

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held remotely, on **Tuesday 15 December 2020** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors B Avery, A Batey, D Bell, R Bell, M Clarke, L Kennedy, A Laing, L Maddison, R Manchester, L Marshall, C Potts, J Robinson, E Scott, J Shuttleworth and J Turnbull.

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors H Crumbie, B Jones, G Lee and A Scott

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bell, C Carr, D Freeman, D Hicks, J Maitland, G Richardson, D Stoker, F Tinsley

Independent Person:

A Simpson and N Johnson

The Chair welcomed all to the remote live meeting.

The Chair greeted everyone with the following message:

“On behalf of the Vice Chair, Audrey, Chief Fire Officer, Stuart, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Steve, the Senior Leadership Team and myself, we all wish to express our wishes for a very Happy and Merry Christmas to everyone, and for 2021 to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year, and more importantly a Safe New year to you and all your family and friends.”

The Chair was delighted to announce the Service has won the Accenture Award for Recruitment Excellence at the National Apprenticeship Awards. This comes on the back of the Regional award that was announced last week and is a real accolade for the scheme. The Chair and the Vice Chair thanked all those who had assisted in the work of the ground breaking apprenticeship scheme.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 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 Performance Committee 24 November 2020

The Authority received a report to provide members with an updated on the discussion and recommendations of the Performance Committee held on 24 November 2020(for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair thanked Councillor Manchester for way in which he has chaired the committee

Resolved:

The contents of the report were noted.

A5 Performance Report – Quarter Two 2020/21

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management which provided members with a summary of organisational performance at the end of the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A6 Bonfire Period Activity 2020

The Authority were shown a presentation by the Area Manager, Community Risk Management which provided members a brief analytical overview of key facts, information, and activity over the annual bonfire period within County Durham, and Darlington (for copy see file of minutes).

The Chair asked if every member of staff who has been involved could be thanked.

Councillor Laing asked if we had the statistics available on the age group of young people who may be causing the problems identified. This information is not currently available. Information to be provided to the Fire Authority specifically on the areas of concern (High Handenhold and Peterlee).

Councillor Batey echoed concerns that residents need to understand the impact Bonfire Night had on the particular fire stations.

Resolved:

That the contents of the presentation be noted

A7 Update on Retained Duty System (RDS) Activities

The Authority considered a report from Councillor Shuttleworth as the Member Champion for Retained Duty Service (RDS) which provided members with an update and insight into the business areas and performance of the RDS with County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A8 Fire Standards Board

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an update on the Fire Standards Board's progress in developing national Fire Standards.

Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be noted
- b) Received further reports as appropriate

A9 Staffing Arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe

The Authority considered a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which provided members with an update on the staffing arrangements at Seaham and Newton Aycliffe fire stations, following the Combined Fire Authority decision on the 21 September 2020 to introduce a Day Crewing style duty system, in line with the 2020/21 Integrated Risk Management Plan, providing a collective agreement could be negotiated with the Fire Brigades Union.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A10 Fire and Rescue Incident Statistics: England, April 2019 to March 2020

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management to present a comparative analysis of key operational indicators within County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service against national performance data contained within one of the national reports published annually by the Home Office.

Councillor R Bell asked about the Service being the 10th busiest service in the country per 100,000 population. He queried which of all the stats are important in feeding into the funding model / feeding into what Inspectorate looks at / are some more important than others. For interest what do others do with the stats. The Area Manager outlined our population and explained this was a comparison. The Chief Fire Officer explained the stats do not necessarily feature within the current funding models, however, they presented an opportunity for lobbying around funding and also were used by the Service to explain the context in which we operate to the Inspectorate.

Councillor J Shuttleworth, regarding Item 18 and 5.2% more deliberate fires within the area asked where the deliberate fires were occurring. The Area Manager Community Risk Management confirmed the location of primary fires to the largest number being from the east coast.

Cllr H Crumbie informed members that Safe and Well Being Visits are having a positive impact in Darlington and helping to combat a rise in mental health issues with the community.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted and discussed.

A11 Spending Review 2020

The Authority considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive to inform members of the outcome of the Spending Review 2020 (SR20) and possible implications for the Authority.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted and the outcome of the SR20 and the possible implications for the Authority.

A12 Any other business

There was no other business.

A13 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

The Chief Fire Officer gave the members an update on the progress of Darlington Station, Training Centre and Sedgefield Fire Station. The Chief Fire Officer thanked all members for their support throughout the current estate's projects.

Councillor A Batey asked if a walk-through video of the projects could be created for everyone. All agreed.

B14 Fire Fatality

The Authority considered a presentation of Area Manager Assets and Assurance which provided members with an overview of the Fire Fatality in Chilton in November 2020.

Councillor Potts asked to pass on her thank to all the crews who were in attendance and hoped all crew members are okay following this incident.

Resolved:

That the contents of the presentation are noted.

B15 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

CLOSE OF MEETING