

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at Service Training Centre, Bowburn Industrial Estate South, Bowburn on **Tuesday 25 July 2017** at **10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

**Durham County Councillors:**

Councillors A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, A Gardner, K Hawley, D Hicks, P Howell, L Marshall, M McGaun, H Nicholson, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, J Shuttleworth, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

**Darlington Borough Councillors:**

Councillors B Jones, G Lee and S Richmond.

**Independent Standards Members:**

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Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Avery, A Laing, D Stoker and B Dixon.

Apologies were also received from Mr J Dykes (independent standards member).

**A1 Chief Fire Officer Commendations**

The Chief Fire Officer presented five members of fire service personnel with commendations for their exemplary work and decision making at an Emergency Medical Response (EMR) incident on 19 June 2017.

**A2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A3 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

**A4 Notes of Performance, Policy and Review Committee**

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Performance, Policy and Review Committee which provided an update on the discussions made at the meeting held on 6 July 2017 (for copy see file of minutes)

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**A5 Member attendance at Events (LGA Conference)**

The Authority considered a report of the Chair which provided feedback to Members from the Local Government Association Conference held between 4 and 6 July 2017. (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair provided an overview of the speech from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and it was agreed that a copy would be circulated to all Members.

Members discussed a review of future LGA conference attendance.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**A6 Member Champions**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Assurance and Assets which set out details of the Authority's Member Champion roles and sought nominations for the individual roles for the forthcoming two-year period (for copy see file of minutes).

The chair noted that it was agreed at the last meeting that Cllr Richmond would be appointed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion member champion.

**Resolved:**

- a. That the member champion roles as set out in the report and as detailed in Appendix A-F be noted.
- b. That the expression of interest for Appendix G needs to be submitted by 25 August 2017 be noted.
- c. That the Fire Authority will approve the Member Champions at the Combined Fire Authority meeting on 27 September 2017 be noted.

**A7 Member Buddies and Affiliation with Fire Stations**

The Authority considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which sought to agree member buddy and fire station affiliation lists (for copy see file of minutes).

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer noted an error on appendix 2 as Cllr Richmond was not listed. Cllr Richmond would be added to the list with the Area Manager Workforce Development.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **A8 Current Correspondence**

The Authority received an update from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer 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).

## **A9 2016/17 Year End Performance Report**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Assurance and Assets which provided a summary of organisational performance at the end of the 2016/17 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair informed the authority that member champions and committee chairs would be invited to comment on their areas first moving forward.

Cllr Carr as chair of the Performance, Policy and Review Committee commented on how well the Service was performing and requested that congratulations were passed on to all members of staff.

Members queried how the Service could support emergency medical response (EMR) financially in the future. The Chief Fire Officer informed the Authority that discussions around the future of EMR had paused when the trial was extended and that a decision would be made when the outcome of the trials was known.

Members queried a particular incident in Darlington where police response was requested. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer informed the Authority that details of the incident would be followed up and fed back to members.

### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

## **A10 Inclusive Fire Service Group Improvement Strategies**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Workforce Development which informed members of the publication of Circular NJC/8/17 – Inclusive Fire Service Group Improvement Strategies and outlined an action plan for the Service response (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr Richmond as member champion for equality, diversity and inclusion noted that the report was welcomed as it provided both a national perspective and an opportunity to gather information locally.

### **Resolved:**

- a. That the report and publication of Circular NJC/8/17 Inclusive Fire Service Group Improvement Strategies be noted.
- b. That the Service response to the Circular and improvement strategies be agreed.

- c. That further future reports be received and progress against the action plan be monitored.

### **A11 Emergency Services Collaboration**

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided an update on progress with collaboration between the Service and some of the other emergency services in the North East: Durham Constabulary (DC), Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (T&WFRS), Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) and North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) (for copy see file of minutes).

Members commented on discussions with the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner (PCVC) and the Chief Fire Officer provided a national update of the position in other authorities.

Members discussed arrangements for Darlington and commented on discussions with Cleveland Fire Brigade (CFB), noting that CFB did not have a desire to pursue discussions regarding strategic collaboration at this point.

#### **Resolved:**

- a. That the letter from the PCVC attached at appendix A be noted.
- b. That the decision from the PCVC not to progress the planned sharing of High Handenhold fire station be noted.
- c. That the draft Collaboration Agreement between the Service, T&WFRS and NFRS be noted.

### **A12 Grenfell Tower Fire and the actions for Fire and Rescue Services**

The Authority considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which provided information on the Grenfell Tower fire that occurred on 14 June 2017 and the initial actions fire and rescue services had been asked to undertake following the incident (for copy see file of minutes).

Members queried plans for sprinkler systems. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer confirmed that currently there was no regulations to enforce domestic sprinklers in private accommodation.

#### **Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

### **A13 AOB**

#### **Inspection of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England – Home Office Announcement 19 July 2017**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Assurance and Assets which informed members of the announcement by the Home office that Her Majesty's Inspectorate

of Constabulary is to be expanded to take on the role of inspectorate of fire and rescue authorities in England (for copy see file of minutes).

Members expressed concerns regarding the amount of Service resource that may be required to support the inspectorate programme.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted.

**Meeting with Lords and MP's**

The Chair provided members with an update from the meeting with Lords and MP's which took place on 21 July 2017 and it was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be circulated to all Members.

**Letter to Nick Hurd MP**

The Chief Fire Officer informed members that a response had not yet been received regarding the invitation to visit the Service, however an invitation had been received for the Chief Fire Officer, Chair and Vice Chair to meet with the Shadow Fire Minister Chris Williamson MP.

**A14 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.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**