



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF POLICY COMMITTEE FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2009

PRESENT: **CHAIRMAN**
Councillor Porley – Middlesbrough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-
Councillor R Payne
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-
Councillors O'Donnell, Woodhead
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Forster, Ovens
BRIGADE OFFICERS:-
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Community Protection, Head of Planning & Democratic Services
PROPER OFFICERS:-
Deputy Legal Adviser, Treasurer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Patterson – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

86. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no declarations of interest were submitted to the meeting.

87. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2009

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the Policy Meeting held on 11 September 2009 be confirmed.

88. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/11 – Adoption of the Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the Management of Incidents in Industrial Complexes – Results of Consultation

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the results of the consultation in relation to the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2008/11 proposals, namely the Adoption of the Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the Management of Incidents in Industrial Complexes and the removal of one pumping appliance from Billingham Fire Station.

The Chief Fire Officer stated that the consultation period had commenced on 11 August 2009 and ended on 3 November 2009. The consultation process included any person or organisation who may have had a legitimate interest in the proposals under consideration, or who may have been affected by the proposals.

**88. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/11 – Adoption of the Emergency
Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the Management of Incidents
in Industrial Complexes – Results of Consultation cont**

This included:

- The general public, council tax payers households etc
- Community organisations including specific community groups
- Public Representatives including MPs
- Business and Partner Organisations
- Local Authorities including LSP, CDRP's
- Public agencies and other emergency services
- Employees and their representatives

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that two JCC Meetings had been held regarding the consultation, one had been held earlier in the day during which he believed that the FBU had informed the meeting that 407 objections to the removal of an appliance from Billingham had been received and that the FBU reminded Members of their responsibilities as Fire Authority Members.

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the following responses received regarding the consultation process:

- Network Rail
- Cleveland Police Emergency Planning Unit
- FBU
- A member of staff
- Members of the public

The Chief Fire Officer highlighted the key considerations for Members:

- The safety of the public and emergency responders is not compromised
- Existing high quality service standards are maintained
- Under-utilisation of fire service resources is reduced; operations are more efficient and effective
- Reasonable steps have been taken to ensure economic development and social growth of the Billingham area will not be compromised by the proposal

Councillor Payne asked what would be the effect of changes to the second appliance response time. The Director of Community Protection explained that at that stage in the incident a second appliance would not be committed until a risk assessment had been carried out identifying the hazards involved and that by the time that this was completed further appliances would be in attendance.

Councillor Payne asked that if the removal of an appliance from Billingham was timely and why it had not been pursued previously. The Chief Fire Officer stated that the loss of any appliance was regrettable but that 14 proposals had been identified 2 years ago formulating the IRMP and it had been agreed that these would be evaluated on a systematic basis in order to ascertain their value in assisting the Authority with the required £2 million of efficiency savings.

88. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/11 – Adoption of the Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the Management of Incidents in Industrial Complexes – Results of Consultation cont**

He added that in the current financial climate and the national drive for efficiency, the CFA would be advised to regard the removal of an appliance from Billingham, in the interests of achieving value for money.

Councillor Ovens commented that mention had been made at the earlier JCC Meeting regarding retained stations not being operational due to shortage in personnel. The Chief Fire Officer explained that the percentage of coverage on retained stations depended largely upon their location as in East Cleveland, retained stations were operational over 90% of the time, whilst in Yarm, there had been difficulty in recruiting Firefighters into retained positions, however this situation is improving.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that if there was a major incident and 20 appliances were required to be sent to Seal Sands then 'closing arrangements' are in place with other Fire and Rescue Services.

Members agreed with the recommendations contained in the report.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) that the comments raised in the consultation responses at Appendix 1 of the report on the IRMP proposals be noted, namely:**
 - a. the adoption of a specific risk based Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the management of incidents in Industrial Complexes, including the response standards.**
 - b. the removal of one pumping appliance from Billingham Fire Station in order to achieve the most efficient and effective Fire and Rescue Service operations (subject to the Concept of Operations above being approved).**
- (ii) that in light of the consultation results, Members did not wish to recommend any amendments to the proposals.**
- (iii) that the proposals as outlined in (i) above be recommended for approval and implementation to the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting on 27 November 2009.**

89. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006

RESOLVED - "That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006".

Minute Number 90

Paragraph 3 – namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

90. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2009 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR PETER PORLEY
CHAIRMAN**