

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Belmont Business Park, Durham on **Tuesday 21 March 2017** at **10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Councillor Michele Hodgson in the Chair

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Armstrong, D Bell, J Bell, J Chaplow, B Glass, M Hodgson, S Iveson, A Laing, J Lethbridge, L Marshall, C Potts, J Robinson, J Turnbull and A Willis.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors B Dixon, B Jones and S Richmond.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Carr, B Graham, G Lee, P Oliver, G Richardson, K Shaw, M Simmons and D Stoker.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

There were no further matters arising.

A3 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 of a list of current correspondence see file of minutes).

A4 Finance and General Purposes Committee – Chairs Report

The Authority considered a report of the Finance and General Purposes Committee which provided an update of the discussions and recommendations made at its meeting held on 30 January 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A5 Audit and Risk Committee – Chairs Report

The Authority considered a report of the Audit and Risk Committee which provided an update of the discussions and recommendations made at its meeting held on 23 February 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Councillor Turnbull, Chair of the Committee expressed his appreciation to the committee members, staff, internal and external audit for their support and input throughout the year.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A6 Policy and Performance Review Committee – Chairs Report

The Authority considered a report of the Policy and Performance Review Committee which provided an update of the discussions and recommendations made at its meeting held on 10 March 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Members thanked all those involved in the preparation of the high standard of performance information presented throughout the year.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A7 Member Attendance at Conference

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Fire Authority which provided feedback to members on the Local Government Association (LGA) Fire Conference held on 7 and 8 March 2017 which she attended with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer (for copy see file of minutes).

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer summarised the key points covered from a wide range of topics covered at various presentations and workshops.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A8 Fire Reform Speech

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an update on the high level detail of the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service's Speech on the next steps with the Fire Reform Programme (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer informed members that the pace of change is likely to be significant.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A9 Integrated Risk Management Plan – Annual Action Plan Consultation Feedback

The Authority considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which updated members with details of the 2017/18 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) annual action plan consultation feedback (for copy see file of minutes).

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer summarised the results of the three proposals consulted on.

Members commented that current sharing and collaboration arrangements with the Police worked well.

Resolved:

- i. That the 2017/2018 action plan consultation outcomes be considered.
- ii. That the proposals be progressed.

A10 Cultural Survey

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Workforce Development which informed members of the findings of the cultural survey conducted by Durham University Business School in October 2016 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer summarised the main findings from the survey of which were mostly very positive and also brought members attention to three areas which were recommended for improvement.

Members commented on the openness of the findings and were pleased that the areas for improvement were already being progressed.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A11 Review of Service's Vision, Strategic Aims, Objectives and Core Values

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Emergency Response which provided members with an update on the review of the Service's vision, aims and objectives and the creation of a set of core values specific to County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (for copy see file of minutes).

Members were in support of the proposals and requested that thought be given within the staff appraisal process when identifying and dealing with those considered to be below expectations.

Resolved:

- i. It be agreed to keep the strategic vision - Safest People, Safest Places.
- ii. It be agreed to adopt the new strategic priorities.
- iii. It be agreed to adopt the new core values and cultural framework.
- iv. It be agreed to adopt the outward facing service values - Professional, Effective and Innovative.

A12 Home Office Consultation to amend the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed members of the Home Office's Consultation to amend the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England to discourage the practice of senior fire officers retiring from post and subsequently being re-employed in the same or very similar roles and outline draft responses to the questionnaire (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chief Fire Officer took members through suggested responses to the ten questions. It was proposed that the Authority's final response is delegated to the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to the Authority.

Resolved:

That the proposed revisions and draft responses be noted.

A13 Trade Union Act 2016

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed members of the commencement of the Trade Union Act 2016, the key provisions that it implements and to explain what this means for the Fire and Rescue sector (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- i. That the key provisions of the Act be noted.
- ii. That the potential implications for the Authority be noted.

A14 Localism Act – Pay Policy Statement

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer and Clerk which sought the approval of the pay policy statement for 2017/18 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Treasurer informed members that there were two items awaiting guidance on from the Department for Communities and Local Government which would be updated as soon as this is published.

Resolved:

- i. That the 2017/18 pay policy statement be approved.
- ii. That it be noted that the statement will be published on the Authority's website.

A15 Outcome of Prosecution under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Community Risk Management which briefed members on the outcome of the prosecution taken by the Combined Fire Authority against Mr Kaiser Javeed Choudry and Hayat Accommodation Services Ltd relating to breaches of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) at the Albert Guest House in Shotton Colliery (for copy see file of minutes).

The Vice Chair congratulated all staff involved in this work which has resulted in improvements in safety for the local community.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A16 Performance Report Quarter Three 2016/17

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

On behalf of the Authority, the Chair expressed appreciation to all Service staff for the pleasing progress in performance over the past year.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A17 Review of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Fire Authority

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Internal Audit which advised the Authority on the outcome of a review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority that has recently been undertaken by Durham County Council's Internal Audit (for copy see file of minutes).

The Head of Internal Audit detailed to members the findings of the review including the one recommendation in relation to the Authority considering its position in the event of the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner becoming a member on the Fire Authority.

Resolved:

That the findings of the review be considered together with the intended course of action proposed by the Chief Fire Officer in looking to address the one Medium Priority action identified with the action plan contained within the report.

A18 Any Other Business

There was no other business.