



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

25 JULY 2017

## MEMBER BUDDIES AND AFFILIATION WITH FIRE STATIONS

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### REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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#### Purpose of Report

1. To agree member buddy and fire station affiliation list.

#### Background

2. The Authority's vision of Safest People, Safest Places can only be achieved through officers, members and the public working in partnership. Part of the Authority's commitment to partnership working is through the buddy/affiliation of Fire Authority members with specific officers and stations throughout County Durham and Darlington. The benefits are:
  - Close links with members, local stations and crews
  - Improved communications between members, officers and local station staff
  - Improved understanding of roles and responsibilities of members and officers
  - Improved opportunity for partnership working through member involvement
3. Station personnel will be made aware of their affiliated member. Members are encouraged to visit their affiliated station (or any fire station within County Durham and Darlington area) but are advised to contact a member of the district management team in the first instance to ensure that crews are planned to be on-station when a visit occurs.
4. The member/station affiliation programme provides an opportunity for Fire Authority members to enhance local accountability through maintaining regular contact with an operational fire station and facilitates a fuller understanding of the operational and community safety services that are provided from fire stations.
5. Member buddies provide an alignment of CFA members to members of the SLT, to provide information and support on a range of Service policy and organisational issues.
6. Designated officer buddies make themselves available to members for the purpose of developing their overall knowledge of the fire and rescue service. Officer buddies should try to ensure support in a way that suits the elected member.

#### Recommendations

7. Members are requested to **note** the member buddy and station affiliation list as set out in Appendices 1 and 2.