

# CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

6 DECEMBER 2024



**PRESENT:**

**CHAIR**

Cllr David Coupe – Middlesbrough Council

**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Gary Allen, Bob Buchan, Ben Clayton

**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs John Kabuye, Naweed Hussain, Dennis McCabe

**REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Peter Chaney, Steve Kay, David Taylor

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Cllrs Jim Beall, Stefan Houghton, Andrew Sherris, Mick Stoker

**AUTHORISED OFFICERS**

Chief Fire Officer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer, Treasurer,  
Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Community Protection

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillor Mary Ovens – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

Councillor Sufi Mubeen – Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

**66. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

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

**67. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – that the Minutes of proceedings of the Ordinary Meeting of 18 October 2024 be confirmed.**

**68. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 15 November 2024 and Audit & Governance Committee on 22 November 2024 be confirmed.**

**69. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR**

No communications were received by the Chair.

**70. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**70.1 Annual Statement of Assurance 2023/24**

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) presented the Authority's Annual Statement of Assurance 2023/24 containing details relating to financial, governance and operational matters.

**70.1 Annual Statement of Assurance 2023/24 cont.**

This document is a statutory requirement produced in line with the requirements of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2012 and had been scrutinised by the Audit & Governance Committee on 22 November 2024.

The CFO informed Members that the style of the document had been refreshed to make the information more accessible while still capturing the spirit of the Framework and was indicative of how Brigade's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2026-2030 would look. Members supported the new look of the Statement and suggested that a summary version could be produced to capture the key points to display in public places to encourage greater reach within the community.

**RESOLVED – That, as recommended by the Audit & Governance Committee on 22 November, the Annual Statement of Assurance 2023/24 be approved.**

**70.2 Information Pack**

- 70.2.1 Employers Circulars
- 70.2.2 Campaigns
- 70.2.3 HMICFRS Chief & Chairs Event, London
- 70.2.4 NFCC Council Meeting

**RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted.**

**71. 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 item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, namely information relating to any individual; information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information and namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority."

**72. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

**That the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee on 15 November 2024 be confirmed.**

**73. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**73.1 Cleveland Fire Brigade's HMICFRS Inspection 2023-25 – verbal update**

The CFO provided Members with an update on the progress of the Brigade's third round inspection following the Hot Debrief on 28 November 2024.

**74. CONFIDENTIAL JOINT REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND TREASURER**

**74.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2026/27**

Members considered an update of the Authority's Medium Term Financial Strategy and details of the proposed timetable for setting the 2025/26 budget and council tax.

**COUNCILLOR DAVID COUPE  
CHAIR**