

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held in Morton Room, Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Belmont Business Park, Durham, DH1 1TW, on **Wednesday 6 November 2019** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, J Bell, R Bell, P Brooks, C Carr, D Freeman, D Hicks, A Laing, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker and J Turnbull.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors B Jones, G Lee and A Scott.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H Crumbie, E Scott and F Tinsley.

Independent Persons:

Apologies for absence were received from N Johnson and A Simpson.

The Chair passed on congratulations to the Young People Team and Karla Fish who had been shortlisted for the Excellence in Fire and Emergency Awards, also Michelle Pike who would be attending the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards Ceremony on behalf of the Service.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 September 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2019 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 which reported that no correspondence had been received from government and other bodies relevant to the Authority in the reporting period (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 at the meeting held on 25 October 2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

A5 Member Attendance at Conference

The Authority considered a report of the Chair which provided feedback on the recent combined Fire Authority Conference held on 10 October 2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report were noted.

A6 National Emergency Services Memorial Ambassador

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) which sought permission for the CFO to become an ambassador for the National Emergency Services Memorial (NESM) (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

The request from the CFO to become an ambassador for the NESM was considered and approved.

A7 Integrated Risk Management Plan Summary

The Authority considered a report of the Policy Support Officer which detailed the 2020-2023 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), the proposals contained within the plan and the public consultation on it (for copy see file of minutes).

It was noted that changes had been made to the consultation dates since the report was published. The consultation would be postponed until 13 December 2019 due to purdah for the general election.

Members discussed facilitating IRMP presentations for resident groups, parish council meetings and AAP's.

Members suggested consideration of risk around planning applications and the Fire Authority being able to feed into the process at an early stage. Cllr Lee stressed the importance of being involved at planning stages to avoid issues and possible future incidents. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer Service Delivery confirmed that the Service are a statutory consultee on planning, the Business Fire Safety Team review and make comments on planning applications but do not have powers to enforce action until the development is complete and in use. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Service have a strong relationship with both Durham County Council and Darlington Borough Council planning teams and reassured members that the Service were able to respond to any part of the service area, no significant issues had been identified and if they were, appropriate action would be taken.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report were noted and the questions to form part of the consultation document were approved.

A8 Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21 – Technical Consultation

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer which informed members of the Authority's response to the technical consultation on the Local Government Finance Settlement 2020/21 (for copy see file of minutes).

Members discussed the comments around flexibility with council tax and potential budget risks moving forward.

Councillor Batey proposed that the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for 28 November 2019 be postponed until more information was available.

Resolved:

That the Authority's response to the consultation was noted.

A9 Any Other Business

The Chair noted that the Community Interest Company and Vital Fire Solutions Board Meeting would take place directly after the meeting and members were invited to attend.

A 10 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.

B 11

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which summarised the areas explored and debated at the CFA strategic planning day on Friday 11 October 2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report were noted.

B12 Any Other Business

The Chief Fire Officer provided a verbal update regarding the bonfire period. A full report would be prepared for the meeting on 19 December.

CLOSE OF MEETING