

At the **Annual General Meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Belmont Business Park on **Monday 12 June 2017** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, A Gardner, K Hawley, D Hicks, P Howell, A Laing, L Marshall, J Maitland (Substitute for J Bell), M McGaun, H Nicholson, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, J Shuttleworth, F Tinsley, D Stoker 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 J Bell and B Dixon.

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

A1 Election of Chair

Moved by Councillor A Laing, Seconded by Councillor S Richmond, and

Resolved:

That Councillor J Robinson be elected as Chair of the Authority for the ensuing year.

Councillor J Robinson in the Chair.

A2 Appointment of Vice-Chair

Moved by Councillor C Carr, Seconded by Councillor H Nicholson, and

Resolved:

That Councillor A Laing be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Authority for the ensuing year.

A3 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A4 Appointment of Chairs and Committees

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk which proposed the appointments of Chairs and Membership of Committees for 2017/18 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- (i) That the appointment of the chairs of the committees as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) That the political membership of the committees as set out in Appendix 2 be approved.
- (iii) That the Clerk to the Authority, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and the appropriate Group Leader, be authorised to make any changes to the Committees that may arise during 2017/18.

A5 Representation on Other Bodies 2017/18

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk which set out the proposed appointment of representatives on other bodies for 2017/18 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair noted an error on page 2 of the report and a revised version was circulated. (For copy see file of minutes)

Resolved:

- (i) That the appointments to the Combined Fire Authority's other bodies as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- (ii) That the Clerk to the Authority, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and the appropriate Group Leader, be authorised to make any changes to the appointments on other bodies that may arise during 2017/18.

A6 Appointment of Minority Party Spokesperson

It had been agreed at a pre meeting for the minority party that Councillor John Shuttleworth would be appointed minority party spokesperson. The appointment was agreed with no objections.

Resolved:

That Councillor J Shuttleworth be appointed as minority party spokesperson for the ensuing year.

A7 Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

A8 Combined Fire Authority Constitution

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided members with a copy of the Authority's Constitution (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report and the Constitution be noted.

A9 Current Correspondence

The Authority received an update from the 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).

A10 Member Induction and Development Programme

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Corporate Resources which set out proposed arrangements for the Combined Fire Authority Member Induction and Training Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- (i) That the Member Training and Development Programme be noted and that individual requirements be discussed at the New Members Induction.
- (ii) The arrangements for the New Member Induction module be noted.
- (iii) That member availability for the induction date as set out in paragraph 12 be confirmed.

A11 The Adrian Thomas Review

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Workforce Development which provided an update on the progress of the action plan which was developed in response to the 'Independent review of conditions of service for fire and rescue staff in England' (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That progress made against the action plan be noted and that further reports be received to monitor progress against the action plan.

A12 National Joint Council (NJC) Workstreams Update

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided an update on the NJC work streams looking at broadening the role of firefighters (for copy see file of minutes).

A verbal update was provided from the Chief Fire Officer regarding the position since the distribution of CFA meeting papers. A formal pay claim had been submitted by the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) with a settlement date of 1 July 2017. The Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the Authority had been invited to attend an employer consultation meeting on 16 June and a further update would be provided at the CFA meeting on 25 July 2017.

Jim Bittlestone, FBU representative, was asked if he wished to comment and he stated that the position outlined by the Chief Fire Officer was accurate.

Members discussed whether a change in position was anticipated following the results of the recent election.

Members queried and discussed the emergency medical response (EMR) process, emergency response and wider health issues. The Chief Fire Officer informed members that the Service constantly monitored the work ongoing with North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) and the Area Manager Community Risk Management provided an update regarding health negotiations through the sustainability prevention plan (STP) prevention group. It was agreed that the authority would write to Councillor Lucy Hovvels as chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to request a seat on the committee.

Resolved:

- (i) That the contents of the report and latest position in relation to the NJC work streams and the local position relating to EMR, wider health work and MTFAs be noted.
- (ii) That the intention to implement an MTFAs capability in to CDDFRS, providing all of the issues identified in the report are addressed be noted.
- (iii) That further updates be received as progress is made with implementation or when further information is released nationally.
- (iv) The Chair write to Councillor Lucy Hovvels as chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to request a seat on the committee.

A13 Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme Update

The Authority considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, presented by the Chief Fire Officer, which provided an update on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A14 AOB

Significant dates

Saturday 17 June - Crook Open Day

Thursday 29 June 09.00 – 12.00 – CFA Away Day

Friday 14 July 09.00 – 12.00 – Member Induction Session

Saturday 15 July – Families Day

Saturday 22 July – Spennymoor Open Day

A15 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