:

Minute 30 –

The Prevent Manager provided a presentation which provided an update on the Annual ~~Present~~ Prevent Review Report 2019.

Minute 32 –

In 2016, Lincolnshire Police had launched an Assisting Rehabilitation through Collaboration (ARC) scheme, which involved working with the most prolific offenders to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour, in order to reduce the likelihood of further offending. Where rehabilitation was not possible, scheme users would be tackled effectively using both informal and formal powers ~~tools~~.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the amendments set out above.

**37 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS
AND CHIEF OFFICERS**

The Chairman announced that he had recently attended the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Long Service and Good Conduct Ceremony, which was a successful event celebrating Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Officers.

The Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services thanked Members for visiting their local Fire Stations and encouraged Members to continue with their visits.

The Executive Councillor for Community Safety and People Management advised Members that Superintendent Dianne Coulson had been appointed as the new Assistant Director – Public Protection and would commence her role on the 6 January 2020. Sara Barry would continue to act as the Assistant Director – Public Protection until the 6 January.

38 FIRE AND RESCUE STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

caConsideration was given to a report by the Chief Fire Officer, which set out the requirement for fire and rescue authorities to provide an annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters.

Members were informed that Lincolnshire was classified as one of the most rural counties in England by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The rural nature of the county posed challenges for Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, however, the Government were seeming to acknowledge the extent of the challenges faced by fire services in rural areas.

In line with LFR's commitment to continuous improvement in 2018 the Service was inspected as part of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection process, in which the service was rated as 'good' overall. Following the inspection, an action plan was put in place to address any issues highlighted within the report.

LFR had a number of future plans in place to improve the service, which included:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of the workforce.
- Developing the service's information management technology capability, which would include the development of a revised management information system strategy and the joint future control capability.
- The development of prevention and protection capability, which would be developed in line with LCC's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis and Great Lincolnshire Economic Plan.

Officers were satisfied that the systems and measures LFR had in place with respect to financial, governance and operational matters for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 were fit for purpose and effective.

Members were referred to Appendix A to the report, which set out the full Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Statement of Assurance for 2018-19.

Members were invited to ask questions, in which the following points were noted:

- LFR were exploring the ways in which they could support employers whom allowed their staff to be on-call fire-fighters. Officers welcomed support from Councillors on this matter and encouraged Members to communicate the role of on-call fire-fighters to employers.
- The Chief Fire Officer thanked the County Council for their continued support to LFR.
- Officers confirmed that the rate of the ageing population was not impacting on the recruitment of fire officers.
- It was noted that the vulnerability of the ageing population was concerning for LFR and their partners. LFR had introduced the vulnerability profile 'SHERMAN' to help people identify key traits that led to the fire fatalities. Sherman highlighted seven key factors that may make people at greater risk of having a fire, or being less likely to react to a fire – smoking; hoarding; elderly people or those who live ~~along alone~~; reduce mobility, hearing or visual impairments; mental health issues; alcohol misuse, drugs/medication dependence and those needing care of support. The campaign aimed to increase awareness of vulnerable individuals so that LFR could work with partners to help reduce the risk of those vulnerable people.
- LFR's integrated risk management plan would consider the risks posed by the projections of an 11% increase in Lincolnshire's population by 2041, and whether there needed to be more resources allocated to support the projected increase.
- The Chief Fire Officer advised that if given extra resource, the service would seek to build resilience, strength and depth into their current practice, rather than introduce alternative provisions. ~~For example, more provision of fire engines and stations and strengthening the ability of trainers and fires stations.~~
- Officers confirmed that the highest rating that could be received in the HMICFRS inspection was outstanding. LFR were inspected one of the first 15 fire stations to be inspected nationally, of which only one station received a rating of outstanding on one area of their inspection.
- The service had acknowledged that improvements to the training record systems needed improvement. Although training was generally up to date,

there had previously been no way of instantly verifying this information using the current systems.

- Members questioned what was being done to improve the connectivity between fire stations and the rest of the county council following the findings in the HMI-CFRS report. Officers advised that going forward, LFR would adopt LCC's core values rather than have their own set of values. The service would provide a main focus and set of expected behaviours to LFR staff as a sub-set to LCC's core values.
- The Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services hoped that raised awareness of the council's One Culture agenda would aid a shift in culture across the council and help all staff feel more connected. The Member visits to stations and the Chief Officer representation in the Corporate Leadership Team also seemed to be contributing to feelings of inclusion.
- Members commended the improved relationships between LFR and the fire services in neighbouring districts.
- Members were advised that LCC were working to lobby a better deal for Lincolnshire as a rural county.
- The decrease in the number of co-responder incidents was not a result of a reduction in the number of calls out. The service were analysing the situation at each station to identify what improvements could be made to increase the availability of co-responders, including the consideration of new options such as dedicated co-responders.
- It was confirmed that the **fire control room** ~~LFR headquarters~~ had not yet moved to Nettleham and was currently still operating from South Park due to a delay in the establishment of specific technology.
- It was confirmed the medical response review that was planned for 2019 had commenced and was on-going.

RESOLVED:

That the report and comments made be noted.

39 ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by the Senior Manager – Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, which provided an update on killed and serious injury (KSI) casualty figures for Lincolnshire, as well as data on trend, comparisons and areas of priority.

Members received a presentation which highlighted following key points in relation to the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP):

- There had been 56 fatal road traffic collisions and 456 serious road traffic collisions in 2018, which amounted to 512 people killed or seriously injured in

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2018, compared to a target of 387. The increase in figures was partly due to a change in the way that data was reported

- To date, there had been 48 fatal casualties recorded in 2019.
- 74% of ~~casualties'~~ ~~causalities~~ in Lincolnshire occurred on the rural road network.
- ~~Casualties~~ ~~causalities~~ were more likely to be male.
- The highest risk groups were two wheel motor vehicle riders, young drivers (17-24) and mature road users (60+).
- The LRSP comprised of LCC; the Police and Crime Commissioner; LFR; Lincolnshire Police; East Midlands Ambulance Service and Highways England.
- LRSP Vision was 'to make significant year on year reductions in those killed or injured on Lincolnshire's roads through a sustainable, co-located road safety partnership delivering targeted interventions focussed on education, engineering and enforcement'.
- The priority groups for LRSP were young drivers, mature drivers, two wheel motor vehicle users, pedal cyclists, pedestrians and business users.
- The core objectives for LRSP were: A 20% reduction in the number of killed or seriously injured road casualties from an average annual number of 457 (in 2010 – 2012) to no more than 367 and A 20% reduction in the number of children killed or seriously injured road casualties from an average number of 27(in 2010 – 2012) to no more than 22.
- The LRSP were involved in a number of campaigns to improve safer road safety, and as also delivered training and education to schools and colleges to communicate the importance of road safety.
- A number of enforcement techniques were in place to deal with road users who were driving or riding dangerously.
- Members were advised that the methods currently deployed by the partnership were seen to be the most effective methods; however with more resource it was felt that the partnership could have a greater impact.

Members were invited to ask questions, in which the following points were noted:

- It was clarified that the charge for the seatbelt was lower as it was an online course and required less resource.
- Members questioned whether it would be possible to implement a policy which allowed more parish councils to amend speed limit restrictions in certain areas as it had proven to be successful in some areas. The Senior Manager – Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership advised that speed limits needed to be realistic and appear to feel appropriate for drivers. It was acknowledged that there was a balance to be made in respect to speed limits and it was important to ensure that compliance was appropriate for the area. The proposed change of speed limit would not always be appropriate or justifiable.
- It was clarified that the policy for speed limits outside of schools was reviewed and implemented by the Highways department rather than the LSRP.
- Members commended the use of and the effectiveness of the 'Mini Police'. It was noted that the LRSP liaised with the 'Mini Police' team as well as junior road safety officers.

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- Members were advised that officers had not yet received the final report on the effectiveness of the white gate scheme but LRSP were actively looking into this as a traffic calming solution. Officers were pleased with the results received so far at locations where white gates had been installed.
- It was noted that the measures for the costs of loss of life were set nationally and not a created by Lincolnshire County Council.
- It was confirmed that operation Stealth was specific to high end offenders.
- Members were informed that a change in the recording mechanism for Killed and Seriously Injured casualties had resulted in an apparent increase. As a result, it was unlikely that the partnership would achieve its core objectives by 2020.
- It was acknowledged that more could be done to improve working relationships between the partnership and district councils. The partnership were currently working with North Kesteven District Council on a number of road safety measures.
- Members were advised that the partnership used Cadwell Park racing circuit to deliver performance plus motorcycle training. A representative from LRSP was also in attendance at all major motorcycle events to communicate the message of the partnership.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report and comments made be noted;
2. That the committee grant assurance on the work being undertaken by LRSP to reduce the number of people killed and injured on county.

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WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's prospective work programme.

Members were advised at the next meeting of the committee, Members would receive a report on the Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2020/21; an update on the Emergency Planning services response to the Wainfleet Flooding incident and the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Draft Risk Management Plan 2020 Consultation.

The Scrutiny Officer agreed to add a six monthly report on Adults Re-offending to the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am