

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

24 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Members Present: Cllr J Robinson (Chair)
Cllrs M Simmons, C Potts, S Richmond

Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr M Hodgson, J Lethbridge and G Richardson

PART A

Sickness Absence Performance Quarter 2

- Members were given an update on sickness absence performance for quarter 1 and 2. The increase in shift/days lost was explained noting that personnel were only placed on modified duties if there was a return to work date agreed to their regular position.

The committee **commented** and **noted** the report.

Accident Statistics Quarter 2

- Members were provided with an update on the key health and safety accident statistics for quarter 2. Vehicle and personal accidents were discussed, which had all been of a minor nature.

The committee **noted** the report

Forecast Outturn 2016/17

- Members were presented with the Service's revenue and financial outturn position based upon expenditure and income to 30 September 2016. Details of underspends and overspends and the reasons for significant variations from budget were provided and discussed.

The committee **noted** the forecast and revenue and capital position.

Short Term Investments Quarter 2

4. Members were provided with an update on the performance of the Authority's Short Term Investments for the period ended 30 September 2016. Members noted the transactions made with the UK Government Debt Management Office, Money Marketing Funds, UK Clearing banks and major building societies.

The committee **noted** the report.

2017/18 Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan

5. Members were presented with the proposed timetable for consideration and approval of the 2017/18 budget and Medium Term Financial Plan. It was also noted that the Authority's efficiency plan had been published on 14 October in accordance with Governments requirements.
6. Members queried the Firefighter Pension scheme and it was noted that for 2019/20 there may be arise in employers' contribution of approximately 5% which would have implications on the deficit position outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The committee **agreed** that the 2017/18 revenue budget should be prepared at a standstill position.

2017/18 Local Government Finance Settlement Technical Consultation Response

7. Members were provided with details of the Authority's response to a recent technical consultation on the Government's proposals for distributing central in 2017/18.

The committee **noted** the Authority's response to the consultation.

PART B

Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy Service Structure - Applications

8. Members were presented with details of the applications that had been received for early retirement/voluntary redundancy following requests for expressions of interest from members of staff within the command and control and corporate services sections.
9. The saving that would be made and the payback periods were discussed.

The committee **approved** the applications for early retirement/voluntary redundancy.

In order to comply with the requirements set out in the Authority's Pay Policy Statement regarding severance payments it was noted that the report would be presented to the Fire Authority on 24 November with a request that members endorse the approval of the three staff members whose severance costs exceeded £100,000.