

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 **Tuesday 18 December 2018** at **10.00 am**.

**Present:**

**Durham County Councillors:**

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

**Darlington Borough Councillors:**

Councillors H Crumbie, C Johnson and B Jones.

**Independent Standards Members: -**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Nicholson, S Richmond and F Tinsley.

The Chair informed members that the Service had recently won two awards; Emergency Service Partnership of the Year at the Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards 2018 and Best Apprenticeship Programme at the Training Journal Awards 2018.

**A1 Declarations of interest**

Cllr C Johnson declared an interest for item 13, noting his position on Darlington Council Planning Applications Committee.

**A2 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 26 November 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).

Members commented on the delay with HMICFRS reports for tranche one. S Errington confirmed that a summary report would be prepared for the next CFA meeting.

#### **A4 The Adrian Thomas Review**

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer Service Support, which provided an update on the progress of the action plan that 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 the content of the report be noted.

That the completed status of the action plan be approved.

#### **A5 Performance Report Quarter Two 2018/19**

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Training Assets and Assurance, which provided a summary of organisational performance at the end of the second quarter of the 2018/19 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

The Authority received a demonstration of the new Fire Reduction Super Hero Flamin Nora.

Members commented on the work of the Arson Reduction Team.

Members queried the format of sickness reporting and suggested that long and short term sickness be presented separately. S Errington noted that the report presented a high level overview of the performance indicators and agreed that a separate sickness paper would be prepared for a future CFA meeting.

Members commented on AFA actuation figures noting plans for increased student accommodation. D Brown confirmed that the Service had engaged in the planning process and with landlords and occupiers.

Members queried the overall performance chart figures noting that the regression figure had increased from the previous report. Discussion took place regarding performance nationally and S Errington noted that the national benchmarking report would be presented to the next CFA meeting.

##### **Resolved:**

That the content of the report be noted.

## **A6 Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018**

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which made members aware of the assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 which received Royal Assent on 13 September 2018 and came into force on 13 November 2018 (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

That the report and introduction of Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Act 2018 be noted.

## **A7 Further Government Response: Enabling Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to sit and vote on Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities**

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which made members aware of the results of the independent enquiry that was commissioned by the Government following objections from two fire authorities to the consultation entitled 'Enabling Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to sit and vote on Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities' (for copy see file of minutes).

Members commented on the position in Durham and Darlington and noted that the PCVC had stated that he has no intention of pursuing a change to governance for the fire and rescue service and does not wish to become a member of the Authority.

### **Resolved:**

That the content of the report and outcome of the independent enquiry be noted.

## **A8 Appointment of Independent Persons**

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk which sought approval to recruit independent persons to the Fire Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

Members agreed to proceed with option 3 to undertake a recruitment process to appoint two independent persons and determine their length of office.

Members discussed and agreed the addition of a commitment to periodically attend CFA meetings.

Members queried training arrangements for independent persons. H Lynch confirmed that an induction would be carried out followed by notification of any further training opportunities.

### **Resolved:**

That options be considered as set out in paragraph 7 with a term of office agreed for a period expiring on 30 April 2023.

That the recruitment exercise be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 9 of the report.

#### **A9 Consett Fire Presentation**

The Group Manager Community Risk Management delivered a presentation to members in relation to a fire at Gardner Aerospace in Consett.

Members noted that a letter of thanks had been sent to crews involved.

#### **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.

The Chair notified members of an error to the publication notice on printed copies of items 12 and 13. The notice stated by virtue of paragraph 1 of part 1 of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 and should have stated by virtue of paragraph 3 of part 1 of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972.

#### **B12 Lord Kerslake Report Update**

The Authority Received a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Office Service delivery which provided an update on the work undertaken by the service in response to the report compiled by Lord Kerslake on the preparedness for, and emergency response to, the Manchester Arena attack in May 2017 (for copy see file of minutes).

#### **Resolved:**

That the update on the service's progress against the actions identified in the Kerslake Report be noted.

#### **B13 Estates Update**

The Authority received a report of the Head of Corporate Resources which provided an update on the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Programme (EIP) and of plans to

address the risks associated with outstanding estates maintenance (for copy see file of minutes).

Members noted their support for the Darlington station plans.

**Resolved:**

That the content of the report be noted.

**B14 Darlington Fire Presentation**

The Area Manager Training Assets and Assurance delivered a presentation to members in relation to a fire at Darlington.

Members noted that a letter of thanks had been sent to crews involved

**Resolved:**

That the presentation be noted.

**B15 Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation Update Presentation**

The Chief Fire Officer provided a verbal update regarding IRMP responses received to date.

**Resolved:**

That the update be noted.

**B16 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**