
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

7 JULY 2017



PRESENT:

CHAIR
Councillor Jan Brunton – Middlesbrough Council

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Tom Mawston

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Ray Goddard, Mary Ovens

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Jean O'Donnell, William Woodhead MBE

AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Chief Fire Officer, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer, Treasurer

APOLOGIES: Director of Corporate Services

16. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 12 May 2017 be confirmed.

18. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

18.1 Flexible Working Policy & Procedure

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) reported that the Authority's existing arrangements in relation to flexible working, contained within its Family Friendly Policy, had been reviewed. It was proposed that in light of new legislation, referred to in section 3 of the report, a more comprehensive and discrete flexible working policy was required to demonstrate the Authority's commitment to equality and diversity and its mission to be an inclusive fire and rescue service.

The CFO referred Members to the Policy Statement on page 3 of Appendix A which stated: 'Cleveland Fire Authority strives to be an equal opportunities employer and is committed to ensuring that its workforce has an appropriate framework to afford flexibility to service delivery, through the adoption of appropriate flexible working arrangements for individuals.'

18.1 Flexible Working Policy & Procedure

Councillor Mawston asked for clarification regarding the procedure for staff whose flexible working requests are not approved and whether there was a right to challenge. The CFO confirmed that staff could appeal and that the appeal arrangements were detailed in the procedure. He acknowledged that people can have complex lives and it was a matter of getting a balance to ensure any arrangements remain conducive with an operational environment. Some of the options available include job share, flexible retirement and reduced hours.

(11.03am) The Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer joined the meeting

The CFO confirmed that both Unison and the Fire Brigades' Union had been consulted on the Flexible Working Policy and Procedure and no issues had come to light.

Councillor O'Donnell asked that thanks be passed on to the Director of Corporate Services for producing a comprehensive and readable policy.

RESOLVED – That the flexible working Policy attached, as Appendix A, be approved.

19. 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 item of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 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 action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.”

20. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 12 May 2017 be confirmed.

21. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

21.1 Grenfell Tower Block Update

The CFO updated Members on the local and national implications for Fire and Rescue Services following the Grenfell Tower Block fire.

21.2 Firefighter Pay Claim

Members received information on the current position in relation to the Firefighter Pay Claim.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON
CHAIR**