

Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 26 September 2025

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr O'Donovan (in the Chair), Cllrs Bruce, Bryan, Buckley, Carlisle, Dickenson, Downes, Garvani, Hall, Keith, Parnham, Pollard, Renshaw, Salam, Shaheen, Sutcliffe, Tudor and Tulley

In Attendance:

Ishaq Mahmood

Apologies:

Cllrs Ahmed, Burke and Wood

1. Chair's announcements

2. Admission of the public

There were no items that required to exclusion of the press and public.

3. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

5. Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

7. Minutes of Committees held since 19 June 2025 and of other relevant Outside Bodies

Members challenged the Director of Corporate Services and sought clarification on the budget process and appointment of additional posts. It was explained that owing to a lower than anticipated national pay award further revenue funding was identified for posts identified as critical in the original budget exercise earlier in the year and which could now be funded.

Resolved

That the Minutes of Committees and other relevant outside bodies as circulated be received.

8. Statement of Assurance 2024/25

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which presented the annual Statement of Assurance for approval. The Statement of Assurance meets the requirements of Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (the Framework), and the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

Members challenged the report author regarding the current level of oversight and support from national government being appropriate. Members sought confirmation that there is an Efficiency and Productivity Plan for 2025/26 and that the new fire kit had been welcomed on the ground, especially at the recent moorland fires. Members further sought confirmation that external parties, including inspectors, can access the Statement of Assurance via the external web site.

Resolved

That the Statement of Assurance be approved and published to the web.

9. Performance Management Report

Members received a report from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which summarised the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April to 14 September 2025.

Members thanked the report author for a well presented report.

Members noted that there had been an increase in fires occurring in houses of single occupancy and noted a possible connection to the early discharge of hospital patients.

It was brought to Members attention that partnerships exist between the Fire Service, patients and hospital discharge staff to mitigate this. In addition, Members noted an increase in deliberate dwelling fires and it was explained that these are not all related to arson, but that any fires set by an individual which get out of control, e.g. Bar-b-ques, garden bonfires and tumble driers, are classed as deliberate according to National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) guidance.

Members queried why Safe & Well visits from station staff peaked in June and July, as it was thought to be the busiest time of year for fires but were advised the busy period had peaked earlier in the year during the extreme hot weather.

Members noted that the total number of non domestic fires was increasing year on year and discussed whether this was due to an increase in fires in secure units. Secure unit fires are expected to reduce imminently with the introduction of new style vapes and kettles, alongside the introduction of more severe penalties.

Members further discussed:

- the importance of investigating response times and the reasons behind any unusual outstanding figures,
- fires in abandoned buildings and the work of the Youth Intervention Team (YIT) who plan visits accordingly.
- attacks on Firefighters and the introduction of CCTV on the new appliances to provide evidence for any prosecutions relating to injuries sustained,
- the introduction of electric buses,
- increases in e-bikes, including those purchased through the cycle to work scheme and the importance of education in safe usage,
- malicious false alarms and possible prosecutions of repeat offenders under Section 49 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

10. Corporate Health Report 2024/25

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which provided Members with the Corporate Health Report 2024/25 in accordance with the Authority's Code of Corporate Governance and pursuant to the corporate performance monitoring processes.

Members challenged the report author on the background to the concerns raised by staff through the "Say So" platform and how these were dealt with.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

11.Aligning Strategy: CRMP, HMICFRS and Programme of Change

The Director of Service Support submitted a report updating members on the strategic activities currently in progress that amalgamate three workstreams; the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), Programme of Change and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Members welcomed the streamlining of the workstreams and challenged the report author to describe how the journey to outstanding could be achieved.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

12.Presentation – Mental Health & Wellbeing Support in WYFRS

Members received a presentation from the Head of the Occupational Health and Safety Unit (OHSU) which Members found very informative and discussed possible future developments including the importance of managerial training in mental health support.

Chair