

At the meeting of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at Fire HQ, Belmont Business Park, Belmont Durham, DH1 1TW on **Monday 26 November 2018** at **10.00 am**.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, C Carr, A Gardner, D Hicks, P Howell, A Laing, R Manchester (substitute for J Turnbull), L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, J Shuttleworth, M Simmons, W Stelling and F Tinsley.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors H Crumbie, C Johnson, S Richmond and H Scott (substitute for B Jones).

Independent Standards Members: -

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Brookes, H Nicholson, D Stoker and J Turnbull.

The Chair welcomed H Crumbie to her first full Fire Authority meeting.

A1 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

A3 Current Correspondence

The Authority received an update from the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Support 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 of the Audit and Risk Committee, which provided an update on the discussions at the meeting held on 18 October 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

A5 Notes of the Finance Committee

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Finance Committee, which provided an update on the discussions of the meeting held on 23 October 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

A Batey noted that T Hope had been congratulated on his 40 years' service by the Committee.

A6 Change of Elected Member from Darlington

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk which made members aware of a change in representation on the CFA from Darlington Borough Council and the impact on the committee structure and representation on external bodies. (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be noted and that Cllr Crumbie had replaced Cllr Harker on the CFA and Cllr Richmond on the Finance Committee and as representative to the LGA.

A7 Inclusive Fire Service Group Improvement Strategies

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Support which provided members with an update on the progress of the action plan which was developed in response to the Inclusive Fire Service Group improvement strategies as published in Circular NJC/1/18 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

- (i) That the content of the report and action plan be noted;
- (ii) That the completed status of the action plan be approved.

A8 Member Attendance at Conference

The Authority considered a report of the Vice Chair which provided feedback to members on the recent Combined Fire Authority Conference held on 11 October (for copy see file of minutes). Cllr Laing highlighted the presentation on organisational culture given at the conference by the Chief Fire Officer and Dr Les Graham from Durham University Business School. Cllr Robinson confirmed HMICFRS had spoken favourably about the presentation at the Fire Service Management Committee the next day.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

A9 Bonfire Period Update – Presentation

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

Members queried the involvement of Durham Constabulary in relation to attacks on firefighters. D Brown noted the good working relationship the Service had with Durham Constabulary.

Members queried the availability of fireworks for sale. D Brown noted that the Service recommends the general public attend organised events and publicises local events on social media and via the Service's website.

Members noted that their constituents were not always aware of the areas a fire station covered and this could be used in literature for the next campaign.

Resolved:

That the presentation be noted.

A10 Any other Business

There was no other business.

A11 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.

B12 Strategic Planning Day 8 October 2018

The Authority Received a report from the Chief Fire Officer which summarised the areas explored and debated at the Combined Fire Authority strategic planning day on 8 October 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

Members noted the benefits of Officers attending local resident meetings to discuss IRMP proposals.

Members queried the working time directive and the Chief Fire Officer gave an update on the current situation.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and discussed.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officers and Area Managers left the meeting for item B13.

B13 Appointment of Assistant Chief Fire Officer

The Authority received a report of the Chair which asked members to agree the recommendation of the Appointments Panel, which was held on 05 November 2018, to confirm a substantive appointment of Assistant Chief Fire Officer (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the report be agreed.

B14 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

CLOSE OF MEETING