

Council – 10 May 2022

The last full Fire Authority meeting was held on 30th March in Clevedon.

Chair Cllr Massey (Bristol CC) thanked the retiring Chief Fire Officer Mick Crennall for his effective and dedicated leadership since taking over Avon Fire & Rescue Service in difficult times and through severe budget constraints. Members welcomed new CFO, Simon Shilton into the role and were assured by his trusted experience as Deputy CFO and long distinguished service with us.

The CFO reported how the Service has donated much needed redundant kit to the Ukrainian emergency services; specifically thirty emergency drag-style stretchers, twenty lengths of fire-fighting hose and a large amount of protective fire-fighting uniform and equipment.

Mention was also made of three employees awarded for outstanding performance in recognition of International Women's Day, including Watch Manager Anna James at Weston-super-Mare Fire Station.

The Service Plan for 2022-25 was approved. The document sets out the Fire Authority's strategic aims and objectives and acts as a point of reference for staff, partners and communities. The Plan can be broadly summarised within the themes of Prevention, Protection, Response and Resilience and incorporates details of Integrated Risk Management Planning.

A three-year Capital Strategy was approved in line with the CIPFA Prudential Code.

The Service operates from 24 sites, including 21 Fire Stations.

Current fleet front line appliance vehicles include 42 x type B (fire engines), 4 x turn-table ladder vehicles, 4 x heavy rescue pumps, 1 x heavy rescue tender, 2 x command units and 17 other specialist vehicles covering animal rescue, swift water rescue, rope rescue, breathing apparatus support and foam support.

The fleet is matched to the risk profile within the service plan. Efforts are being made to move towards electric vehicles where possible at replacement stages, although this often has resultant cost implications. The hovercraft kept at Weston F S is over twenty years old and there are now associated life-cycle issues and high maintenance costs.

Options for a possible replacement fire station at Weston-super-Mare is still in Design phase. It has been decided not to pursue a possible site at Weston Links near Herluin Way due to high ground remediation costs. The premises team are exploring other options around Weston, or even a

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re-build on the current access constrained site footprint between Earlham Grove and Milton Road if necessary.

Note and appreciation was given for Environmental officers' work in obtaining an £823,000 Public Sector De-carbonisation Grant last year and the excellent progress made in delivering renewable energy and low carbon technology projects within the conditions and time-frame set out by the grant administration body Salix.

These include a building management system upgrade, heating pipework insulation, LED lighting and solar PV at Nailsea Fire Station, heating discreet controls, heating pipework insulation and loft insulation at Clevedon F S, heating discreet controls and loft insulation at Pill F S and heating discreet controls at Winscombe F S.

Councillor Richard Tucker