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# CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

11 DECEMBER 2015



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**PRESENT:**

**CHAIR:-** Councillor Jan Brunton – Middlesbrough Council  
**HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
Cllr Rob Cook  
**MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL**  
Cllrs Ronald Arundale, Teresa Higgins  
**REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
Cllrs Norah Cooney, Ray Goddard, Billy Ayre, Brian Dennis  
**STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
Cllrs Gillian Corr, Paul Kirton, Jean O'Donnell, Stephen Parry, Mick Stoker, William Woodhead  
**AUTHORISED OFFICERS**  
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer  
**MAZARS LLP**  
Audit Manager (Ross Woodley)

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Akers-Belcher, Martin-Wells, James – Hartlepool Borough Council  
Cllrs Ovens, Lanigan – Redcar & Cleveland Borough  
Cllrs Biswas, Mawston, Hussain – Middlesbrough Council  
Cllr Gardner – Stockton Borough Council

The Chair welcomed Councillor Brian Dennis to the Authority and wished to place on record the Authorities thanks to Councillor Bob Norton.

### 55. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

### 56. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** – that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Ordinary Meeting on 16 October 2015 be confirmed.

### 57. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

**RESOLVED** – that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015, be confirmed.

### 58. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

- Gill Gittins, LGA - Pension Scheme Transitional Protection Employment Tribunal Cases
- Clair Alcock, LGA - Pension Scheme Contributions

**RESOLVED** – that the communications be noted.

## 59. REPORT OF MAZARS

### 59.1 Annual Audit Letter 2014/15

The Audit Manager (AM) Ross Woodley presented the Annual Audit Letter 2014/2015 which covered:

- Key Messages
- Financial Statements
- Value for Money
- Future Challenges
- Fees

He informed Members that Mazars had issued an unqualified opinion on the Financial Statements and the Value For Money conclusion that the Authority has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. A detailed risk assessment of the challenges facing the Authority was carried out and presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 21 August 2015.

The AM reported that with the financial outlook looking increasingly challenging, to deliver the Authority's objectives and to manage the risk within the resources available the Authority will need to continue to:

- carefully forecast and effectively monitor budgets
- identify and address financial pressures as they emerge
- deliver a long term financial strategy that addresses immediate pressure while allowing scope for strategic service change
- maintain effective arrangements for public engagement
- use constructive relationships with partners to deliver further improvements

**RESOLVED: that the report be noted.**

## 60. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

### 60.1 Fire/Police Collaboration Update

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) updated Members on the progress of the collaborative arrangements between Cleveland Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Fire Authority. He reported that collaborative opportunities are being considered and/or implemented in the following areas:

- Assets
- Fleet Management and Equipment
- Estates
- Services Delivery
- Corporate Services

Councillor Paul Kirton asked if this would include the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). The CFO stated that he had given presentations on 'Fire as a Health Asset' to Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Local Hospitals and that NEAS are part of these discussions moving forward.

**60.1 Fire/Police Collaboration Update**

Councillor Rob Cook sought further information regarding the proposed shared occupancy at Thornaby Fire Station and who would benefit from the sale of the Police Station. The CFO reported that the agreement we have with the Police is that they will cover all Capital costs but will keep control of their receipts but the Authority are continually seeking additional partners to share buildings to reduce costs.

**RESOLVED – that the progress on the Memorandum of Understanding as detailed in Section 4 of the report be noted.**

**60.2 Information Pack**

60.2.1. Fire & Rescue Service Monthly Bulletins

**RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted.**

**61. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**61.1 Information Pack**

Councillor Stoker advised Members of the following reports which were presented to the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 13 November 2015:

- Audit Progress Report
- Organisational Performance & Efficiency Report April – Sept 2015
- Annual Statement of Assurance 2014/15
- Performance Management Policy & Strategy
- Treasury Management Strategy
- Progress Against Revenue & Capital Budgets 2015/16

**RESOLVED – that the Information Pack be noted.**

**62. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Following the recent change in Authority membership, the Director of Corporate Services (DCS) sought nominations to fill the vacancy on the Joint Consultative Committee. Councillor Brian Dennis was proposed and seconded and appointed to the Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.

**RESOLVED – that Councillor Dennis be appointed to the Joint Consultative Committee for the ensuing year.**

**63. 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 items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 & 4 below 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.**

**64. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Appeal Committee on 2 November 2015 and Executive Committee on 20 November 2015 be confirmed.

**65. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND TREASURER**

**65.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 2018/19**

The Treasurer and CFO provided an update to Members on the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

**66. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**66.1 Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015/16**

The CFO informed Members of the progress on the implementation of the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015/16.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON  
CHAIR**