C L E V E L A N D F I R E A U T H O R I T Y

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

5 JULY 2019

PRESENT:

CHAIR
Councillor Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Tim Fleming
MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Teresa Higgins, Jon Rathmell
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Mary Ovens
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Luke Frost, Jean O'Donnell
AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer, Treasurer
BRIGADE OFFICER
Head of ICT & Estates

20. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) reported that by convention the Chair and Vice Chair of the Fire Authority were appointed to the respective positions of the Executively Committee. As this is not detailed in the Authority's Constitution, it was suggested that this issue be raised in a future report to the Authority. Councillor Frost requested that a vote be taken for these positions on this occasion.

The LAMO sought nominations for the position of Chair of the Executive Committee of Cleveland Fire Authority for 2019/20. Councillors Paul Kirton and Luke Frost were subsequently proposed and seconded. A vote was taken and Councillor Kirton received four votes to Councillor Frosts three votes.

Councillor Paul Kirton in the Chair

RESOLVED - That Councillor Paul Kirton be appointed Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority's Executive Committee for 2019/20.

21. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor Frost declared an interest as a Member of Stockton Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Board (Minute No. 24.2 refers).

Councillor Ovens declared an interest as a Redcar & Cleveland Adult Social Care cabinet member (Minute No. 27.3 refers).

22. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority's Executive Committee for 2019/20. Councillors Jean O'Donnell and Jon Rathmell were proposed and seconded with Councillor O'Donnell receiving four votes to Councillor Rathmell's three votes.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jean O'Donnell be appointed as Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority's Executive Committee for 2019/20.

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 26 April 2019 be confirmed.

24. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

24.1 Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019/20 – Progress Report

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) updated Members on the progress on the implementation of the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (CIRMP) 2018-22 and specifically the priorities detailed within the Fire Authority's Service Plan 2019/20.

He reported that the priorities were set to achieve the Authority's three goals of: safer, stronger communities; a proud, passionate, professional and inclusive workforce; and efficient use of resources. He referred Members to the Corporate Internal Operating Plan 2019/20 at Appendix 1 and highlighted the following priorities:

<u>SSC4: Consider the Implications of the outcomes from Grenfell public enquiries</u>
The CFO confirmed that the Brigade was compliant with all planning guidance which had been issued following Grenfell fire. He reported that all high rise buildings in the Brigade area had been checked for combustible cladding and only Nolan House in Stockton still had cladding in place. He added that the 'stay put' policy remained in place for all high rise buildings in the area with the exception of Nolan House which operated a 'simultaneous evacuation' policy.

<u>SSC7: Evaluate the impact of our new approach to reducing the number of unwanted fire signals</u>
Following the implementation of the Unwanted Fire Signals Strategy in October 2017, the CFO confirmed that there had been a 52% reduction in the number of automatic fire alarms activating between the hours of 0800 – 1730 compared to 2017/18. He added that a programme of consultation with stakeholders would be undertaken in 2019/20 regarding the recovery of costs and the outcomes would be reported back to the Authority.

<u>UOR14: Explore Collaborative Opportunities for Enabling Services with Cleveland Police</u>
The CFO reported that following consideration of the scoping document by the Executive Committee on 26 April 2019, it was agreed further detailed analysis was required to inform the business case by March 2020.

RESOLVED – that Members noted the progress on the corporate priorities set out in the CIRMP 2018-22 and on the Directorate Priorities as agreed by the Chief Fire Officer for progression within the Brigade.

24.2 Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019/20 – 2021/22

Councillor Frost declared a personal interest as a Member of Stockton Borough Council's Health and Wellbeing Board. The LAMO acknowledged this interest and confirmed it was non-prejudicial.

The CFO outlined the revised Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019/20 - 2021/22 which:

- focuses on the achievement of the Authority's strategic outcomes as set out in its Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018-22
  sets out the Brigade's approach to health and wellbeing
- further enhances our Health and Wellbeing Framework through the adoption of good practice, compliance with legislation, refreshment of policies and external assessments
- specifically concentrates on physical health and fitness, mental health and health promotion
- continues to reflect ACAS guidance in that managing health, work and wellbeing is the responsibility of both the employer and the employee - a philosophy based on self-help and individual responsibility

The CFO reported that the Strategy forms part of the Authority's overarching People Strategy 2018-22 with four specific objectives aimed at supporting the strategic outcome 'a healthy workforce'. These were:

- HWB1: We will have employees who are supported in their physical health to remain at or return to work.
- HWB2: We will have an increasing number of firefighters achieving and maintaining the standards of personal fitness required to meet their operational roles
- HWB3: We will have employees who are supported in their mental health to remain at or return to work
- HWB4: We will have promoted healthy lifestyles and provided access to information and advice to enable our employees to look after their own health, fitness and wellbeing

The CFO informed Members that locally this Brigade had been awarded 'ambassador' status at the North East Better Health at Work Awards and leads the Oscar Kilo police/fire occupational health initiative on a national level.

Councillor Ovens acknowledged the reduction in Brigade's staff sickness levels following the implementation of a number of initiatives and also highlighted the potential impact of a raised retirement age on sickness.

The CFO reported that the Strategy would be reviewed and audited by the Director of Corporate Services and Equality Impact Assessments would be undertaken against each completed improvement action, as appropriate, in line with the Brigade's procedure.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

24.3 HMICFRS Inspection 2018/19 – Summary of Findings from Tranche 2

The CFO provided Members with the outcomes from the second tranche of inspections undertaken in 16 fire and rescue authorities (FRAs), as detailed at Appendix 1.

He referred Members to the table at section 3.4 of the report giving an overview of how the 16 FRAs had been rated from Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate on the three pillars of judgement: Effective; Efficiency; People. The CFO noted that no service had received an 'outstanding' grading and highlighted the key findings detailed at pages 5-8 of Appendix 1.

He informed Members that Cleveland was in the third tranche of inspections which was currently underway with Discovery Work and Strategic Briefing stages now completed. The final Field Work stage was set to take place week commencing 8 July 2019.

Councillor O'Donnell asked if there had been any response to the Self-Assessment. The CFO confirmed that the outcomes were not expected until December 2019 and the inspectorate would only be in touch if further information was required.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted

25. 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 any 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."

26. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 26 April 2019 be confirmed.

27. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

27.1 Provision of Appliance Bay Doors Planned and Reactive Maintenance – Tender Acceptance

Members considered tender submissions for the provision of Appliance Bay Doors Planned and Reactive Maintenance.

27.2 Refurbishment Project Works at Stockton Fire Station – Tender Acceptance

Members received details of the tenders received in connection with the refurbishment of Stockton Fire Station.

27.3 Disposal of Old Grangetown Fire Station Site
Members considered options for the disposal of the old Grangetown Fire Station site.

27.4 Procurement Progress Report – July 2019
Members received details relating to contract letting procedures and exemptions to contract procure rules.

COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON
CHAIR