
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF MEETING

9 JUNE 2017



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Cllr Jan Brunton – Middlesbrough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Rob Cook, Marjorie James

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Cllr Teresa Higgins

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cllrs Neil Bendelow, Ray Goddard, 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 Ray Martin-Wells – Hartlepool Borough Council

Councillor Naweed Hussain, Tom Mawston – Middlesbrough Council

Councillor Norah Cooney – Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council

8. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

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

9. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Executive (Appointments) Committee on 21 April 2017, Executive Committee on 12 May 2017, Audit & Governance Committee 19 May 2017 and Cleveland Fire Authority Annual Meeting on 2 June 2017 be confirmed.

10. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIR

National Joint Council - NJC/8/17 Inclusive Fire Service Group - Improvement Strategies, NJC/7/17 Pay Claim & EMP/4/17 Pay Claim Consultation, NJC/6/17 Technical Working Group (corresponding & further work trials)

Clair Alcock - Voluntary Scheme Pays - Note to FRAs

Shehla Hussain - National Resilience Service & Maintenance Support Grant, New Dimensions Grant to Fire and Rescue Authorities 2017-18

Brandon Lewis - Representation Model, Professional Standards for the Fire & Rescue

The Chair noted that the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) would be tabling a report under Any Other Confidential Business for Members to consider issues relating to NJC/7/17 - Pay Claim in detail.

RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.

11. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER AND MONITORING OFFICER

11.1 Business Report 2017/18 (deferred from 2 June 2017)

The Legal Adviser and Monitoring Officer (LAMO) reported that this item had been deferred from the Annual Meeting on 2 June 2017. He referred Members to the Constitution at Appendix A which included the:

- CFA Membership 2017/18
- Calendar of Meetings 2017/18
- Terms of Reference
- Delegation Scheme
- Financial Procedure Rules
- Code of Corporate Governance
- Standing Orders of the Authority
 - Regulation of Proceedings & Business
 - Contract Procedure Rules
- Members Allowance Scheme
- Ethical Governance Framework
- Member Development Plan

The LAMO sought nominations for the ensuing year for Committees, Outside Bodies and Member Champions.

Councillor Cook stated that at a time when local authorities were required more and more to cooperate and work together it was his view that the role of Chair and Vice Chair should remain on a rotation system to ensure both fairness and equality in the process for all member authorities. The Chair reminded Members that the decision to remove the Chair and Vice Chair rotation had already been taken and this was reflected in the Constitution.

Councillor James requested an electronic version of the Constitution be made available at future meetings should Members need to refer to it. The LAMO agreed that this could be actioned.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the Constitution as outlined at paragraph 3 and Appendix A be approved.
- (ii) That Member appointments to committees and outside bodies (as outlined in the table below) be approved.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 4-1-1-1

LAB	BRUNTON	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	O'DONNELL	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	COOK	HARTLEPOOL
LAB	GODDARD	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	WOODHEAD	STOCKTON ON TEES
LD	OVENS	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
MIG	MAWSTON	MIDDLESBROUGH

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 6-2-1

LAB	JAMES	HARTLEPOOL
LAB	HIGGINS	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	HUSSAIN	MIDDLESBROUGH
LAB	KIRTON	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	STOKER	STOCKTON ON TEES
LAB	BENDELOW	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	COONEY	REDCAR & CLEVELAND
CONS	MARTIN –WELLS	HARTLEPOOL
IBIS	CORR	STOCKTON ON TEES

REPRESENTATIVES FOR OUTSIDE BODIES 2017/18

LGA FIRE COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE	Cllr BRUNTON
Substitute:	Cllr O'DONNELL
REDCAR & CLEVELAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE	Cllr BENDELOW
STOCKTON SAFER PARTNERSHIP REPN	Cllr STOKER
CLEVELAND FIRE SUPPORT NETWORK BOARD	Cllr MAWSTON
LOCAL PENSIONS BOARD	Cllr HIGGINS

MEMBER CHAMPIONS 2017/18

IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY	Cllr BENDELOW
SAFER COMMUNITIES	Cllr HIGGINS
PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE	Cllr COOK
SAFEGUARDING	Cllr BRUNTON

12. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

12.1 Annual Performance and Efficiency Report 2016/17

The CFO gave a detailed presentation on the Brigade's performance, efficiency, audit outcomes and operational performance for the year ending 31 March 2017, including comparator information as detailed below.

	2015/16	2016/17
Strategic Goals and Aims:	Performing Well	Performing Well
Annual Priorities: Performing Well:	Performing Well	Performing Strongly
Key Service Standards:	Performing Well	Performing Well
Operational Assurance:	Performing Strongly	Performing Strongly
Good Corporate Governance:	Performing Strongly	Performing Strongly
Value for Money:	Performing Strongly	Performing Strongly
Comparison with other FRS:	Adequate Performance	Adequate Performance
Customer Care:	Performing Strongly	Performing Strongly

The CFO concluded that the Brigade had managed to maintain a good standard of service across the board despite a 12% reduction in budget since 2011/12, a 37% increase in incidents due to EMR and 8% reduction of staff.

Councillor James said she had no issues with partnership work with local authorities and police but regarding health, she felt the Brigade supported them at its own cost and wanted a better understanding of this relationship and whether the Authority re-charges.

The CFO reported that EMR was a national trial but locally arranged with the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS) who were responsible for paying for consumables / training with regional fire and rescue services picking up the response cost.

12.1 Annual Performance and Efficiency Report 2016/17 continued

The CFO confirmed that once the trial had finished the service would have to be provided on a commissioned basis and work was currently underway with NEAS regarding the costing model to ensure the Authority is not using money that should be spent delivering statutory duties.

The CFO confirmed that EMR calls were handled the same as any other call on the system and 'closing in' arrangements were utilised to ensure no area is left without cover, even with the 3,000 additional calls generated from the EMR trial the Brigade was still exceeding response standards.

Councillor Ovens noted the increased number of fatalities operational staff are having to deal with through the EMR trial and expressed concern that this would impact the mental health of Brigade personnel. The CFO reported that operational personnel are trained to deal with RTCs and fires which require a level of medical care which is above the minimum criteria the Ambulance Service ask for EMR. In relation to dealing with death the CFO confirmed that the Brigade has a robust system to ensure every firefighter gets the support they need.

On behalf of the Authority the Chair thanked staff for all their efforts in making the Brigade a success.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

12.2 Strategic Planning and Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22

The CFO presented an overview from the Brigade's Strategic Planning work to date and the outcomes relating to an appraisal of the core purpose and vision of the Authority.

The CFO reported that the outcomes from the review had not fundamentally changed the Authority's strategic direction but had better emphasised the outcomes that were expected to be achieved from our work including the need to demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness in service provision. The following Strategic Direction for 2018/19 – 2021/22 was proposed:

- 1) Vision – is that we have built a sustainable future and:
 - make a positive difference to the safety and quality of life of every local citizen; and the places where they live and work
 - deliver services by people who are professional, proud and passionate
 - are nationally recognised as being high performing and innovative; and internationally renowned for being able to reduce risk in business, industry and the home'
- 2) Mission - to deliver an Inclusive Fire and Rescue Service that ensures the Safety and Wellbeing of its Communities'
- 3) Goals
 - Safer Stronger Communities
 - Professional Workforce
 - Efficient and Effective

12.2 Strategic Planning and Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 continued

The CFO confirmed that if approved, the proposed strategic direction, as detailed above, would be published within the Authority's draft Community Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 which will be subject to full stakeholder consultation in autumn 2017. He confirmed this will also be used to guide further strategic planning work; specifically the operational and resource deployment work.

Councillor Cook highlighted that one of the goals 'Efficient and Effective' was something already achieved by the Authority. The Chair pointed out it was a matter of ensuring all the evidence was available to demonstrate the Authority's success in these three areas.

Councillor James highlighted that if the Authority has a £2.2m funding gap to close it needed to be sure it wasn't seen to be propping up other emergency services to the detriment of our own firefighters. The CFO noted that the big challenge that would come from the National Inspection Regime would be in relation to EMR and why the Authority was spending money delivering a service that wasn't its statutory duty.

RESOLVED:–

- (i) That progress of the work in developing a new Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22, specifically the outcomes in relation to a review of the Authority's strategic direction, be noted.**
- (ii) That the proposed strategic direction of the Authority for the years 2018/19 - 2021/22 be noted.**
- (iii) That Members noted the proposed strategic direction, as set out above, will be published within the Authority's draft Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22, and will go out to full stakeholder consultation in Autumn 2017 and that it will be used to guide further strategic planning work; specifically the operational configuration and resource deployment work.**
- (iv) That further reports on completion of future stages of the strategic planning activity be received by Members in due course.**

12.3 Information Pack

- 12.3.1 Employers Circulars
- 12.3.2 National Joint Council Circulars
- 12.3.3 Summer Campaigns
- 12.3.4 Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

RESOLVED – that the information pack be noted

- 13. 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.
- 14. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive (Appointments) Committee on 21 April 2017, Executive (Disciplinary Hearing) Committee on 28 April 2017 and Executive Committee on 12 May 2017 be confirmed.
- 15. ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**
15.1 Firefighter Pay Claim
The Chief Fire Officer tabled a report in relation to the Firefighter Pay Claim.

COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON
CHAIR