
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

3 JULY 2026



AGENDA ITEM 4

PRESENT:

CHAIR

Councillor David Coupe – Middlesbrough Council

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillors Peter Chaney

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Mick Stoker

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Interim Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Treasurer

ACFO - Director of Strategic Planning, People & Resources

Temporary ACFO - Director of Service Delivery

BRIGADE OFFICERS

Assistant Director of Governance & Assurance

Assistant Director of Assets

Temporary Area Manager – Prevention, Protection & Training

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Dennis McCabe – Middlesbrough Council

Treasurer

Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer

41. QUORACY

The Chair noted that the Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee required four Members to be present to achieve quoracy. As only three Members were in attendance he agreed to proceed with the meeting and consider the business, making recommendations to the next meeting where approval was required.

42. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

43. MINUTES

RECOMMENDED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 3 July 2026 and Executive (Appeals) Committee on 31 July 2026 be noted and confirmed at the meeting on 28 November 2026.

44. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

44.1 Service Plan Priorities 2026/27: Progress Update

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Strategic Planning, People & Resources (ACFO-SPP&R) provided Members with an update on the progress of the priorities contained in the 2026/27 Service Plan.

She informed Members that the 25 priorities included those ongoing from the previous plan, newly identified priorities from the 2026-30 CRMP and had been overlayed with assurance from the NFCC Fire Standard required outcomes. This was monitored by ELT via a detailed workbook and the progress to date was summarised at Appendix 1.

The Temporary Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Service Delivery (T/ACFO-SD) highlighted issues relating to the new Community Safety System which was currently being embedded. He reported that a suggestions log was currently available for crews to feedback any issues to DDAT with the option of holding development days as required.

The ACFO-SPP&R reported that the Brigade's Website had been added to the Corporate Risk Register following a complaint relating to broken links. She gave Members assurance that these had been fixed to ensure the Authority's statutory duties continued to be fulfilled.

RESOLVED – That the progress against the 2026/27 Service Plan Priorities be noted.

44.2 HMICFRS Inspection 2023-25: Progress on Areas for Improvement (AFIs)

Members received an update on the progress of the 16 areas for improvement (AFIs) that were identified by HMICFRS in the Brigade's third round inspection report covering 2023-25.

The ACFO-SPP&R referred to the detailed work book summarised at Appendix 1 and noted that of the 16 AFIs:

- 4 were complete
- 6 were progressing to plan
- 5 progressing with issues
- 1 progressing with significant issues

In addition, she reported that the area of 'protecting the public through fire regulation, specifically by ensuring an effective quality assurance process so staff can carry out audits to an appropriate standard', was signed off by ELT on 10 August 2026.

Members were assured that ELT would continue regular scrutiny of the progress against the AFIs in liaison with the Service Improvement Officer.

The ICFO informed Members that he was awaiting the announcement of the new Service Liaison Lead (SLL) and would share this with Members once confirmed.

RESOLVED – That progress against the HMICFRS Areas for Improvement (AFIs), detailed at Appendix 1, be noted.

44.3 Health & Safety Policy

Members received the revised Health & Safety Policy which had been reviewed in line with the annual review schedule to ensure legal compliance and alignment with current policies and procedures.

The ICFO highlighted the strengthened focus on contaminants exposure which supports the Authority's commitment to managing emerging and foreseeable occupational health risks affecting fire and rescue service personnel.

He confirmed that the trade unions had been consulted and feedback received was considered and incorporated, where appropriate, as part of the review process.

The Chair confirmed that the new fire appliances purchased by the Authority were built with clean cabs.

RECOMMENDED - That the Health & Safety Policy be noted and approved by the Executive Committee on 28 November 2026.

44.4 Project Aspect: Service Delivery Update

The ICFO provided an update on the progress of Project Aspect - the internal project team commissioned to examine and recommend proposals to address the financial deficit. He reported that the 12-week consultation on the proposed cuts, approved by the Authority on 24 July 2026, was now underway and will run from 3 September until 26 November with 96 responses received to date.

He outlined the extensive public and staff engagement schedule taking place throughout the consultation period and noted that the Fire Brigade's Union's (FBU) own campaign against the proposed cuts would be running parallel and this had received over 3k signatures to date.

He reported that Project options work, including project initiation documents, Equality Impact Assessments and implementation plans, was underway for the staffing officer role, catering provision, light and flexi vehicles, additional hours and disturbance allowances with project leads allocated to undertake each area.

The ICFO reported that he and the Chair had written to all the local MPs and invited them to attend a session on Friday 2 October to go through the proposals. He added that an Extraordinary CFA meeting had been scheduled for Friday 2 November to update Members on the progress to date.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the progress of the Project Aspect service delivery, specifically the public and staff consultation.

45. **Local Government (access to information) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006** “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, 2, 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 an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority) holding that information and 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.”
46. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
RECOMMENDED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee on 7 July and Executive (Appeals) Committee on 31 July 2026 be noted and confirmed at the meeting on 28 November 2026.
47. **CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**
- 47.1 **Procurement Update Report**
Members received details relating to contract letting procedures, exemptions to contract procedure rules and future procurement plans.

COUNCILLOR DAVID COUPE
CHAIR