

Minutes of a **meeting** of the **Combined Fire Authority for County Durham and Darlington** held at **Fire and Rescue HQ, Durham** on **9 December 2022** at **10.00 am**.

Present:

Durham County Councillors:

Councillors J Atkinson, A Batey, R Bell, J Cairns, T Duffy, C Hampson, B Kellet, L Kennedy, C Marshall, L Mavin, M McGaun, E Peeke, J Quinn, S Quinn, K Rooney, K Shaw, J Shuttleworth, S Zair

Darlington Borough Councillors:

Councillors B Jones, C McEwan

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Jones, R Manchester, G Richardson, K Rooney, A Scott and G Lee

Independent Persons:

N Johnson

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and Cllr C McEwan who had recently been elected to the Authority in place of Cllr Crumbie. The Chair thanked Cllr Crumbie for her contribution to the Fire Authority, her support for the Service and the work she has done over the last four years.

The Chair noted that last night the service had won the Public Service Award at the Northern Echo County Durham Together Awards.

A1 Chief Fire Officer Commendations

Director of Emergency Response, Sarah Natrass introduced the Chief Fire Officer's Commendations.

WM Graeme Hall, CM Ali Hetherington, FF Dave Cullen, FF Ian Harris, FF Scott Walters and FF Stephen Hall received a commendation for their rapid teamwork, determination and time critical actions which resulted in saving a gentleman's life in a suicide attempt.

A2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

A3 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair (for copy see file of minutes).

A4 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 and those letters sent to government and other bodies (for copy see file of minutes).

A5 Changes in Membership

The Clerk provided a verbal update formally noting that Cllr McEwan has been appointed under delegated powers in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Leader of Darlington Borough Council.

A6 Minor Amendment to the Constitution

The Authority received a report of the Director of People and Organisational Development, Katherine Metcalfe which sought approval for a proposed minor amendment to the CFA's constitution (for copy see file for minutes).

Resolved:

- i) The contents of the report were noted
- ii) The report was approved

A7 Bonfire Report 2022

The Authority received a report from the Director of Community Risk Management, Keith Carruthers which provided members with the outcomes of the activities conducted by County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service and their partners as part of a deliberate fire reduction strategy over the bonfire period 25 October to 7 November 2022 (for copy see file of minutes).

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

A8 Serious Violence Duty

The Authority received a report from the Director of Community Risk Management, Keith Carruthers which provided members with information relating to the new Serious Violence duty outlined in new legislation under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (for copy see file of minutes).

Cllr McEwan queried how the service would respond to the Act. K Carruthers noted that a strategic board had been established across County Durham and Darlington and that they were undertaking a strategic needs assessment. Much of the work was likely to be delivered from the existing partnerships in place.

A9 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 thanked the Chief Fire Officer for his dedication and service to the Authority and wished him well with his retirement.

The Chief Fire Officer thanked members for their support.

A10 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

B11 Update on Pay and Industrial Action

The Authority received a report of the Chief Fire Officer which informed members of the latest position in relation to the Fire Brigades Union pay claim and the possibility of industrial action (for copy see file of minutes).

Members discussed and commented on the report.

Resolved:

- i) The contents of the report were noted
- ii) To receive further updates if the business continuity plan is implemented

B12 Estates Update

The Authority received a report of the Director of Corporate Resources, Keith Lazzari which informed members of the latest position relating to service wide estates (for copy see file of minutes).

Members discussed and commented on the report.

Resolved:

That the contents of the report be noted.

CLOSE OF MEETING