
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

15 OCTOBER 2021



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Cllr Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Tom Cassidy, Ben Clayton, Tim Fleming

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Teresa Higgins, Naweed Hussain

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr Cliff Foggo

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Luke Frost, Lynn Hall, Steve Matthews, Jean O'Donnell,

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Chief Fire Officer, ACFO - Strategic Planning & Resources, ACFO - Community Protection, Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Jon Rathmell, Ashley Waters - Middlesbrough Council

Councillor Mary Ovens – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

The Chair presented former Authority Members Councillor William Woodhead MBE and Marjorie James with a token of appreciation for their long service and commitment to the Brigade.

55. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no Declarations of Interest were submitted to the meeting.

56. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of 30 July 2021 be confirmed.

57. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive (Appeals) Committee on 30 July 2021, Audit & Governance Committee on 27 August 2021, Executive Committee on 17 September 2021 and Special Executive Committee on 8 October 2021 be confirmed.

58. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

LGA

Immediate Detriment

Green Book Pay Negotiations

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

59. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

59.1 Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) provided Members with a detailed presentation on the draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-26, as required by the Home Office Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England, May 2018.

He reported that the draft CRMP (Appendix A), the Corporate Plan and the Vision bring together the strategic planning work that has been undertaken by the Brigade. This includes the following insight work approved by the Authority in July 2021: Community Risk Profile; 'Changing Landscapes'- environmental scanning exercise; Performance Report 2020/21; and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022-24.

In addition, the HMICFRS inspection report; internal audit and evaluation reports; and community and staff feedback also contribute to providing valuable insight to ensure any evidence-based medium to long term future challenges are mitigated and opportunities are grasped.

The CFO reported that the Plan, which was considered by the Executive Committee at a Special meeting on 8 October 2021, aims to achieve the Authority's corporate objective 'to minimise fire and rescue related risks in the community' and takes account of the Authority's difficult and uncertain financial situation, as detailed within section 5 of the report.

Members considered the 9 risk management proposals up to 2026 in detail, which were:-

- 1) To develop our approach to risk management to reflect good practice and improve the safety, health, wellbeing and economic prosperity of our communities
- 2) To build on our successful approach to helping people stay safe in their homes
- 3) To tackle arson and deliberate fires
- 4) To ensure our prevention activities remain efficient, effective and deliver value for money
- 5) To enhance our risk-based approach to support businesses to keep their buildings safe in line with the Fire Safety Order 2005
- 6) To be better prepared to deal with incidents involving buildings where the height can have serious impact on firefighting and evacuation
- 7) To ensure that our firefighters plan and prepare to respond effectively to operational incidents including those across our borders.
- 8) To develop options for improving the efficient deployment of our emergency response resources to flexibly meet current and future risks and demands
- 9) To be 'Better Together – Working in Partnership'

The CFO reported that the draft Plan would be subject to a period of consultation commencing 29 October 2021 – 21 January 2022, as detailed at Appendix B. Stakeholder feedback would be presented to the Authority in March 2022 for final approval.

Members conveyed thanks to the ACFO-Strategic Planning & Resources for producing an excellent Plan and supporting documents.

59.1 Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 cont.

RESOLVED – That, as recommended by the Executive Committee on 8 October 2021, Members:

- noted the strategic planning activities and sources of insight associated with the development of the draft CRMP 2022 -2026, as set out in Section 4 of this report
- noted the medium term financial position, as set out in paragraphs 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 of this report
- approved the draft CRMP 2022-26 attached as Appendix A for consultation
- approved the draft CRMP 2022-26 Consultation Plan attached as Appendix B
- received further reports following the consultation period

59.2 Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22

The CFO presented the Modern Slavery Statement for 2021/22 (Appendix 1) which set out the steps taken by the Authority to prevent modern slavery in both its business and supply chains. This forms part of the Brigade's well embedded safeguarding arrangements across service delivery, recruitment and selection and procurement activities.

The CFO referred Members to section 4 of the report which outlined the six reporting areas required by the Home Office statutory guidance. He confirmed that while the Authority currently publishes this information voluntarily in line with good practice, an amendment to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 will make it mandatory that public bodies file their statements with a central registry in the future.

RESOLVED – That the Modern Slavery Statement 2021/22 be approved.

59.3 Information Pack

59.3.1 Campaigns

RESOLVED – That the Information Pack be noted.

60. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

60.1 Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22

The Treasurer presented an update to the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22, which had been scrutinised by the Audit & Government Committee on 27 August 2021. He referred Members to the report at Appendix 1 which covered:

- Economic Background and Outlook for Interest Rates
- Interest Rate Forecasts
- Treasury Management Outturn Position 2020/21 and 2021/22 Mid Year Review
- Borrowing Strategy 2021/22
- Investment Strategy 2021/22
- Minimum Revenue Provision and Interest Costs / Regulatory Information 2021/22
- Borrowing and Prudential Indicators

60.1 Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 cont.

The Treasurer reported that the only proposed change to the strategy approved by the Authority on 26 March was in relation to Voluntary Revenue Payments, as detailed in the recommendations.

RESOLVED – That Members approve the following update to the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy, as recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee on 27 August 2021:-

i) Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement

- For capital expenditure incurred before 1st April, 2008 the Authority's MRP policy is to calculate MRP in accordance with former CLG Regulations. This is 4% of the Capital Financing Requirement except where the Authority makes Voluntary Revenue Payments (VRP) which is in excess of the amount required by these regulations, based on asset life.
- From 1st April, 2008 the Authority calculates MRP based on asset life for all assets or where prudential borrowing is financed by a specific annuity loan, MRP will be calculated according to the actual annuity loan repayments.
- The Treasurer may determine to make Voluntary Revenue Provision payments to reduce the Authority's overall Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) if it is in the best financial interests of the Authority

61. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

61.1 Amendment to Delegation Scheme

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) provided an update on proposed minor amendments to the Authority's Delegation Scheme in respect of Operations and Fire Safety.

He reported that the amendments reflected recent structural changes to the Brigade's fire safety department and the National Fire Engineering Competency Framework for Fire Safety Regulators. This requires the development, maintenance and demonstration of competence of staff who regulate fire safety standards in all premises to which the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order), 2005 applies.

The amendments were highlighted in yellow under the following sections of Operational and Fire Safety within the Delegation Scheme:

- 1.3 Fire Safety Legal Proceedings
- 1.5 Fire Safety Enforcement
- 1.7 Emergency Planning Functions

RESOLVED – That the amendments to the Authority's Delegation Scheme relating to Powers 1.3, 1.5 and 1.7, as highlighted in yellow, be approved.

62. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (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 items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 & 3 of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely information relating to an individual; and information that is likely to reveal the identity of an individual; and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.”
63. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS**
RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive (Appeals) Committee on 30 July 2021 and Executive Committee on 17 September 2021 be confirmed.

COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON
CHAIR