

## Find out more about us:

For information about our work, how quickly we aim to get to you in an emergency, fire safety advice for yourself or someone you think may find it useful, a fire risk assessment for your business, how to invite us to a community event or if you are interested in working for Avon Fire & Rescue Service you can contact us on **0117 926 2061**.

### Contact us:

**Chair of Avon Fire Authority, Councillor Terry Walker:**

**terry.walker@southglos.gov.uk**

**Vice Chair of Avon Fire Authority, Councillor Mike Drew:**

**mike.drew@southglos.gov.uk**

**Temporary Vice Chair of Avon Fire Authority, Councillor Peter Abraham: peter.abraham@bristol.gov.uk**

For committee information and papers contact Lynette White on 0117 926 2061 extension 233.

Visit our website at [www.avonfire.gov.uk](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk)





## FROM THE CHAIR



Sir Ken Knight recently published a review of the nation's fire services, in which he called for radical reform and expressed concern that some services cost far more to run than others.

In the wake of a 40% drop in call-outs, one of his suggestions was the use of more retained firefighters. Of course, a key reason for the drop in call outs is the community safety work undertaken every day by full-time firefighters, fitting smoke alarms in the homes of pensioners, sprinklers in buildings and so on.

However, in our area we know that the most important issue for the public is our response times. This will continue to be the highest priority for the Fire Authority. That is why we have approved plans to invest in the future. These plans have been drawn up following a strategic review of the provision of our services. We have considered the current disposition of our resources and considered changes to the risk profile of our area. We have also been mindful of the changes to the risk profile that are predicted for the future.

As these plans are implemented, there will be significant changes affecting everyone. However, we remain confident that we will continue to provide the most cost-effective, efficient, service that we can.

**Edition three**  
**Friday 24 May 2013**

At the annual meeting of the Authority on Friday 24 May, Members voted Cllr Terry Walker to Chair the Authority for the coming year, Cllr Mike Drew as Vice Chair and Cllr Peter Abraham as Temporary Vice Chair.

New Members welcomed to the Authority were Councillors Nathan Hartley, Christian Martin, Marcia Pepperall, Bill Payne, Derek Pickup, David Poole and Ron Stone. Councillors Cheryl Ann, Charles Cave, Steve Comer, Brenda Hugill, Tim Marter, Will Sandry and Sylvia Townsend were thanked for their work over the past year.

Members also:

### **Approved:**

- The appointment of Councillors to the various Committees and Representatives on Other Bodies.
- The Governance Report of the Monitoring Officer.
- The Publication of the Annual Equalities Report 2013.
- The Plan for Efficiency Savings.

### **Noted:**

- The performance and risk management update.
- The ongoing work of Service Delivery - Risk Reduction Unit, the Health, Safety and Welfare Unit and in relation to Energy and Environmental Performance.
- The ongoing work in relation to the shifts lost due to sickness.
- Incidents and press update.

## Preventing and Protecting

### What's happening in your area?

#### South Gloucestershire

Preparations are under way for another fund-raising family fun day at Yate Fire Station, which will take place on Saturday 20 July, in aid of The Fire Fighters Charity. Thornbury Fire Station hosted a successful open evening for people who wanted to find out more about becoming retained firefighters. More than 20 people turned up to talk to existing RDS staff and find out more about the role.

#### Elected members

Councillor T Walker (Chair) (Labour)  
Councillor S Cook (Conservative)  
Councillor N Barrett (Conservative)  
Councillor K Cranney (Conservative)  
Councillor M Drew (Vice Chair)  
(Liberal Democrat)  
Councillor T Davis (Liberal Democrat)

#### Bristol

A team of students from Bedminster Down School had the chance to put into practice some first aid training they had received a few months ago at Bedminster Fire Station.

The group took part in the Ten Tors Challenge, but sacrificed their chances of completing the challenge to rescue a girl from a swollen river and then help dozens of other competitors safely cross it.

Although they ran out of time to complete the challenge, the team still received medals as it was felt their actions had captured the spirit of the competition. Plans are under way for Chief Fire Officer Kevin Pearson to visit the school and recognise the outstanding efforts of the students.

#### Elected members

Councillor P Abraham (Temporary Vice Chair) (Conservative)  
Councillor L Alexander (Conservative)  
Councillor C Jackson (Labour)  
Councillor J Lovell (Labour)  
Councillor B Payne (Labour)  
Councillor D Pickup (Labour)  
Councillor R Stone (Labour)  
Councillor C Davis (Liberal Democrat)  
Councillor T Leaman (Liberal Democrat)  
Councillor C Martin (Liberal Democrat)

#### North Somerset

Portishead-based James Bowden helped put the quality of the AF&RS's RDS teams on the map by stepping in as the sixth man in the Blue Watch Temple Team which swept the board at an extrication challenge in Hampshire, which saw them beat 17 other teams including the current world champions Royal Berkshire FRS. WM Gareth Lloyd said: "James did a good job and was recognised for his efforts."

#### Elected members

Councillor P Judd (Conservative)  
Councillor M Pepperall  
(Conservative)  
Councillor D Poole (Conservative)  
Councillor H Gregor (Independent)  
Councillor R Payne (Liberal Democrat)

#### Bath & North East Somerset

A well-established jewellery shop in Bath city centre was severely damaged by fire. Keynsham-based RDS duo Andrew Porter and Colin Carpenter competed in a trauma challenge in Winchester, where they learned a lot. It is hoped their experiences will inspire other RDS teams to take part in extrication and trauma challenges in the future.

#### Elected members

Councillor C Barrett (Conservative)  
Councillor A Hale (Conservative)  
Councillor S Ball (Liberal Democrat)  
Councillor N Hartley (Liberal Democrat)

The number of community safety events attended to deliver fire safety messages between April 2012 and March 2013 is 228. The number of group visits to Community Safety Centres is 1,580.

## Responding

### Incidents of note

#### Firefighters save heart attack victim

Two firefighters were praised for saving the life of a 75-year-old man who had collapsed outside his home on The Portway in Bristol.



Lee Rogers and Glandel Thompson had been on standby at Avonmouth Fire Station and were returning to Temple when they came across the man on 1 May.

His condition quickly deteriorated and the pair took action while waiting for paramedics to arrive.

They used a defibrillator, which is part of the trauma pack now carried on fire engines, and administered CPR.

The first South West Ambulance Service paramedic to arrive on the scene was Barrie Slade.

He said: "The early intervention of the fire crew was absolutely crucial in giving the patient the best possible chance of surviving this life threatening situation.

"First they recognised that the patient had suffered a cardiac arrest, then they provided very effective CPR in those first crucial minutes."

#### Fire at Environment Agency building

Multiple crews went to Horizon House, the new Environment Agency Headquarters in Bristol city centre, on Wednesday 24 April after a fire involving a waterproof membrane within the wall.

The five-storey building had already been safely evacuated by the time crews arrived. They removed exterior cladding to get to the flames and then used thermal imaging equipment to check for any smouldering hot spots.

The fire is believed to have started accidentally.

#### Arsonists blamed for blaze at old school

Around 40 firefighters helped tackle a fire at a disused school in Elton Road, Clevedon, on the afternoon of Tuesday 14 May. The nearby Marine Lake was used to provide a water supply as the fire, thought to have been started deliberately, was brought under control.

### Working together



#### Road safety campaigners see red

Red did not just mean danger at one Bristol school - it helped highlight the 'be safe, be seen' road safety message.

AF&RS joined forces with Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol City Council and the charity Brake to stage a special safety day at Holy Cross Primary School in Southville.

Children were invited to wear colourful, bright, trousers for the day, and were joined by Bristol Mayor George Ferguson, famous for his trademark red trousers.

The children took part in a number of road safety games and exercises. Parents were also targeted during drop-off and collection times, and given advice about safe parking and the importance of observing 20mph speed limits around schools.

The event was organised as part of the UN's global Road Safety Week and the CFOA national road safety week.

#### The Gambia honours Chair and CFO

In recognition of their work for GAFSIP, AFA Chair Cllr Terry Walker and CFO Kevin Pearson will be recognised in the Gambian Honours List.

They will become Members of the Order of the Republic of Gambia, the equivalent of being honoured with an MBE in this country.