

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at Darlington Community Fire Station, St Cuthberts Way, Darlington, DL1 5LN, on **Wednesday 27 September 2017** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, A Gardner, P Howell, R Manchester (substitute for F Tinsley), L Marshall, M McGaun, H Nicholson, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker and J Turnbull.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors B Dixon, G Lee and S Richmond, H Scott (substitute for B Jones) (from item 15 onwards)

Independent Standards Members:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Laing, K Hawley, F Tinsley, B Jones, J Shuttleworth, J Turnbull.

A minutes silence was held in memory of retired firefighter Alan Wilson, his funeral was taking place later in the day.

The Chair welcomed to Helen Lynch, Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority, to the meeting.

A1 Certificate of Appreciation Presentations

The Chief Fire Officer presented the Training Team with a certificate of recognition for their professionalism, knowledge and skills in developing the 12 trainee firefighters of course 168 to achieve distinctions on completion of their 14 week initial training programme.

The Chief Fire Officer presented the County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service Water Rescue Team with a certificate of recognition for their professionalism, knowledge and skills demonstrated at the UKRO Challenge 2017 to become national champions in their discipline.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3 Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2017 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 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).

A5 Notes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, which provided an update on the discussions made at the meeting held on the 20 July 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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 made at the meeting held on the 27 July 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A7 Notes of the Policy and Performance Review Committee

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Policy and Performance Review Committee, which provided an update on the discussions made at the meeting held on the 13 September 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A8 Member Champions

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Corporate Resources, on behalf of Area Manager: Assurance and Assets, which informed Members of the Member Champion roles.

Resolved:

That the list of Member Champions was approved.

A9 Independent Assessment for Process for Police and Crime Commissioners proposals to take on responsibility for local Fire and Rescue Services

The Authority considered a report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which provided members with information issued by the Home Office (HO) on the independent assessment process that will be used when a relevant local authority objects to a Police and Crime Commissioner's proposal to take over the governance of their local fire and rescue service (for a copy see file of minutes).

The Chair noted the example of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service and the Chief Fire Officer informed members that the Service would continually monitor business cases as they were submitted.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) Agree to receive further updates on the outcome of discussions between the Local Government Association and the HO.

A10 Inspection of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England – Update on Emerging Developments

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which updated members on the emerging developments following 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).

The Chief Fire Officer noted that Area Manager: Assurance and Assets, would be attending an introductory event in London on 10 October.

Resolved:

- (i) The contents of the report were noted and further reports would be provided once further details emerge in relation to the new inspection regime.

A11 External Auditor Appointment

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer setting out the sector wide procurement undertaken by Public Sector Audit Appointment of the Authority's external auditor (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted to appoint Mazars LLP as the Authority's external auditor for the five years commencing 1 April 2018.

A12 National Joint Council Emergency Medical Response Trial and Pay Negotiations Update

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager: Community Risk Management which provided an update on the emergency medical response element of the National Joint Council trials and national pay negotiations (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair noted that this subject had been discussed at the Fire Service Management Committee meeting which he had attended recently.

The Chief Fire Officer reminded members that the Home Office had stated that if the cap was lifted on local pay agreements there would be no further funding available.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) Agree to receive further reports on the outcomes of local and national negotiations on EMR and pay.

A13 AOB

There was no other business.

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.

The Area Managers left the meeting.