

CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

1 AUGUST 2025



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Cllr David Coupe – Middlesbrough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Gary Allen, Bob Buchan, Chris Wallace

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs John Kabuye, Dennis McCabe

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Peter Chaney, Mary Ovens

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer

Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Strategic Planning & Resources

Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Community Protection

IN ATTENDANCE

Martyn Pullin, Partner, Restructuring Advisory (FRP Advisory Trading Limited)

OBSERVING

Nick Cain – Fire Brigades Union

Simon Wilson – UNISON

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Naweed Hussain – Middlesbrough Council

Councillor Steve Kay – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council

24. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

25. JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, TREASURER AND LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

25.1 Cleveland Fire Brigade Risk Management Services Community Interest Company (CFBRMS C.I.C.) – Financial Update

Members received a report outlining the current financial position of the Cleveland Fire Brigade Risk Management Services Community Interest Company (the CIC) following the decision of the CIC Board that it is no longer financially viable and will be liquidated.

The Treasurer provided Members with background information reporting that the CIC was established in 2011 and is 100% owned by Cleveland Fire Authority. In accordance with The Community Interest Regulations 2005, the company operated to benefit the community with 65% of net profits being distributed to good causes and 35% either reinvested in the business or held as working capital.

25.1 Cleveland Fire Brigade Risk Management Services Community Interest Company (CFBRMS C.I.C.) – Financial Update cont.

As initial subscribers to the Memorandum of Association, the Authority is the sole member of the CIC with financial liability being limited to £1 in the event of being wound up.

In response to continuing significant financial challenges the CIC appointed external advisors FRP Advisory Trading Limited to determine whether it could be sold which identified no viable options. Therefore, the Board of Directors resolved that the company could no longer continue to trade with effect of 31 July 2025 putting 38 employees at risk of redundancy with 8 potentially able to rely on a TUPE transfer.

The Treasurer outlined the financial impact on the Authority as detailed below:

- Working Capital Loan - operational vehicle £423,621 (fully paid)
- Working Capital Loan - Command Solutions £150,000 (£66,060 outstanding)
- Service Level Agreement 2024/25 plus part 2025/26 £54,349 (£39,959 outstanding)
- Total Amount outstanding £66,019.93 (including £40,000 received in previous years)

Martyn Pullin, FRP Advisory Trading Ltd, provided Members with a detailed timeline of events and confirmed the next stages of the process. He also provided Members with the opportunity to ask questions under closed session (Min No. 27.1 refers).

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted.
- (ii) That the recommendation of the CIC Board to put the company into liquidation be approved.
- (iii) That the Chair of the Authority be authorised to sign such documentation to facilitate the actions under sub clause ii) above.
- (iv) That Members approved the write off of £66,019.93 owed to the Authority to be funded from investment income which exceeds the budget forecast for the current year.

26. 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 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 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."

27.1 CFBRMS C.I.C. Financial Update - Confidential Discussion

Members had the opportunity to ask the liquidators questions under a closed session.

**COUNCILLOR DAVID COUPE
CHAIR**