

Minutes of a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at **Fire and Rescue HQ, Durham** on **11 July 2022** at **10.00 am**.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors J Atkinson, A Batey, R Bell, J Blakey, T Duffy, C Hampson, B Kellet, R Manchester, L Mavin, M McGaun, I McLean, J Quinn, S Quinn, G Richardson, J Shuttleworth and S Zair

Darlington Borough Councillors:

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Cairns, N Jones, L Kennedy, C Marshall, K Rooney and K Shaw (substitute for L Kennedy).

Independent Persons:

No independent persons present.

The Chair informed the Authority that the Service had been placed 95th in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers national league table, which recognises England's leading apprenticeship employers for their overall commitment to employing apprentices, their creation of new apprenticeships, the diversity of their new apprentices, and the progression of their apprentices onto further apprenticeships and employment.

The Authority noted their thanks to staff.

A1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 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 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).

Discussion took place around grant funding and possible concerns for the Service. It was agreed that the Chief Fire Officer would coordinate a letter on behalf of the Authority outlining the concerns.

A4 Notes of the Performance Committee

The Authority received a report of the Chair of the Performance Committee which provided an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Committee held on 28 June 2022 (for copy see file of minutes).

The report was noted.

A5 Any other Business

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

The Chair noted acceptance on behalf of the Authority for the official notice of retirement from the Chief Fire Officer.

A6 Exclusion to 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

B7 Estates Update

The Authority received a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided an update on the latest position in relation to the Estates Improvement Plan.

Resolved:

Members approved the delegated authority to accept a tender in excess of the approved budget provided this represents value for money to the Authority.

B8 Firefighters Pension Scheme – Immediate Detriment Update

All uniformed officers left the meeting.

The Authority received a report of the Treasurer which provided an update in relation to the immediate detriment cases under the McCloud/Sargeant ruling and sought a further delegation to consider progressing the cases if and when additional information became available.

Resolved:

- i. Members **noted** the report.
- ii. Members **agreed** to receive further updates as necessary.
- iii. Members **agreed** to an amended delegation of authority to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk to determine whether to progress Category One or Category Two immediate detriment cases once a greater understanding of the financial and legal risk is understood.

B9 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