
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

9 JULY 2021



PRESENT

CHAIR

Councillor Paul Kirton – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

MIDDLESBOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Teresa Higgins

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillors Luke Frost, Lynn Hall, Jean O'Donnell

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Mary Ovens

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

Chief Fire Officer, ACFO – Strategic Planning & Resources, ACFO – Community Protection, Treasurer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer (via Microsoft Teams)

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Tim Fleming - Hartlepool

20. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 5 March 2021, Executive (Appeals) Committee on 22 March 2021 and Executive (Appointments) Committee on 26 April 2021 be confirmed.

22. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

22.1 Draft Vision 2030 Presentation

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) reported that the Authority's current vision is contained within the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan (CIRMP) 2018-2022 and as per the Authority's strategic priority he had to develop a new draft vision for 2030 which captures the aspirations and long term destination of the Brigade.

Members received a detailed presentation of the draft Vision 2030 which covered how the Brigade aspires to continue being a leading fire and rescue service which:

- makes Teesside safer and stronger by saving lives, changing lives and protecting businesses
- has a professional, proud and passionate workforce with innovative and resilient leaders
- is a welcoming, trusted and respected organisation
- builds on learning and innovative digital approaches
- develops climate change plans to build a greener future

22.1 Draft Vision 2030 Presentation cont.

The CFO reported that staff and the community had been invited to take part in a survey to gain insight into their views, expectations and opinions. The results of this consultation were summarised at Appendix 2 and 3.

Members thanked the CFO for presenting the vision which they considered to be both inspirational and achievable.

RECOMMENDED - that the draft Vision 2030, attached at Appendix 1, be approved by the Authority at its meeting on 30 July 2021.

22.2 Draft Corporate Plan 2022-26

Members considered the Draft Corporate Plan 2022-26 which sets out the Authority's strategic direction for the next four years and vision to 2030. It outlines the community profile; horizon scanning; headline performance 2020/21; HMICFRS Inspection; finances; corporate goals 2026; and delivering the plan.

The CFO referred Members to the following key insight sources which will shape the underpinning Community Risk Management, People and Resource Plans that will guide the work of the Brigade from 1 April 2022:

- HMICFRS Inspection
- Internal Audit and Evaluation
- Community/staff feedback
- Community Risk Profile (Appendix 1)
- Changing Landscape document (Appendix 2)
- Performance Report 2020/21 (Appendix 3)

Councillor Higgins highlighted the challenges of having a 31% reduction in government grant since 2013 in an area of high deprivation and asked Members to support putting pressure on the Government for a funding review. The Treasurer noted the uncertainty that comes with one year settlements which creates difficulties for financial planning.

Members raised the issue of assaults on firefighters in Cleveland being significantly higher than other fire and rescue authorities and suggested the Brigade continues to work to raise the profile of this and involve the courts. Members also suggested highlighting the cost to the tax payer of local authorities removing rubbish left by fly-tippers. The CFO reported that a Joint Fire Investigation Team was being piloted in Hartlepool which is working closely with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland to tackle these issues.

Councillor Hall wished to place on record thanks to the neighbourhood team in Hartburn which addressed incidents of wildfires by visiting schools to educate children on consequences of fire setting.

22.2 Draft Corporate Plan 2022-26 cont.

RECOMMENDED:-

- (i) That the strategic planning activities and sources of insight associated with the development of the Draft Corporate Plan 2022-26, detailed at Section 4 of the report, be noted.
- (ii) That the draft Corporate Plan 2022-26, attached at Appendix 4, be approved by the Authority at its meeting on 30 July 2021.

22.3 Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2021/22 - Progress Report

The CFO updated Members on the progress on the implementation of the CIRMP 2018-22 and specifically the priorities detailed within the Service Plan 2021/22.

He referred Members to the Internal Operating Plan at Appendix 1, which provided a summary of progress of both corporate and directorate objectives, and reported that all areas were on track with no areas for concern.

The CFO highlighted that the Brigade was very much still responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and continued to support the vaccine programme. Councillor Higgins commended all staff for their ongoing work for the communities of Cleveland.

RESOLVED – That the progress of corporate priorities set out in the Authority’s CIRMP 2018-22 and Directorate priorities as agreed by the Chief Fire Officer for progression within the Brigade be noted.

22.4 Review of Health & Safety Policy

Members considered the updated Health & Safety Policy which had been reviewed to reflect recommendations from the Health & Safety Executive following a personal injury accident in October 2020.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Community Protection (ACFO-CP) referred Members to Appendix A and highlighted the following key changes:

- Inclusion of a clear risk statement within the local risk assessment process
- Identification of a ‘Competent Person’ for health & safety purposes (Head of Operational Policy & Planning)

The Chair highlighted the responsibilities of Cleveland Fire Authority Members at Section 2 of the policy and the ACFO-CP reported that he maintains overall responsibility for Health & Safety within the Brigade. He confirmed that representative bodies would be consulted on this policy.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the revised Health & Safety Policy set out at Appendix A be approved.
- (ii) That Members approved the nomination of the Head of Operational Policy & Planning as the Competent Person for health and safety purposes.

22.5 Re-engagement after Retirement Policy & Procedure

The ACFO-SPR reported that this document had been reviewed in line with the Key Document Framework and updated to clearly define those circumstances where the Authority would consider re-engagement. These were:

- Re-employment - where a retired employee is eligible to apply for vacancies through an open recruitment process.
- Re-appointment – where it would be in the interests of public safety and/or efficiency for the Authority to temporarily re-appoint a retired employee into a role they were taking prior to retirement.

The ACFO-SPR highlighted that the approval of the re-engagement of Principal Officers would be the responsibility of the Fire Authority.

RESOLVED – That the Re-engagement after Retirement Policy & Procedure, attached at Appendix 1, be approved.

22.6. Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans Consultation

Members considered the Government consultation on Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPS) in high rise residential buildings. This was launched on 8 June until 19 July 2021 and is one of a number of improvement measures following the first phase of the Grenfell Tower inquiry.

The ACFO-CP referred Members to Appendix A which contained the Authority's proposed response to the 18 consultation questions based upon the four proposals detailed at Section 4 of the report.

Councillor Hall asked whether there was specific software available to record this information. The ACFO-CP confirmed that a technical solution was currently being established. Councillor Ovens asked how many buildings this would apply to in the Brigade area. The ACFO-CP confirmed that wider work was underway to define what should be considered a 'high risk' and identify those premises across Cleveland.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Government Consultation in Relation to Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans in High Rise Residential Buildings, as detailed at Appendix A, be noted.**
- (ii) That the Authority's response to the consultation, contained within Appendix A, be approved for submission.**

23. 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 items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 & 3 of Part 1 of the 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; and information that is likely to reveal the identity of an individual; and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information."

24. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee on 5 March 2021, Executive (Appeals) Committee on 22 March 2021 and Executive (Appointments) Committee on 26 April 2021 be confirmed.

25. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

25.1 Procurement Update Report

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

COUNCILLOR PAUL KIRTON
CHAIR