

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held remotely, on **Thursday 12 November 2020** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, Bell, R Bell, D Freeman, A Laing, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, G Richardson, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth, D Stoker, F Tinsley and J Turnbull.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones, and G Lee

Apologies for absence were received from C Carr, D Hicks, J Maitland, A Scott

Independent Person:

A Simpson and N Johnson

The Chair welcomed all to the remote live meeting.

The Chief Fire Officer gave an update on the work that had been undertaken over the bonfire period and noted that the usual report would be presented to the Fire Authority meeting in December.

The Chair and Vice Chair congratulated people for their achievements over the recent weeks. Those who have reached 20 and 30 years' service. The awards night in October had been postponed due to the current covid-19 situation. Congratulations to be those members of staff.

The Chair noted retired fire fighter and Fire Fighters Charity representative Harry Binyon had received the Fire Fighters Charity Lifetime Achievement Award, Chairman's Award from Durham County Council and British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours.

The Vice Chair informed the meeting that the service had won the "recruitment excellence award" in the North East Apprentice Awards. The award highlights employees who demonstrate innovation in their recruitment processes to ensure they have a diverse workforce.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2020 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 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 members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 28 October 2020. (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr Turnbull passed on thanks to the Treasurer and his team for their work.

Resolved:

The contents of the report were noted.

A5 Notes of the Finance Committee

The Authority received an update from the Chair of the Finance Committee which provided members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Finance Committee held on 29 October 2020. (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A6 Post Grenfell Tower: Actions Update

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management which provided members with an update on actions taken within CDDFRS in response to the national recommendations following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017.

Cllr Lee queried the use of smoke hoods. The Chief Fire Officer explained the training required and how the hoods are used in a rescue.

Resolved:

- a) the contents of the report be noted
- b) members agree to receive further updates as appropriate

A7 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Action Plan Update

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manger Assets and Assurance which gave members an update on the current position of the action plan resulting from the Service's inspection.

Cllr Lee queried the services identification of high-risk sites. The Chief Fire Officer noted that this had not been an area of improvement from HMICFRS, but the Service action plan looked at all areas that had arisen out of the inspection report.

Resolved:

- a) the contents of the report be noted
- b) members agree to receive further updates as appropriate

A8 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

A9 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.

PART B

B10 Strategic Planning Day

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an overview of the discussions that took place at the CFA Strategic Planning Day on Wednesday 7 October 2020.

Resolved:

- a) note and discuss the outcomes of the CFA Strategic Planning Day

B11 Service Restructure

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an update on the service restructure that had been introduced.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

B12 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

CLOSE OF MEETING