
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

27 MARCH 2026



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Cllr David Coupe – Middlesbrough Council

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Naweed Hussain, Dennis McCabe

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Peter Chaney, Mary Ovens, Steve Kay, David Taylor (late)

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Treasurer

ACFO - Director of Service Delivery

Area Manager – Assistant Director of Operations

BRIGADE OFFICERS

SM Martyn Ford – Fleet & Equipment Manager

SM Neal Moses – Operational Support Manager

APOLOGIES:

Chief Fire Officer

Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer

ACFO - Director of Strategic Planning, People & Resources

Area Manager – Assistant Director of Prevention, Protection & Planning

Assistant Director of Governance & Assurance

Assistant Director of Assets

Cllrs Gary Allen, Bob Buchan – Hartlepool Borough Council

Cllr John Kabuye – Middlesbrough Council

111. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

112. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of proceedings of the Ordinary meeting on 13 February 2026 be confirmed.

113. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee on 20 February and Executive and Executive (Appointments) Committees on 6 March 2026 be confirmed.

114. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

No communications were received by the Chair.

115. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

115.1 Foam Capability / New Appliances Presentations

Members received detailed presentations by SM Martyn Ford and SM Neal Moses showcasing the Authority's recent investment in Foam Capability and the new fire appliances.

The Chair expressed thanks on behalf of Members for the insightful presentations and for the opportunity to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of the importance of these significant investments.

RESOLVED - That Members noted the presentation.

115.2 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2026-30

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Delivery (ACFO-SD) presented Members with the final Community Risk Management Plan 2026-30 (Appendix 1) which had been developed to ensure the Authority continues to comply with its statutory duties and works towards achieving its purpose 'Protecting People, Places and Futures'. It also took cognisance of the Authority's medium term financial position and sets out risk management proposals for the next four years.

The ACFO-SD reported that four-week pre-consultation evidence gathering exercise had been carried out in June 2025. This was considered good practice and received 1125 responses. This feedback was evaluated and fed into the Draft CRMP which was co-created with Heads of Department prior to consultation.

He referred Members to the Consultation Findings Report at Appendix 2 which gave assurances that the exercise was sufficiently extensive and the scope was proportionate to the nature and extent of the changes proposed and satisfied Equality Impact Assessment requirements (Appendix 3).

The ACFO-SD also reported that since the draft CRMP was published for consultation the Authority had received a three-year financial settlement for 2026/27 - 2028/29 which was reflected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved by the Authority on 13 February 2026. Therefore, the CRMP had been updated to reflect this position.

Councillor Beall acknowledged the extensive work that had gone into producing the substantial document and asked if there was a plan to make a summary version. The ACFO-SD said ELT was considering producing a 'plan on a page' version to share with the community.

The CRMP will be implemented from 1 April 2026 and covers the period up to 31 March 2030.

115.2 Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2026-30 cont.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That Members noted the details of the consultation exercises in relation to the Authority’s draft CRMP proposals 2026-30 as set out in Sections 5 and 6 of this report and in the Consultation Findings Report at Appendix 2.**
- (ii) That Members noted the updated medium term financial position, the continued uncertainty in future funding which was set out in full in the Authority’s Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27-2028/29 that was approved by the Fire Authority on 13 February 2026.**
- (iii) That, in light of the Authority’s comprehensive risk assessments, financial position and consultation exercise, Members approved the CRMP 2026-30 as attached at Appendix 1 for publication and implementation on 1 April 2026.**

(1440) Councillor David Taylor joined the meeting.

115.3 Information Pack

- 115.3.1 National Joint Circulars
- 115.3.2 Campaigns
- 115.3.3 Workers Memorial Day Service
- 115.3.4 LGA Annual Fire Conference & Exhibition 2026

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted.

116. REPORT OF THE CLERK

116.1 Calendar of Meetings 2026/27

Members considered the proposed schedule of Cleveland Fire Authority meetings for the municipal year of 2026/27. The ACFO-SD confirmed that the dates were aligned to the Authority’s business planning calendar and would be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 5 June 2026.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting schedule for 2026/27 at Appendix 1.

117. REPORTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER & MONITORING OFFICER

117.1 Pay Accountability – Pay Policy Statement 2026/27

The Treasurer reported that in line with the provisions set out in the Localism Act 2011, the Authority had a statutory duty to prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year relating to:

- the remuneration of its chief officers
- the remuneration of its lowest paid employees
- the relationship between:
 - the remuneration of its chief officers and
 - the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers

117.1 Pay Accountability – Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 cont.

He referred to the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 at Appendix 1, which had been considered by the Executive Committee on 6 March 2026, and outlined the key changes which included:

- Firefighter (Development) - £30,384 (pay award pending 1 July 2026).
- Non-operational employees Grade B (Development) - £24,413 (pay award pending 1 April 2026).

The Treasurer reported that the Government's National Living Wage sets a minimum wage for all workers aged 25 years and over of £12.71 per hour, which equated to an annual salary of £24,521.29, which was lower than the Authority's lowest paid employees Grade B (Development) which is currently £24,796 (pay award pending April 2026).

He added that the annual salaries for the CFO and ACFOs, which had previously been only available in the Statement of Accounts, were now contained within the Pay Policy Statement along with that for the Treasurer and Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED - That Members approved Cleveland Fire Authority's Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 for publication.

117.2 Independent Persons Appointment

Members received details of the recent recruitment activities to appoint an Independent Person to the Audit & Governance Committee in line with the requirements of The Localism Act 2011. The Executive (Appointments) Committee held a panel on 6 March 2026 and following robust questioning of two candidates, recommended the appointment of Mr Dennis Hall for a four year term office from 1 April 2026.

RESOLVED – That, as recommended by the Executive (Appointments) Committee on 6 March 2026, Mr Dennis Hall be appointed as the Independent Person to the Cleveland Fire Authority from 1 April 2026 for a four year term of office.

118. 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."

119. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive and Executive (Appointments) Committees meeting on 6 March 2026 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR DAVID COUPE
CHAIR**