

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Belmont Business Park on, on **Wednesday 22 November 2017** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, D Bell J Bell, P Brookes, C Carr, D Hicks, P Howell, A Laing, L Marshall, M McGaun, H Nicholson, C Potts, L Pounder (substitute for A Batey) 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:

Mr J Dykes.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Batey, C Carr and A Gardner.

The Chair congratulated the service on recent awards that had been received:-

- North East Equality Awards winner in the Larger Employer category;
- North East Equality Awards runner up in the Outstanding Contribution category for the apprenticeship scheme.
- Employee Recognition Scheme silver award winner which demonstrated the Services support tackling issues and actively communicate our status as an Armed Forces friendly organisation.

The Chair noted that the service had recently signed the dying to work charter. The Chief Fire Officer explained the Service's commitment to the scheme and noted the important message it gave to all personnel.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record with the addition of Cllr Hicks name to the attendee list and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

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 see file of minutes).

A4 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 28 September 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr Turnbull, Chair of the Committee expressed his thanks to staff for their hard work and support in the preparation of the final statement of accounts, annual governance statement, statement of assurance, internal audit progress report and audit completion report.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

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 26 October 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A6 Member attendance at Conference

The Authority considered a report of Cllr Robinson which summarised the key issues covered at the Combined Fire Authority conference held on 12 October 2017 and the implications for the Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A7 Statement of Assurance

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager: Assurance and Assets which presented Members with the 2016/17 Statement of Assurance that had been approved for publication by the Audit and Risk Committee who requested for the report to be shared with the full Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A8 Inspection of Fire and Rescue Authorities in England – Update on Emerging Developments

The Authority considered a report by the Area Manager Assurance and Assets which provided members with an update on the emerging developments since the last meeting on the preparations by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services in England (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair noted he had received an email offering Members the opportunity to become inspectors, anyone wishing to have their name put forward to contact him direct.

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.

A9 Adrian Thomas Review

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Workforce Development which updated members 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'. The Adrian Thomas review (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved

- (i) The contents of the report were noted and progress made against the action plan;
- (ii) That further future reports and progress be monitored against the action plan.

A10 Bonfire Period Update (presentation)

The Area Manager Emergency Response delivered a presentation to members in relation to the latest bonfire period.

Members queried where leaflets were distributed. The Area Manager for Emergency Response confirmed each district delivered to local primary schools and gave presentations at some schools.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

A11 AOB

There was no other business.

A12 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