
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING

29 JULY 2016



PRESENT:

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Rob Cook, Ray Martin-Wells

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Jan Brunton, Teresa Higgins, Naweed Hussain, Tom Mawston

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Neil Bendelow, Norah Cooney, Brian Dennis, Mary Ovens

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Cllrs Gillian Corr, Paul Kirton, Jean O'Donnell, Mick Stoker, William Woodhead

AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Marjorie James – Hartlepool Borough Council

15. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

16. CHIEF FIRE OFFICER'S AWARD & COMMENDATIONS

16.1 Mr Robert Sands

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) welcomed Mr Robert Sands to the meeting who had tragically lost two children in a house fire in Pallister Park 15 years ago and had recently run a 10k race to raise funds for the Fire Fighters Charity. The CFO presented Mr Sands with a certificate of thanks on behalf of the Fire Fighters Charity and commended his efforts, bravery and compassion in recognising and supporting the work of firefighters following his own personal loss.

16.2 Mr Matt Heap & Mr Matthew Johnson

The CFO introduced Mr Matt Heap and Mr Matthew Johnson whose acts of bravery saved the life of Mr Mark Kerr following an accident on A19 near The Windmill Pub on 20 May 2016. The CFO reported how Mr Kerr had blacked out at the wheel of his car while driving at 70mph and veered off the A19 and hit a tree. The fast actions of Mr Heap and Mr Johnson, who had been travelling separately but witnessed the accident, to pull Mr Kerr from the smoking vehicle just minutes before the car was engulfed in flames had undoubtedly saved his life.

Mr Heap and Mr Johnson were awarded a Chief Fire Officer's Commendation for displaying drive, determination and disregard of their own personal in assisting with the rescue of Mr Kerr. They were also praised for showing inspirational and exemplary personal qualities.

17. MBE

17.1 Councillor William Woodhead

The Chair informed Members that Councillor William Woodhead of Stockton Borough Council had been awarded an MBE for his significant achievement and outstanding service to the community. Councillor Woodhead, who has been a Conservative Ward Councillor for Fairfield for 45 years and a long standing fire authority Member, thanked the Conservative Party and Members for their support and commended the CFO for making the Authority the best it has ever been.

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Annual Meeting on 10 June 2016 be confirmed.

19. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

Clair Alcock - Firefighters Pension Scheme (England) Scheme Advisory Board
Daniel Greaves – Fire Revenue Grant 2016-17

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

20. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

20.1 Fire as a Health Asset

The CFO updated Members on how the Brigade was working with other Emergency Services and Local Authorities to pursue opportunities to improve the health of the communities across Teesside. He gave a presentation which detailed the following areas:

- Working Together to improve the local NHS timeline
- NHS Five Year Plan
- Consensus Statement (1 October 2015)
- STP: Emerging Priorities
- The Opportunities to Work Together Now
- CFB Offer to Strategic Health Partners
- Opportunities for Early Assessment, Intervention & Prevention
- Opportunities for Joint Working
- Fire Prevention to Safe and Well
- Emergency Medical Response
- Other Examples
- Getting people out of hospital safer hospital discharge
- Tackling High Blood Pressure
- Assistive Technology & Telecare
- Infection Control Evidence
- Evidence-based Evaluation

Councillor Cook applauded the Brigade for taking part in the Emergency Response (EMR) trial and queried who was delivering the training. The CFO confirmed that NEAS had committed to providing and funding 28 days training to Brigade staff involved with EMR and additional training in connection with dementia, smoking cessation and alcohol audits was being provided by the NHS. The CFO confirmed that call-out costs for EMR trials were being recovered and post-trial, any increase in pay for firefighters would need to be negotiated at a national level.

Councillor Martin-Wells expressed concern that firefighters were being asked to deal with specialist areas with inadequate training which may put the Authority at risk of litigation. The CFO agreed that areas such as dementia were very specialised and confirmed that the role of firefighters was to highlight any early indication and signpost the individual to the appropriate agencies. In relation to litigation, he confirmed that the Brigade was operating under the clinical governance of NEAS.

20.1 Fire as a Health Asset continued

Councillor Ovens referred to the provision of appropriate risk reduction equipment in relation to early assessment, intervention and prevention and asked who would fund these items. The CFO confirmed a cost of circa £120k per year to provide the equipment and reported that currently Stockton Council was funding this provision across its own district and work was underway with the other Local Authorities to ensure a 'postcode lottery' situation did not arise in Teesside.

Councillor Ovens asked if firefighters had been provided with additional support to deal with the increased number of deaths they had encountered during the EMR trial. The CFO confirmed that while the number of deceased outcomes had increased, firefighters were trained to deal with traumatic situations and support was provided by way of Trauma Risk Management (TRiMS) and the Brigade's occupational health counselling provision.

Councillor Stoker queried who had access to Exeter Data – information provided by the NHS to allow the Brigade to target its resources at the most vulnerable residents. The CFO confirmed this was held by control. Cllr Brunton noted that the fact the NHS was willing to share data with the Brigade indicated a high level of trust and respect.

RESOLVED - that the presentation be noted.

20.2 Information Pack

19.2.1 Employers Circulars

19.2.2 National Joint Circulars

19.2.3 Fire Reform Transparency Survey

The CFO reported that correspondence had been received from the Home Office requesting staff, elected members and the public complete an online survey on the fire and rescue service.

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted

21. 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 1, 3 and 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 any individual and 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.

22. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Annual Meeting on 10 June 2016 be confirmed.

23. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

23.1 Service Plan Update 2016/17

The CFO outlined the progress of the priorities detailed within the Service Plan 2016/17.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON
CHAIR**