



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

17 JULY 2018

MEMBER CHAMPIONS, MEMBER BUDDY SYSTEM AND AFFILIATION WITH FIRE STATIONS

REPORT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER – SERVICE DELIVERY

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out details of two new Member Champion roles and confirms the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) contacts for the Member 'Buddy' arrangements and the fire station affiliation list.

Member Champion Roles

2. As part of the approach to developing the Authority's services and engaging with stakeholders, the Authority has sought to 'champion' particular areas of work through a Combined Fire Authority (CFA) Member Champion role.
3. Member Champions provide the Service with an opportunity to work closely with individual Members to help to develop services and to engage with local communities, staff, councillors and other stakeholders through a closely aligned officer and member relationship.
4. Following the introduction of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescues Services (HMICFRS) and the Dame Judith Hackitt Review on the tragic events that occurred at Grenfell Tower in London, two additional Member Champion roles have been identified as equally significant to the Authority and Service; HMICFRS and Business Fire Safety (BFS).
5. At the CFA meeting on 11 June 2018 expressions of interest were requested for the two new Member Champion roles for the next 12 months. Following the closing date for expressions of interest the following members were chosen by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority for each of the new areas and will be the Member Champions for the next 12 months;
 - HMICFRS – Cllr Brian Jones
 - BFS – Cllr Paul Howell

SLT Member 'Buddy' System and Fire Station Affiliations

6. The Authority's vision of Safest People, Safest Places can only be achieved through members, staff and the public working in partnership. Part of the Authority's commitment to partnership working is through the Buddy System where Fire Authority Members are

affiliated with specific SLT members (referred to as 'Officers') and Fire Stations throughout County Durham and Darlington. The benefits of this system are:

- Closer links between members, local stations and staff;
 - Improved communications between members, officers and staff;
 - Improved understanding of roles and responsibilities between members and officers;
 - Improved opportunity for partnership working through member involvement.
7. Station personnel will be made aware of their affiliated member and Members are encouraged to visit their affiliated station (or any fire station within County Durham and Darlington area) but are requested to contact a member of the district management team in the first instance to ensure that crews are planned to be on-station when a visit occurs. This will maximise the effectiveness and benefits of any visit for both staff and members alike.
 8. The member/station affiliation programme provides an opportunity for Fire Authority members to enhance local accountability through maintaining regular contact with an operational fire station and facilitates a fuller understanding of their Emergency Response activity and wider workstreams such as Business Fire Safety and Community Safety.
 9. Member buddies provide an alignment of CFA members to members of the SLT, to provide information and support on a range of Service policy and organisational issues.
 10. Designated SLT Buddies will make themselves available to members for the purpose of developing their overall knowledge of the fire and rescue service. SLT Buddies will look to ensure support is provided in a way that suits the individual Member.

Recommendations

11. CFA Members are requested to:
 - **Agree** the new Member Champion roles for the next 12 months.
 - **Note** the Member Buddy and Station Affiliation list as set out in Appendices A and B.

Dominic Brown, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Service Delivery, 0191 375 5610