

# CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

20 MAY 2022



### PRESENT

#### CHAIR

Councillor Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

#### MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Teresa Higgins

#### STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillors Lynn Hall, Jean O'Donnell

#### REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Mary Ovens

#### AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Chief Fire Officer, ACFO – Community Protection, Treasurer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer

### APOLOGIES:

Councillor Tim Fleming – Hartlepool Borough Council  
ACFO – Strategic Planning & Resources

### 131. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

### 132. MINUTES

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 4 March 2022 be confirmed.**

### 133. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

#### 133.1 Fire and Rescue Service Reform – verbal update

The Home Office White Paper 'Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service: Building professionalism, boosting performance and strengthening governance' was tabled to Members following its launch for consultation on 18 May 2022 by Lord Greenhalgh.

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) reported that he and the Chair had attended the launch which focused on three key themes: People; Professionalism; and Governance. The paper is based on the key outcomes from the first round of inspections and the CFO detailed the six recommendations for the fire and rescue service.

Members discussed the implications of the various governance options for CFA and agreed that while it was held as a 'Beacon Brigade' and already achieving many of the recommendations, Cleveland Police's reputation and performance was under much scrutiny. They also highlighted the importance of maintaining a local aspect with representation from all four districts.

### **133.1 Fire and Rescue Service Reform – verbal update cont.**

The CFO noted that the ten-week consultation on the White Paper will run from 18 May to 26 July 2022 and a response would be agreed by the full Authority prior to submission.

**RESOLVED – That the update be noted.**

### **133.2 Business Continuity Policy**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Protection (ACFO-CP) provided Members with details of the updated Business Continuity Policy which sets out specific roles and responsibilities in relation to business continuity, in line with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA).

He reported that the Authority was expected to have plans in place to deliver core functions in all but the most extreme of circumstances and mitigate the effects of disruption, loss events or other major incidents that may compromise the ability to perform statutory functions.

The ACFO-CP reported that the policy is supported by a Business Continuity Framework and assurance will be achieved through testing against a three-year programme, as detailed in the Business Continuity Testing & Audit Procedure.

**RESOLVED – that the Business Continuity Policy be approved.**

### **133.3 Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement 2022-23**

Members considered the updated Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement 2022-23 which is in line with the Authority's safeguarding arrangements and covers the following six reporting areas recommended by the Home Office:

- organisation structure and supply chains
- policies held in relation to slavery and human trafficking
- due diligence processes
- risk assessment and management
- key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken
- training on modern slavery and trafficking

The CFO referred Members to the Training & Community Safety sections of the statement which outlined the key work undertaken by the Brigade and the associated actions. Where appropriate, public facing staff undertake tailored e-learning modules and the Brigade's safeguarding arrangements are quality assured against the Teesside Safeguarding Adults Board.

**RESOLVED – That the Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Statement 2022-23 be approved for publication on the Brigade's website.**

**134. 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, 3, 4 and 7 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; namely information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.”

**135. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES  
RESOLVED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee on 4 March 2022 be confirmed.**

**136. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**136.1 Accident Investigation Report – Health & Safety Executive (HSE)**

The ACFO-CP provided an update on the Accident Investigation and notification from HSE.

**136.2 Immediate Detriment**

The CFO provided Members with an updated pension position in relation to Immediate Detriment.

**136.3 Procurement Update Report**

Members received details relating to contract letting procedures, exemptions to contract procedure rules and future procurement plans.

**136.4 Provision of Fluorine-free Firefighting Foam - Tender Acceptance**

Members considered the results of the Brigade analysis of the tenders received for the Provision of Fluorine-free Fighting Foam.

**136.5 Provision of Minor Works - Tender Acceptance**

Members considered the results of the Brigade analysis of the tenders received for the Provision of Minor Works.

**COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON  
CHAIR**