
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

6 JULY 2018



PRESENT:

VICE CHAIR
Councillor Jean O'Donnell – Stockton Borough Council

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Tom Mawston

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Mary Ovens, Ray Goddard

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Mick Stoker (Sub), William Woodhead MBE

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

APOLOGIES: Councillor Rob Cook - Hartlepool Borough Council
Councillor Jan Brunton Dobson - Middlesbrough Council

In accordance with Standing Order No. 35, Councillor Stoker substituted for Councillor Brunton Dobson.

23. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

24. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 9 March 2018 be confirmed.

25. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

25.1 Progress Against Revenue & Capital Budgets 2018/19

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) informed Members that the report attached at Appendix A had been considered by the Audit & Governance Committee on 29 June 2018 and was being presented to the Executive Committee to inform Members of a revenue budget underspend of £0.558m in the first two months of the budget. This reflects the Brigade's workforce planning arrangements to manage vacancy levels to support the CIRMP plans for 2019/20 and assumptions regarding the firefighters pay award, in line with the budget provision.

The CFO informed Members that in the event of backdated pay award costs for 2017/18 and recurring costs for 2018/19 the estimated shortfall of circa £0.5m would either need to be funded from the forecast underspend or from reserves and a strategy would need to be formulated to address this moving forward.

25.1 Progress Against Revenue & Capital Budgets 2018/19 continued

He referred Members to the variance in Supplies and Services at Item 3 on Appendix 1 and reported that the Authority is awaiting a Government decision on whether it will pause the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) or continue it, which was creating uncertainty both in the provision of a future mobile communications service for the Brigade and whether grant funding would be received.

Councillor Ovens asked whether the current service from Airwaves could be extended. The CFO confirmed that this was not viable and agreed to bring a detailed report on ESMCP options to a future Executive Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted.**
- (ii) That a report on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) options be presented to a future Executive Committee.**

26. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**26.1 Saddleworth / Winter Hill Moor Fires**

The CFO updated Members on the Brigade's response to the Major Incident in Lancashire involving moor fires. He reported that the Brigade had responded to the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) request for Brigades to provide assistance, mobilising two appliances and 27 firefighters. The crews, who had volunteered to work during their leave, were deployed in three separate shifts and committed for up to 48 hours at a time.

The CFO confirmed that thanks had been received from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service for the work done and he would be sending a letter of personal thanks to the individuals who volunteered and upheld the reputation of the Brigade. The Vice Chair extended the Executive Committee's thanks to the volunteers for their efforts.

Councillor Ovens asked for an update on Eston Hills. The CFO confirmed that Anna Turley MP for Redcar, the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Authority's Chair had recently taken part in a visit with Eston Hills Action Group to see the difficulties of tackling fires in the hills and this had received press attention. The CFO acknowledged Brigade Community Liaison Officer Alec Johnson for the positive difference his efforts had made towards driving down the number of incidents on the hills.

RESOLVED – That the verbal update be noted.

27. 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 paragraphs 3 & 4 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 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."

28. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

28.1 RESOLVED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 11 May 2018 be confirmed.

29. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

29.1 Provision of Fire Behaviour Training Unit & Smoke Cleansing for Training Hub, Queens Meadow Complex

Members received details relating to the provision of a Fire Behaviour Training and Smoke Cleansing Unit at the Training Hub, Queens Meadow Complex, Hartlepool.

29.2 Provision of and fitting of Galvanised Steel Training Props for Training Hub, Queens Meadow Complex

Members considered the options for the provision of and fitting of galvanised steel training props for the training hub at the Training Hub, Queens Meadow Complex, Hartlepool.

29.3 Provision and Erection of Line Rescue Mast for Training Hub, Queens Meadow Complex

Members were updated on details of the provision and erection of a line rescue mast at the Training Hub, Queens Meadow Complex, Hartlepool.

29.4 Development of a Bespoke Incident Command Training System

The CFO outlined details relating to the development of a bespoke Incident Command Training System.

**COUNCILLOR JEAN O'DONNELL
VICE CHAIR**