



## Local Government Act 1972

**A Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington will be held in the Morton Room, Fire and Rescue Headquarters on Wednesday 6 November 2019 at 10.00 a.m. to consider the following business:-**

### PART A

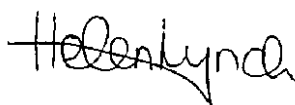
1. Declarations of interest, if any  
*If Members are aware of a private or personal conflict of interest in relation to any items on the Agenda, this should be disclosed at this stage or when the conflict of interest arises during consideration of an item in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Members*
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2019 (Pages 3 - 6)
3. Current Correspondence - Report of Assistant Chief Fire Officer Service Support (Pages 7 - 8)
4. Notes of the Audit and Risk Committee - Report of Chair (Pages 9 - 10)
5. Member Attendance at Conference - Report of Chair (Pages 11 - 18)
6. National Emergency Services Memorial Ambassador - Report of Chief Fire Officer (Pages 19 - 20)
7. Integrated Risk Management Plan Summary - Report of Policy Support Officer (Pages 21 - 28)
8. Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21 - Technical Consultation - Report of Treasurer (Pages 29 - 40)
9. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration
10. Any resolution relating to the exclusion of the public during the discussion of items containing exempt information

## Part B

**Items during which it is considered the meeting is not likely to be open to the public (consideration of exempt or confidential information).**

11. Strategic Planning Day 11 October 2019 - Report of Chief Fire Officer (Pages 41 - 46)
12. Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration

**PURSUANT** to the provisions of the above named Act, **I HEREBY SUMMON YOU** to attend the said meeting



**H LYNCH**

Clerk to the Combined Fire Authority  
for County Durham and Darlington

County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UL

**TO: The Members of the Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington**

**Durham County Councillors:**

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, D Freeman, D Hicks, A Laing, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

**Darlington Borough Councillors:**

Councillors H Crumby, B Jones, G Lee and A J Scott.

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held in Morton Room, Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Belmont Business Park, Durham, DH1 1TW, on **Monday 23 September 2019** at 10.00 am.

### **Present:**

#### **Durham County Councillors:**

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, R Bell, P Brooks, C Carr, M Davison (substitute for C Potts) D Freeman, D Hicks, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, L Pounder (substitute for J Bell) J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, J Stephenson (substitute for A Laing) D Stoker, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

#### **Darlington Borough Councillors:**

Councillors B Jones, H Crumbie and A Scott.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bell, A Laing, G Richardson, C Potts and G Lee.

#### **Independent Standards Members:**

N Johnson and A Simpson.

### **A1 Chief Fire Officers Commendation**

A Chief Fire Officers Commendation was awarded to Fire Cadet Karla Fish in recognition of her calm, professional response to an incident where she performed lifesaving first aid following a road traffic collision to a fellow pupil suffering from severe bleeding whilst controlling the scene and liaising with on-coming emergency services.

The Chair noted the awards recently received by the Service. The Service has recently been recognised as highly commended at the National Apprenticeship Awards regional finals in the Large Employer of the Year category. The Service has achieved the Gold Award in the Defence Employers Recognition Scheme in recognition of its work in support of the armed forces community.

The Chair noted, on behalf of the Authority, his thanks to the Chief Fire Officer and all service personnel for all their work in preparing for the HMICFRS Inspection and the work undertaken during the Inspection.

### **A2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **A3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

### **A4 Current Correspondence**

The Authority received an update from the Assistant Chief Fire Officer Service Support in relation to current correspondence received from government and other bodies relevant to the Authority and the status of each (for copy see file of minutes).

### **A5 Notes of the Finance Committee**

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Finance Committee which provided an update on the discussions at the meeting held on 18 July 2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair of the Finance Committee noted the presentation on the medium-term financial plan. The Chief Fire Officer noted a similar presentation would be given at the Strategic Planning day on 11 October.

### **A6 Notes of the Audit and Risk Committee**

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee which provided an update on the discussions at the meeting held on 31 July 2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee thanked the Treasurer, Finance Team, Mazars and internal audit for their continued hard work.

### **A7 Notes of the Performance Committee**

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Performance Committee which provided an update on the discussions at the meeting held on 11 September 2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair of the Performance Committee noted that a meeting had been set up between T Hope and J Hewitt to discuss the issues around connectivity of the Service's and DCC's IT systems.

### **A8 Performance Report – Quarter One 2019/20**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Emergency Response which presented a summary of organisational performance at the end of the first quarter of the 2019/20 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

Members stressed the importance of reporting any inappropriate parking in their wards to themselves.

**Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**A9 The Spending Round 2019**

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer which provided the outcome of the Spending Round for 2019 and possible implications for the Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

Members queried how funds were distributed. The Chair noted that a Senior Sector Services Group had been set up. The Chief Fire Officer noted that it was unlikely any capital funding would be received as the Home Office appear to hold the view that nationally fire and rescue services' reserve levels are too high.

**Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**A10 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services Update**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Community Risk Management which provided members with an update on the current position and next steps of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspection of the Service (for copy see file of minutes).

**Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**A11 Estates Update**

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Corporate Resources which provided members with the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Programme (EIP) and plans to address the risks associated with outstanding estates maintenance. Approval was sought to seek delegate authority to be granted to approve any increase of budget, limited to 10% for Darlington Station rebuild (for copy see file of minutes).

Members from Darlington Borough Council noted that they would be taking the matter further with the planning department in relation to the Environment Agency.

**Resolved:**

- i. That the contents of the report be noted

- ii. Delegated authority for up to a 10% increase in expenditure for the Darlington estates project was approved

#### **A12 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **A 13 Exclusion of the public**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

#### **B 14 HMICFRS: Request for Information to Support the Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England**

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed Members of the request from Sir Thomas Winsor for supporting information to assist with the annual assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England and to present the Service's response (for copy see file of minutes).

#### **Resolved:**

That the contents of the report be noted.

#### **B15 Any Other Business**

Cllr Batey thanked the Service for their assistance at the fire at Twizell Farm on Saturday 15 September.

The Chair noted a card would be sent to Ron Hogg and noted that in his absence the Chief Executive of the Police, Crime and Victim's Office would undertake the role of Police, Crime and Victim's Commissioner on a temporary basis.

#### **Significant Dates**

Friday 11 October – Strategic Planning Day

Tuesday 15 October - Long Service awards

#### **CLOSE OF MEETING**



**Current Correspondence: September 2019 – November 2019**

Release date	Subject	Summary	Action		
			CFA Report	CFA Response	Info
	No documents received in the reporting period				

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## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

6 NOVEMBER 2019

### NOTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 25 OCTOBER 2019

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## REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

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**Members Present:** Cllr J Turnbull in the Chair  
Cllrs B Avery, L Marshall, G Lee and F Tinsley (substitute for D Bell)

**Apologies:** Cllr D Bell and Cllr E Scott

### Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 25 October 2019.

### Annual Audit Letter 2018/19

2. Members were presented with details of the Annual Audit Letter which summarised the work undertaken for the year ended 31 March 2019 and highlighted the conclusions for each area of responsibility.

The Committee **noted** the annual audit letter for 2018/19.

### Additional Audit Fee Letter 2018/19

3. Members received an update regarding audit fees. The final cost of the 2018/19 audit had been assessed and an additional fee variation of £950 plus VAT proposed.

The Committee **noted** the additional audit fee letter 2018/19.

### Corporate Governance Action Plan Update

4. Members received an update on the progress being made in relation to the actions arising from the development of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements.

The Committee **noted** the contents of the report and the ongoing work in relation to the corporate governance arrangements of the Authority.

### Corporate Risk Register – Position at 30 September 2019

5. Members were presented with details of the corporate risk register as at 30 September 2019. One new risk had been added during the period – CR 217 UK exit from the European Union without a deal.

The Committee **considered** the corporate risk register.

### **Internal Audit Progress Report**

6. Members received details of the work undertaken by Internal Audit between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. It was noted that within the reporting period no limited assurance opinions had been provided.

The Committee **considered** the outturn position in delivering the internal audit plan for 2019/20 together with comments made by managers in responding to the work of internal audit to gain assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment.

## **PART B**

### **Internal Audit Outstanding Actions Appendix 3**

7. Members received details of the recommendations and revised target dates.

The Committee **noted** and **approved** the revised target dates

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Fire and Rescue Authority



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

6 NOVEMBER 2019

## MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE

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### REPORT OF CHAIR

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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To provide feedback to members on the recent Combined Fire Authority (CFA) Conference held on 10 October 2019.

#### BACKGROUND

2. Members have agreed to feedback a summary of any key issues emerging from conferences, events or seminars they have attended on behalf of the Authority.
3. The CFA Conference is held annually and is organised by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on behalf of all CFAs. This year the event was held in Milton Keynes on 10 October.
4. Key topics included: Thames Valley collaboration initiatives, a presentation of the benefits of the Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company, an update on the inspection process from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS); a presentation on considerations in relation to inquests following significant incidents, an update on the McCloud & Sargent pensions cases and a presentation from Shropshire and Wrekin FRA on the challenges with dealing with the PCC and their local business case.
5. A summary of the main presentations attended and the implications for the Authority is set out in Appendix A.

#### RECOMMENDATION

6. Members are asked to **note** the report.

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**FEEDBACK FROM CONFERENCE/SEMINAR/FIRE RELATED EVENT**

<b>Attendees</b>	Cllr Robinson – Chair and Head of Corporate Resources K Lazzari
<b>Event</b>	CFA Conference
<b>Date</b>	10 October 2019
<b>Overview of event</b>	
<b>TOPIC</b>	Appointment of Chair / Vice Chair
<b>Speaker</b>	CFA Secretariat
<b>Notes:</b> Eric Carter (Chair of Shropshire FRA) elected as Chair John Robinson (Chair of County Durham and Darlington FRA) was elected as Vice Chair	
<b>Implications for the Authority:</b>	
Cllr Robinson was elected as Vice Chair of the CFA Group.	
<b>TOPIC</b>	Collaboration
<b>Speakers</b>	Callum Bell (Buckinghamshire Area Commander)
<b>Notes:</b> This speaker raised awareness of multiple areas of collaboration undertaken within the Thames Valley region.  The Thames Valley Fire Control Service is serving a population of 2.1m people across 9 neighbouring authorities. It is claimed that it has achieved borderless mobilising across the Thames Valley. This involves nearest resource mobilisation regardless of the organisation they are assigned to. This has reduced appliance movements due to normalising what gets deployed irrespective of if this is across borders.  The combined control service was achieved at a cost of £5.4M. Combined budgets were in excess of £3.5M prior to the collaboration and the budget next year is circa. £2.4M. Therefore, considerable investment but with clear longer-term business benefits.  Furthermore, the service now has Improved resilience and improved future proofing, ESMCP will require upgrades to only one site and one system.  Work Streams Operational alignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy</li> <li>- Equipment (not just about procurement savings but also about common operational deployment and method of operation)</li> <li>- Mobilising</li> <li>- Thames valley training group</li> </ul> Fire Protection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Being refreshed as insufficient progress made</li> </ul>	

#### Workforce reform

- Apprenticeships
- Recruitment and selection

#### Procurement

- Appliances (not significant savings)
- Operational equipment (£7k per appliance savings)
- PPE

#### Blue light estates

- Broughton Fire Station (agreement with Thames Valley Police for neighbourhood police station NPS)
- Newport Pagnell Fire Station (another NPS)
- Princess Risborough Fire Station (Remodernise and share as NPS)
- Blue light hub Milton Keynes (Tri Service Centre)

#### What next?

- Health and Safety
- BA equipment
- Risk modelling and mapping methodology
- Operational rotas for level 2 / 3 commanders or specialist officers

Jason Thelwell finished off speaking about impact on culture and succession planning as opportunities arose across partners for future planning across the respective senior teams.

#### **Implications for the Authority**

Consideration of any respective areas of collaborative success and how this may be considered in the context of CDDFRS collaboration opportunities.

<b>TOPIC</b>	Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company (FRIC)
<b>Speakers</b>	Trevor Ferguson (CFO Royal Berkshire)
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>What is FRIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- FRIC is a mutual with discretion over the protections that they provide</li> <li>- Long term collaborative partnership focused on member benefits</li> <li>- Reducing risks of loss by sharing best practice</li> </ul> <p>Background to FRIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 Authority collaboration since 2006</li> <li>- FRIC formally established in 2015</li> <li>- 2 new members in 2019</li> </ul> <p>How does it work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contributions are made by member organisations to an insurance 'pot' based upon individual members risk profile</li> <li>- FRIC then purchases insurance for high value claims beyond value of the 'pot'.</li> <li>- All lower value claims are paid from the 'pot'</li> <li>- When the 'pot' is not fully used FRIC retains on behalf of members.</li> </ul> <p>Risk management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fire and rescue risk group (FARRG) work with service experts to identify policy and procedural change or innovation to reduce risks</li> </ul> <p>How is FRIC performing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operating within budget (circa £3.8M)</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for the Authority:</b>	
Officers will give consideration to current insurance requirements for the Authority and the appropriateness of considering FRIC membership subject to contractual constraints.	

<b>TOPIC</b>	HMICFRS Update
<b>Speakers</b>	Alex Hill / Mick Mason
<p><b>Notes:</b></p> <p>AH gave an update on the current position with the inspectorate of which there was little new news to speak of that the Authority will not already have been briefed previously.</p> <p>The findings from tranche 1 &amp; 2 have shown great variability in protection. Strong operational response, National incident response generally strong but limited cross-border exercising and MTFAs sketchy.</p> <p>However, of particular note is that inspectors have been witness to some questionable values and culture.</p> <p>It appears that diversity work is underway but staff generally don't understand it fully. There is a significant disparity of service provision and a general lack of facilities for female firefighters throughout services.</p> <p>There are very limited examples of leadership development or developing high potential. Staff succession is generally seen as unfair by staff.</p> <p>So, what are we to expect from Cycle 2 of the inspection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evolution rather than revolution</li> <li>- 3 pillars, 11 questions</li> <li>- Smaller tranches</li> <li>- Quicker publication</li> <li>- Direction of travel</li> </ul> <p>Other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Succession planning still requires support</li> <li>- Corporate governance (not yet ready for consultation)</li> <li>- Monitoring to track improvements</li> <li>- Re-visits to services that had a cause for concern in effectiveness in cycle 1</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Implications for the Authority:</b></p> <p>Officers are monitoring each tranche of reports as they are released and exploring learning opportunities wherever possible. CDDFRS report from tranche 3 is still awaiting publication.</p>	



<b>TOPIC</b>	Inquests following incidents
<b>Speakers</b>	Peter Weatherby – Garden Court North Chambers
<b>Notes:</b>	
<p>The speaker offered their professional view of the benefits of demonstrable candour from public sector bodies when significant events occur.</p> <p>The public have an interest in understanding what happened, why did it happen, who was responsible, assurance that the same cannot happen to anyone else. All require candour to be answered successfully. Those responsible often ‘dig trenches’ to avoid reputational damage or may even ask “How can we delay or deflect a response?”.</p> <p>Campaigning for a new culture of openness with regard to such tragic events. Those that react with candour can emerge stronger on the other side.</p> <p>A duty of candour now exists in the health care system following some significant failures.</p> <p>Public Authorities accountability Bill 2017 would ensure a statutory duty is in place to ensure that Public Authorities will learn from major disasters rather than protect their own interests.</p>	
<b>Implications for the Authority:</b>	
Reflections for how CDDFRS would respond to learning from a major incident of national interest.	
<b>TOPIC</b>	McCloud / Sargent Pensions Case
<b>Speaker</b>	Jaspal Basra Bevens Associates
<b>Notes:</b>	
<p>This session was a roundup of the two legal pensions cases that have recently found in favour of those disadvantaged through changes to benefits which have affected scheme members to different degrees under the grounds of age discrimination.</p> <p>Background: Hutton report 2011 Change to CARE from final salary</p> <p>The two cases in question were:  For JPS (McCloud) ET and EAT held no legitimate aim had been established.  For FFPS (Sargent) ET held that transitional provisions were a proportionate means.</p> <p>The Court of Appeal decision found in favour of firefighters and judges and the Government lost an application to appeal to the Supreme Court. Awaiting remedies hearing in December</p> <p>The likely impact is that remedies may be backdated to April 2015 for most public sector schemes (April 2014 for Local Government Pension Scheme). This is estimated to come at a cost of approx. £4bn per annum. Following this resolution there will be a new review of public sector pension arrangements and costs following details of any remedies.</p>	
<b>Implications for the Authority:</b>	
Unknown at this time	

<b>TOPIC</b>	The challenge to good governance
<b>Speakers</b>	ACFO Dave Myers / Chair Cllr Eric Carter Shropshire and Wrekin FRA
<b>Notes:</b>	
<p>Following the appointment of CIPFA to undertake a independent assessment of the business case brought by the PCC, it was found that there was no overwhelming case for the business model in the context of Economy, Efficiency and Effectiveness.</p> <p>The Authority was granted permission to enter a judicial review. Mr Justice Garden found that the home secretary had not assessed the correct technical test. However, an adequate assessment had been made and therefore the Home Secretary may not have made an alternate decision.</p> <p>The timeline that the Authority have worked to is:  Jan 2017 Original Business Case  Nov 2017 CIPFA appointed  March 2018 HS approved business case  June 2019 Judicial review heard in court  Aug 2019 Appeal filed</p> <p>In the meantime...</p> <p>Shropshire and Wrekin FRA and Hereford and Worcester FRA have developed a strategic fire alliance examining the following areas for possible collaboration or efficiency savings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fire control</li> <li>- IRMP</li> <li>- Procurement</li> <li>- ICT review</li> <li>- Review of own governance (reduced members)</li> <li>- HMICFRS outcomes</li> </ul> <p>Eric Carter has been appointed as the CFA Chair and will play a vocal role in support of the CFA governance model and welcomes the support from Cllr John Robinson.</p>	
<b>Implications for the Authority:</b>	
Solely for consideration as a case study, giving recognition to the creation of the strategic local alliance in an effort to mitigate the business case of the PCC.	

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Fire and Rescue Authority



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

6 NOVEMBER 2019

## NATIONAL EMERGENCY SERVICES MEMORIAL AMBASSADOR

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### REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report seeks permission from the Authority for the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) to become an ambassador for the National Emergency Services Memorial (NESM).

#### BACKGROUND

2. The NESM is a registered charity established in 2016 by Tom Scholes-Fogg with the aim of raising at least £3 million to create the United Kingdom's first ever national memorial to all who have served in the emergency services. The inspiration for the memorial was taken from the Australian NESM.
3. The campaign has the support of many distinguished people including His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge. The campaign is also supported by the National Fire Chiefs Council. More information about the campaign is available on the NESM's website:

[www.nesm.org.uk](http://www.nesm.org.uk)

4. The CFO has been asked to be an ambassador for the NESM in the North East. The role involves actively promoting the campaign in order to help it achieve its aim of raising funds to establish the memorial. If permission was granted the time commitment is minimal and therefore would not have a significant impact on the workload of the CFO. There are no circumstances that have been identified where a conflict of interest could arise with the CFO's role in the Service. Should such a situation arise the CFO would stand down as an ambassador for NESM.

#### RECOMMENDATION

5. Members are asked to:
  - (a) **Consider** the request from the CFO to become an ambassador for the NESM.

Stuart Errington, Chief Fire Officer, 0191 375 5555

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County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

6 NOVEMBER 2019

## INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

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### REPORT OF POLICY SUPPORT OFFICER

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#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To update members with details of the 2020-2023 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), the proposals contained within the plan and the public consultation on it.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework. The Framework sets out priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities who must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their duties.
3. The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework document places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to produce and consult on their IRMP. These documents direct fire and rescue authorities to:
  - be accountable to communities for the service they provide;
  - identify and assess the full range of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks their areas face;
  - make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and the response to fire and rescue related incidents;
  - develop and maintain a workforce that is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible and diverse;
  - collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the service they provide.
4. Specifically, the National Framework states that we have a **statutory responsibility** to include a number of areas within the IRMP. These duties are summarised below:
  - Reflect up-to-date risk analyses of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority;
  - Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities;

- Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks;
  - Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRO) 2005;
  - Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as is necessary;
  - Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and
  - Be easily accessible and publicly available.
5. The Service's IRMP is a three-year strategic plan. This is reviewed annually to assess the effectiveness of existing arrangements. Following this review an annual IRMP Action Plan is developed.

## **IRMP CONTENT**

6. The IRMP contains profile information regarding the Service area, performance data governance arrangements and how the Service identifies, manages and responds to risk in County Durham and Darlington.
7. Linking directly to the Community Risk Profile and District Profile, the IRMP sets out the key risks found and what proactive and reactive measures will be in place relating to each identified risk.
8. Each of the six Strategies (Community Safety; Business Fire Safety and Fire Investigation; Emergency Response; Assets and Assurance; Workforce Development; Collaboration) and the MTFP is directly referenced with regard to how they are affected by risk.
9. Members will note the series of commitments made within the IRMP to the communities in each area of the Service:
- To be the best FRS in the UK;
  - Reduce risks to vulnerable people by offering a mutual pathway with partner agencies;
  - Ensure that at least 80% of SWVs are targeted to vulnerable people and those at greatest risk will be revisited within 12 months;
  - Identify and engage with local businesses to ensure appropriate fire safety measures are in place;
  - Track performance using mix of performance indicators and set against localised targets;
  - Strive for excellence in everything we do by encouraging staff to be innovative;
  - Provide additional scrutiny in a range of areas, using members as champions in those areas;
  - Act on HMICFRS inspection findings;
  - Provide an overview of risk so we can plan resources effectively;
  - Be proactive to prevent adverse events happening;
  - Be fully prepared to respond to events in order to mitigate impact;

- Demonstrate how our activities address risk;
- Allocate resources to each risk in order to provide the best possible service;
- Continually review the way staff are deployed;
- Regularly review equipment to ensure firefighters have the most effective tools to do their job;
- Consult with the people we serve.

10. The Service has a series of proposals to consider over the next three years:

**In 2020/21, the following options would be considered:**

- Implementing day crewing on a permanent basis at (Newton Aycliffe) and (Seaham);
- Implementing the 4&2 model at (Durham) on a permanent basis if the trial proves successful;
- Implement the change to wholetime/RDS duty systems at Spennymoor if the trial proves successful;
- Introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises if the trial proves successful;
- Review the crewing arrangements at Crook and Barnard Castle and trial the opportunity of introducing TRVs to these stations;
- Carry out a further review of the structure at middle and strategic manager levels to take account of any opportunities that collaboration may present for further efficiencies;
- Undertake a further review of the governance arrangements for the Fire Authority;
- Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.

**In 2021/22, the following options would be considered:**

- Implementing the outcomes of the review of the crewing arrangements at our two appliance RDS stations and introduce TRVs if the trial proves successful;
- Introduce a trial of riding with four at some single pump wholetime stations;
- Implement an amended structure at middle and strategic level if the review provides appropriate opportunities;
- Implement any changes suggested through the governance review;
- Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.

**In 2022/23, the following options would be considered:**

- Implement the changes of riding with four at some single pump wholetime stations if the trial proves successful;
- Implement any changes suggested through the collaboration projects undertaken with Tyne and Wear FRS and Northumberland FRS.

## CONSULTATION

11. The consultation on the 2020/21 proposals will begin on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019 and will run for 12 weeks until [date]. In order to ensure that a wide range of views can be gathered the Communications Team will lead on disseminating a consultation document containing the specific questions regarding the future plans of the Service. The consultation questions are set out at paragraph 13 of this report.
12. This will include making the IRMP available on the FRS website; organising community events to discuss the plan with the public; liaising with politicians and other local community leaders to disseminate the consultation document and using social media to promote it. There will be an online survey that people can complete.

### Consultation Questions

13. At the Strategic Planning Day the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) considered the following questions to be put to the public:
  - a) Do you have any comments or suggested amendments to our three-year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) document?
  - b) Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the day crewing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe on a permanent basis from April 2020?
  - c) Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the crewing arrangements at Durham and Spennymoor on a permanent basis from April 2020?
  - d) We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these response standards or do you think we should carry out a review?
  - e) Given the increase in arson that we have experienced over the last few years do you support our intention to reallocate some resources into arson reduction initiatives?
  - f) Do you support our approach to continue to focus our safe and wellbeing visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?
  - g) Following our trial, do you support our proposal to introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises?

The Consultation Document will provide an explanation of the rationale behind the questions and what the impact of the plans will be. Please see Appendix 1 for an outline of this.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- a) **Note** the 20/23 IRMP summary provided.
- b) **Approve** the questions to put to the public in the Consultation Document



## **Proposed Consultation Questions**

### **The Integrated Risk Management Plan**

Every three years we produce a strategic plan which helps us to deliver our vision of Safest People, Safest Places. As part of this we assess all the known risks in our area and publish what we call an Integrated Risk Management Plan. We review and publish this document every year to ensure that our resources are directed to where they are most needed.

*Question? Do you have any comments or suggested amendments to our three-year Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) document?*

### **Emergency Response Review**

As part of our ongoing commitment to protect our communities we have undertaken a review of Emergency response across the whole Service area. This involves carrying out an analysis of the risks faced and deciding where to place our resources accordingly. This is in line with the legal duty set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England to ensure that we are managing our resources in terms of the numbers of deployment of firefighters as well as our financial resources.

Part of this Emergency Response Review saw a trial taking place in 2019 to help us decide on the best way to use our fire response resources. This involved reviewing the shift arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe. Firefighters had previously been on a system called Day Crewing Plus but this was no longer going to be possible following a legal ruling on the Working Time Directive in South Yorkshire. Therefore, we have trialled a Day Crewing shift system with full time firefighters on duty from 7am to 7pm. We also reallocated resources to provide a wholetime crew in both Durham and Spennymoor.

The overall impact of the trials across the Service was an improvement in the response times to dwelling fires. The percentage of non-domestic property fires being responded to within the target time reduced slightly, as did road traffic collisions. However, the overall impact was positive and as predicted before the trial.

*Question? Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the day crewing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe on a permanent basis from April 2020?*

*Question? Following our trial, do you support our proposal to implement the crewing arrangements at Durham and Spennymoor on a permanent basis from April 2020?*

## **Response Standards**

We undertake a thorough assessment of community risk so that we can understand what we need to respond to. We recognise that this changes over time as our communities change, for example if new housing is built or the age profile of an area changes. This means we regularly review our community profiles and the associated risks. Our response standards are based on this profile information and risk assessment.

We use a range of measures to capture information about the types of incidents we respond to and continuously update our operational guidance and equipment so we can provide the best possible service to you.

*Question? We have maintained our response standards based on our historical approach to responding to incidents. Do you support our approach to maintain these response standards or do you think we should carry out a review?*

## **Arson Reduction**

Historically the number of deliberate primary and secondary fires was reducing in the County Durham and Darlington area but since 2016/17 we have seen an increase. In 2018/19 there were 480 primary deliberate fires and 2534 secondary deliberate fires. We now have a small team in place to help tackle this and part of their role is dedicated to working on reducing arson. This team supports the work that crews are already doing in our communities regarding deliberate fires.

We have launched initiatives such as FireStoppers, which asks the public to report information on deliberate fires, and Phoenix Fire Champions, which educates children and helps to tackle anti-social behaviour.

*Question? Given the increase in arson that we have experienced over the last few years do you support our intention to reallocate some resources into arson reduction initiatives?*

## **Safe and Well Being Visits**

Our Service carries out safe and well-being visits as part of our legal duty to prevent fires. In 2018/19 we conducted over 18,000 Safe and Well Being Visits.

Our Safe and Well Being visits are carried out by trained Fire and Rescue staff. At the visit they will do a personalised fire hazard assessment and fit free smoke alarms if needed, as well as offering advice to make the home safer.

We work with our partner agencies such as the police, health, public health services, councils and local charities, to identify the people who are most at risk and direct our services to these vulnerable people as a priority.

Due to these strong relationships our partner agencies can make referrals to us where they identify that fire safety advice and action may be needed. Equally, if we identify that a person is vulnerable at one of our visits we will refer to the most appropriate agency for support.

This is an approach supported by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services. This prevention based approach is working as we have had no fire deaths in the County Durham and Darlington area in the last 12 months and we are seeing a reduction again in the number of dwelling fires attended.

*Question? Do you support our approach to continue to focus our safe and wellbeing visits on those people who are at greatest risk from fire?*

### **Charging Businesses for False Alarms from Unwanted Fire Signals**

False Alarms can be caused by three different factors:

- calls from individuals which are made with genuine intention but turned out to be incorrect. We record this as a 'false alarm - good intent';
- calls from individuals deliberately providing false information. These are recorded as 'false alarm – malicious';
- automatic fire alarm and detection systems may be activated deliberately by a person for either good intent or malicious reasons, however, where alarms operate due to a mechanical or electrical fault, or false activation by non-fire conditions e.g. cooking fumes, dust, cigarette smoke etc. and the fire service attend, these are recorded as 'Unwanted Fire Signals'.

Unwanted Fire Signals occur at business premises which could be places such as factories, offices, shops, hospitals and student accommodation. As a service we recognise the value of fire detection in protecting people from fire and reducing the numbers of fire deaths and injuries. Making sure that detection equipment is working as it should be is the responsibility of the business and we want to promote best practice wherever we can.

Good practice will also assist us with the availability of our operational resources meaning that our Fire and Rescue staff are on hand for responding to incidents.

Legislation allows us to charge businesses for multiple Unwanted Fire Signals and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 we began a trial of the charging system. From April to September 2019 the number of unwanted fire signals was 240.

*Question? Following our trial, do you support our proposal to introduce a charging system for certain businesses when we attend multiple unwanted fire signals to their premises?*

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Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

06 NOVEMBER 2019

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2020/21 - TECHNICAL CONSULTATION

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### REPORT OF TREASURER

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#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Authority's response to the technical consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The consultation seeks views on proposals for the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2020/21 from representatives of local government.
3. The consultation process closed on 31 October 2019 therefore the Authority's response was agreed with the Chair and Vice Chair prior to submission.

#### CONSULTATION RESPONSE

4. The consultation requested comments on nine specific questions, five of which were not relevant to fire and rescue authorities. A copy of the Authority's response to the consultation and the relevant questions is attached at Appendix A.
5. The response asks Government to allow fire and rescue authorities to increase council tax by up to £5.00 in order to facilitate investment in fire safety and to halt further decline in service provision after ten years of austerity.
6. The National Fire Chiefs Council have submitted a similar request on behalf of the sector and an increase of £5.00 is in line with council tax freedoms proposed for shire district councils.

#### RECOMMENDATION

7. Members are requested to **note** the Authority's response to the consultation.

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## Consultation response pro-forma

### Local Government Finance Settlement 2020-21: Technical Consultation

If you are responding to this consultation by email or in writing, please reply using this questionnaire pro-forma, which should be read alongside the consultation document.

You should save the pro-forma on your own device, from which you can complete the survey at your own pace, and submit when you are ready.

There are 9 questions in this survey. You do not have to answer every question should you not wish to. The comments box will expand as you type into it should you need more space.

Should you wish to attach further evidence or supporting information, you may attach and send this with the pro-forma.

Please **email responses to:**

[LGfsettlement@communities.gov.uk](mailto:LGfsettlement@communities.gov.uk)

Alternatively, **written responses should be sent to:**

Local Government Finance Settlement Team  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2nd floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation document and respond.

#### **Your Details (Required details are marked with an asterisk (\*))**

Full Name*	Tony Hope
Organisation*	County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority
Address*	Service Headquarters
Address 2	Belmont Business Park
Town/City*	Durham
Postcode*	DH1 1TW
Country	UK
Email address*	
Phone Number	

# Consultation response pro-forma

**Are the views Expressed on this form an official response from a:**

Fire and Rescue Authority

## **Question 1**

**Do you agree with the Government's proposed methodology for the distribution of Revenue Support Grant in 2020-21?**

Yes

## **Additional comments**

The proposed distribution method seems sensible and provides stability against a background of considerable uncertainty.



# Consultation response pro-forma

## Question 2

***Should central government eliminate negative RSG in full through forgone business rates receipts?***

Yes

## **Additional comments**

The proposed approach seems consistent with the push for greater stability and certainty.

# Consultation response pro-forma

## Question 3

***Do you think that there should be a separate council tax referendum principle of 2% or £5, whichever is greater, for shire district councils in 2020-21?***

No comment

## **Additional comments**

Similar flexibility is requested for fire and rescue authorities – see response to Q4 below.

# Consultation response pro-forma

## Question 4

***Do you have views on the proposed package of council tax referendum principles for 2020-21?***

Yes

### **Additional comments**

The Authority does not agree with the principles proposed for principal local authorities. The current principles allow for shire district councils in two-tier areas to raise council tax by up to 2% or £5. The offer for shire districts to have the freedom for a £5 or 2% uplift is being made despite the fact that the relevant precepts are significantly higher than the average fire precept. The government should set referendum principles which allow for consistent investment in reform arising from HMICFRS recommendations and increased fire protection activity following lessons learnt from the tragic fire at Grenfell.

We therefore ask the Government to allow fire and rescue authorities to increase council tax by up to £5 in order to allow improvements to fire safety and to save lives.

# Consultation response pro-forma

## Question 5

*Do you agree with the Government's proposals for social care funding in 2020-21?*

No comment

**Additional comments**

# Consultation response pro-forma

## Question 6

**Do you agree with the Government's proposals for iBCF in 2020-21?**

No comment

**Additional comments**

## Consultation response pro-forma

### Question 7

***Do you agree that there should be a new round of 2020-21 New Homes Bonus allocations for 2020-21, or would you prefer to see this funding allocated for a different purpose, and if so how should the funding be allocated?***

No comment

**Additional comments**

## Consultation response pro-forma

### Question 8

***Do you agree with the Government's proposed approach to paying £81 million Rural Services Delivery Grant in 2020-21 to the upper quartile of local authorities, based on the super-sparsity indicator?***

No comment

**Additional comments**

# Consultation response pro-forma

## Question 9

***Do you have any comments on the impact of the proposals for the 2020-21 settlement outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic? Please provide evidence to support your comments.***

Yes

No

No comment

## **Additional comments**

The fire and rescue service targets it's activity at the most vulnerable in society and therefore any reduction in available resources is likely to have an impact on those needing additional support, such as elderly and disabled people.



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3, 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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