

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held **remotely**, on **Tuesday 16 March 2021** at 10.00 am.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

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

Darlington Borough Councillors:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Carr, D Freeman, D Hicks, A Laing, J Maitland, and F Tinsley

Independent Person:

N Johnson

Cllr John Robinson announced to those who did not already know the Service has been awarded Ambassador Status as part of the North East Better Health at Work award. The service was nominated for the additional recognition in light of the longstanding commitment to, and outstanding delivery of, workplace health and wellbeing.

Cllr John Robinson had been asked by the Labour members to pass on thanks to CFO Stuart Errington and all the service for the commitment they have done throughout the Covid pandemic and are continuing to do so. Cllr J Shuttleworth agreed on behalf of the other members.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2021 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 discussion and recommendation of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 25 February 2021.

Cllr John Turnbull thanked Tony Hope and his team for all their hard work they have done over this last year from the rest of the Committee.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A5 Notes of the Performance Committee

The Authority considered a report of the Chair of the Performance Committee which provided members with an update on the discussion and recommendations of the Performance Committee held on 1 March 2021.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A6 Performance Report Quarter Three 202/2021

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager, Community Risk Management which provided members a summary of organisational performance at the end of the third quarter of the 2020/21 financial year.

Cllr John Robinson commented on PI 34 where 99.1% of invoices were paid within 30 days. Congratulations to Tony Hope and to Keith and everybody else for an excellent report.

Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- b) Comment on the reported performance

A7 Localism Act – Pay Policy Statement 2021/22

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer and Clerk to seek approval of the pay policy statement for 2021/22 in accordance with the Localism Act 2011

Resolved:

- a) Approve the 2021/22 pay policy as set out at Appendix A
- b) Note that the statement will be published on the Authority's website

A8 Local Government (LGA) Subscription

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which provided members with details of the LGA subscription for 2021/22 and to seek a decision about continued membership.

Resolved:

To renew the LGA subscription for 2021/22.

A9 COVID-19 Additional Activities Stats

The Authority considered a report of the Area Manager Assets and Assurance which provided members with an update on the COVID-19 additional activities being complete by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS)

The Area Manager Assets and Assurance advised the members of the most updated numbers, since the report was produced.

The Chair thanked the Area Manager Assets and Assurance for everything he has undertaken and for being at the fore front of this work. It was noted that this was a brilliant report with a lot of commitment from our staff and the Fire Authority does appreciate it.

Resolved:

- a) to note the contents of the report.
- b) To receive further reports as appropriate.

A10 Community Safety Update

The Authority considered a report of Cllr Richard Manchester, Member Champion for Community Safety, to provide members an update on how Community Safety (CS) has been delivered or adapted in response to the Covid-18 pandemic and to encourage members to continue to promote and support prevention activities to keep our communities safe.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A11 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation 2021-2021 Interim Results

The Authority considered a report of the Policy Support Officer which gave members information regarding the results of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation which ends on 23 March 2021.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A12 Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Group Update

The Authority considered a report of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Member Champion to provide members with an overview of the work carried out by the Service's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group (EDIG).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A13 Any other business

There was no other business.

The Chair thanked members, those who are not standing for re-election, wishing them well and stated he was proud of the way the Fire Authority and the Service have worked together collectively as one. This was reinforced by Cllr Shuttleworth and Cllr Avery also stating how proud the Fire Authority is of the new Darlington fire station which is a magnificent structure. Members offered further congratulations to CFO Stuart Errington and his team.

A14 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

B 15 Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed members of those staff who have satisfactorily completed twenty years' service.

Resolved:

To approve that the names are submitted to the relevant Government Department for the award of the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

B 16 Fire Fatality

The Authority were shown a presentation from the Area Manager Community Risk Management on the Fire Fatality which occurred on 18 February 2021, 133 Bethune Avenue, Seaham.

Cllr J Bell thanked and praised those who were involved with this incident and it was agreed the Service had done everything possible to help.

Cllr Lee asked for an update regarding the Fire which happened recently in Heighington. It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer will speak with Cllr Lee outside this meeting

B17 Any Other Business

There was no other business

CLOSE OF MEETING