

At a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at **Darlington Fire Station**, on **Thursday 10 July 2021** at 10.00 am.

**Present:**

**Durham County Councillors:**

Councillors J Atkinson, B Avery, A Batey, R Bell, J Cairns, T Duffy, C Hampson, N Jones, L Kennedy, R Manchester, C Marshall, L Mavin, I McLean, M McGaun, J Quinn, S Quinn, G Richardson, K Rooney, J Shuttleworth, S Zair

**Darlington Borough Councillors:**

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Kellett

There were no substitutions.

**A1 Commendations**

AM K Wanley introduced the Chief Fire Officer's Commendations for the crew that attended an incident at Middleton in Teesdale.

Officers commended: CM Gary Lawson; FF Adam Holmes, FF Stephen Collinson, FF Craig Docherty, FF Ryan Meeson

AM K Wanley introduced the Chief Fire Officer's Commendations for the crew that attended a water rescue at Witton Gilbert.

Officers commended: CM Graham Liddle, FF Simon Davison.

**A2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**A3 Appointment of Chairs**

The Clerk outlined the standing orders under which the appointments can take place. Members were asked for nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority.

**Appointment of Chair**

Cllr R Bell proposed Cllr J Shuttleworth as Chair on behalf of the Joint Administration. This was seconded by Cllr L Mavin. Members agreed to appoint Cllr J Shuttleworth as Chair of the Combined Fire Authority.

**Appointment of Vice Chair**

Cllr J Shuttleworth proposed Cllr S Zair as Vice Chair on behalf of the Joint Administration. This was seconded by Cllr R Bell. Members agreed to appoint Cllr S Zair

Cllr J Shuttleworth thanked the CFA for his appointment and highlighted how well the CFA has worked on non-partisan lines for the benefit of communities and hopes this will continue into the future.

#### **A4 Appointment of Minority Party Spokesperson**

That Cllr C Marshall be appointed as minority party spokesperson. Cllr A Batey nominated Cllr C Marshall as Minority Party Spokesperson. This was seconded by Cllr C Hampson. Members agreed to appoint Cllr C Marshall.

#### **A5 Review of the Constitution**

The Authority received the report of the clerk on the annual review of the CFA Constitution which takes place prior to the Annual General Meeting each year.

#### **Resolved:**

- i that the contents of the report were noted
- ii the constitution was approved

#### **A6 Chairs and Committees**

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk which proposed the appointments of Chairs of the committees for 2021/22 (for copy see file of minutes).

#### **Resolved:**

- i Appoint Chairs for 2021/22 for:
  - a The chair of the appeals committee was agreed as Cllr Shuttleworth
  - b The chair of the Audit and Finance Committee was agreed as Cllr Bell
  - c The Chair of the Human Resources Committee was agreed as Cllr Mavin
  - d The Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee was agreed as Cllr Shuttleworth
  - e The Chair of the Pension Board was agreed as Cllr Shuttleworth
  - f The Chair of the Performance Committee was agreed as Cllr Avery
- ii The appointment of the Chair of the Authority as Chair to the Appointments Panel and Salary Review Group in accordance with the constitution Section 3, Paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively were agreed.
- iii The Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority and the appropriate group leader be authorised to make any changes to the Committee that may arise during 2021/22.

## **A7 Representation on Other Bodies 2021/22**

The Authority received the report of the clerk which sought agreement for the appointments process of Members of the Combined Fire Authority's to the Other Bodies for 2021/22 (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

- i The Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and appropriate Group Leader, to make appointments to the Other Bodies which the Authority are invited to nominate in accordance with the criteria that the appointment shall be in accordance with the overall political proportionality of the Authority was authorised.
- li The Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair and appropriate Group Leader, to make any changes to membership of the Other Bodies that may arise during 2021/22 was authorised.

## **A8 Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

## **A9 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).

Cllr R Bell raised the issue of implementing reform and CFO Errington advised this will be addressed in Item 12.

## **A10 Member Champions**

The Authority considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer which set out details of the Authority's Member Champion roles and seeks nominations for the individual roles for the forthcoming two-year period (for copy see file of minutes).

Action: Cllr R Bell asked for the names of the previous Member Champions to be circulated to assist with the nomination process.

## **A11 Community Risk Management Plan Consultation 2021 Results**

The Authority received a report regarding the results of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation which ended on 23 March 2021 (for copy see file of minutes).

### **Resolved:**

- a the contents of the report were noted
- b the survey results as part of the decision-making process when considering Service resources going forward were considered.

## **A12 Outcome of the Review of the Role of Police and Crime Commissioners – Report of Chief Fire Officer**

Members received a report of the Chief Fire Officer which outlined the outcome of the review into the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the forthcoming White Paper on Fire Reform and the potential implications for the Authority (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr R Bell raised his view that there was no clear rationale into PCCs becoming responsible for the Fire and Rescue Service and that reform should not destabilise the structures that work well, in particular that the CFA has excellent representation across Durham and Darlington which reflects the different localities and challenges each area faces. The CFA and Service can consider the areas that need reform and how we respond to these challenges at the Strategic Planning Day.

Cllr C Marshall stated that the CFA should work together to focus on the effect of reform for the public and how will potential changes save lives. He agreed with Cllr Bell that the PCC model has not yet shown its value. The CFA can use the Strategic Planning Day to come together and form a consensus about how to respond collectively.

Cllr J Shuttleworth encouraged everyone to attend the CFA Strategic Planning Day. Members agreed the report and to receive further reports once the White Paper on Fire Reform is produced later in the year.

### **Resolved:**

- a the report was noted
- b to receive further reports once the white paper on Fire Reform is produced later in the year.

## **A13 Any Other Business**

The Clerk called for comments on the government's remote meeting consultation which has a deadline of 17 June 2021. Please send comments to Kamila or telephone her if further assistance is required.

Cllr R Bell asked that the Authority send thanks to the previous Chair, Cllr J Robinson and Vice Chair, Cllr A Laing for their long service to the CFA and that they are remembered fondly.

#### **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 Request from the Assistant Chief Fire Officer to be Vice Chair of a School Governing Body**

The Authority received a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer seeking permission to become Vice Chair of Sedgefield Community College Governing Body in a voluntary capacity.

#### **Resolved:**

The report was noted.

#### **A16 National Fire Chiefs' Council, Industrial Relations Lead Role**

The Authority received a report from the Chief Fire Officer outlining the permission given to him to take on the Industrial Relations Lead Role for the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC) by the previous Chair and Vice Chair.

#### **Resolved:**

The report was noted.

#### **A17 Income Generation Opportunity**

The Authority received a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer which informed members of an income generation opportunity presented to Vital Fire Solutions (VFS) and to consider further capital investment at the Service Training Centre.

Cllr G Richardson asked about how many training facilities there are in the country and what is the view of the Deputy Chief Executive. ACFO Natrass advised that she is unaware of the number of training centres but each service has to make their own provision for training.

The Treasurer advised he has been fully informed regarding the proposal and whilst further due diligence may be required as the options are developed he is happy for the Service to proceed with this.

**Resolved:**

- a The report was noted
- b Delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer to approve additional capital expenditure at the STC up to a maximum of £250,000 in conjunction with the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer

**B 18 Fire fatality**

The Authority were shown a presentation from the Area Manager for Community Risk Management regarding a recent fire fatality.

**B19 Any Other Business**

Such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**