
CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

31 AUGUST 2018



PRESENT:

CHAIR

Councillor Jan Brunton Dobson - Middlesbrough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Rob Cook

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Tom Mawston

REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillors Mary Ovens, Ray Goddard

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Jean O'Donnell, William Woodhead MBE

AUTHORISED OFFICERS

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

BRIGADE OFFICERS

Head of ICT, Head of Protection

48. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

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

49. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 6 July 2018 be confirmed.

50. **REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

50.1 **Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018-2022 - Progress Report**

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) provided Members with an update on the progress of the implementation of the CIRMP 2018-22 and specifically the priorities detailed within the Service Plan 2018/19.

The CFO referred Members to the Corporate Internal Operating Plan 2018/19 at Appendix 1 and outlined the progress of all the Corporate and Directorate priorities, covering the following in detail:

SSC1:3 - Implement the Authority's industrial fire emergency response standards

The CFO informed Members that following the implementation of the CIRMP, systems have been set up to identify and calculate benchmarks for reasonable worst case planning scenario incidents in industrial sites. This will require further work to establish response standards appropriate to all reasonable planning scenarios, which are currently being developed and the timeline for this is now March 2019.

50.1 Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018-2022 (CIRMP) - Progress Report continued

SSC3 – Introduce a ‘strategic reserve’ to sustain the optimum operational configuration of 18 fire appliances

The CFO reported an issue with retained cover affecting the number of vehicles on the run and confirmed that work was currently being undertaken to analyse the variables which affect availability across the retained stations. He acknowledged the need for retained recruitment to cover core hours of 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

SSC4 - Support the National Fire Sprinkler Network for the promotion of fire suppression in buildings

The CFO reported that at Members’ request, the Authority issued a position statement on installing sprinklers in all premises where the risk to life and property from fire were most significant. This was given to Members and Officers from all four constituent authority planning departments and published on the Brigade website. He acknowledged the Head of Protection (HoP) in being instrumental to driving this forward.

SSC18.1 – agree a scope of assessment, pilot and evaluation of Body Worn Video for operational personnel

The CFO reported a 60% increase in levels of physical violence towards operational staff which equated to 100 reported incidents over the past three years and informed Members that the pilot was underway and had attracted significant press attention. He confirmed that while this was not something the Authority should have to be spending money on at times of austerity the safety of its firefighters was paramount and hoped that the publicity of the pilot would prompt a positive reaction from the public.

Councillor Ovens asked if a reduced police presence had an impact of levels of violence to firefighters. The CFO confirmed it was not only the number of incidents but the scale of violence that has escalated which now included attacks with air rifles, knives, catapults and iron bars. Often firefighters do not report verbal abuse.

SSC19 - Cross Border Arrangements

The CFO reported that a review of these arrangements with County Durham and Darlington and North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) had been undertaken and Section 13 and 16 agreements from County Durham and Darlington and North Yorkshire were currently being progressed.

UOR18c – progress estates programme by refurbishing Guisborough and Loftus Fire Stations

The CFO reported that the award of contract for this project was provisionally scheduled for Executive Committee on 23 November 2018 with plans for refurbishment works to commence January 2019.

The Chair acknowledged the tremendous amount of work being undertaken by the Directors and their teams and praised their ongoing efforts.

50.1 Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018-2022 (CIRMP) - Progress Report continued

RESOLVED - That the progress against the corporate priorities set out in the Community Integrated Risk Management Plan 2018-22 and on the directorate priorities, as agreed by the Chief Fire Officer for progression within the Brigade, be noted.

50.2 Performance Management Framework

The Director of Corporate Services (DoCS) informed Members that the framework had been reviewed and refreshed to incorporate: the approval of the CIRMP 2018/22; the adoption of the new strategic goals, objectives and outcomes; the publication of the Fire and Rescue Framework for England 2018; and the introduction of the inspection regime for Fire and Rescue Services lead by HMICFRS.

The DoCS referred Members to the Performance Management Policy at Appendix 1 and highlighted the changes as detailed at paragraph 4.4 of the report which had been refreshed to promote effective performance management arrangements and drive continuous improvement in services.

The DoCS referred to the Performance Management Framework Procedure at Appendix 2 which had been developed around the established Plan, Do, Check and Act structure of a typical performance management cycle and provides a summary of the activities undertaken at all levels.

Members received an updated Appendix 3 giving a concise overview of the framework from a strategic level, a tactical departmental /station level and an individual level.

RESOLVED -

- (i) That the Performance Management Policy attached at Appendix 1 be approved.**
- (ii) That the Performance Management Framework attached at Appendix 2 be noted.**

50.3 Corporate Suite of Indicators

The DoCS informed Members that the Corporate Suite of Indicators had been reviewed to incorporate: the approval of the CIRMP 2018/22; the adoption of the new strategic goals, objectives and outcomes; the publication of the Fire and Rescue Framework for England 2018; and the introduction of the inspection regime for Fire and Rescue Services lead by HMICFRS and would be used to measure performance and reporting from 2018/19 onwards.

The DoCS referred Members to Appendix 1 of the report which detailed the new strategic goals, aims and outcomes which the corporate suite are aligned to, as summarised at page 20.

RESOLVED – that Cleveland Fire Authority’s Corporate Suite of Indicators, as attached at Appendix 1, be noted.

50.4 Partner Strategic Priorities Analysis 2018/19

The CFO informed Members that the annual refresh of the Partner Strategic Priorities Analysis 2018/19 had been produced by the DoCS to identify gaps between the Authority's priorities and its key partners' priorities. The report contained an analysis of:

- CFA Strategic Objectives aligned to each of the Local Authorities' priorities
- Priorities for each districts strategic partnerships including their Health & Wellbeing Strategies
- Priorities aligned to those of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cleveland Police as detailed in the Police and Crime Plan
- Priorities aligned to Health including Clinical Commissioning Groups, Foundation Trusts and North East Ambulance Service

The CFO thanked the Risk and Performance Team for this document which provides an overview of the priorities of four constituent authorities which can be shared with key partners. Councillor Ovens reiterated this saying it was an excellent way to capture the work of the four partner authorities.

RESOLVED - that the Analysis of the Authority's Partner's Strategic Priorities detailed in Appendix 1 be noted.

50.5 Independent Review of Building Regulations & Fire Safety Gap Analysis

The CFO informed Members of the progress made against the final report and recommendations published following the Dame Judith Hackett independent review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety following Grenfell Tower incident.

The HoP referred Members to the Gap Analysis at Appendix 1 which was set against the recommendations that were published in anticipation of them being adopted. This covered:

- New Regulatory Framework
- Design Construction & Refurbishment
- Occupation and Maintenance
- Resident's Voice
- Competence
- Guidance and Monitoring to Support Building Safety
- Products
- Golden Thread of Building information
- Procurement and Supply
- International examples

He reported that the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) had set up a number of working groups consulting in all 6 areas and would continue to consult with those groups to see how each organisation is impacted differently.

The HoP informed Members that one of the recommendations was for the government to set up a Joint Competent Authority (JCA) which would comprise Local Authority Building Standards, Fire and Rescue Authorities and the Health and Safety Executive, working together to maximise the focus on building safety.

50.5 Independent Review of Building Regulations & Fire Safety Gap Analysis cont.

He reported that there was no clear indication of who would lead the JCA or how cost recovery would occur to those who report to it. Locally there was potential for the CFA to form a JCA with each Local Authority although it would be more cost effective to have one JCA with representative from each LA.

The HoP noted that through a JCA the resources would be aligned to the risk based inspection programme and the additional workload would either require the Authority to accept an increased risk or cost implications from the additional resources required to deal with increased workload to the Fire Engineering department.

The Chair acknowledged that the Authority had a small team to deliver fire inspections. The HoP reported that there was approximately a two year timeframe to develop someone to a competent level and the Authority would either have to pre-emp this which would have cost implications to the current budget or wait two years.

The CFO reported that the final report was published in March 2018 with no correspondence on whether it was to be adopted or not. He reported that the Authority would have to take a balanced view and look at the most suitable way forward. The HoP noted that the Brigade already had 15,200 premises on its system and 14,500 of those were classed as 'active' premises. He added that the current Fire Engineering team comprised of just 8 other members of staff, including two station managers.

Councillor Cook asked where the current funding was coming from and whether the government would cover the cost of training extra staff up to competence level or was the Authority expected to make further cuts to its budget. The CFO confirmed that as future government funding was expected to be cut the Authority would need to find the additional money to cover this resource. He acknowledged that a team of nine for 15,000 properties was not a great resource.

Councillor Cook said this was a forward step towards improving safety but was disappointed this would impact other areas of the budget. The CFO noted that the Police had raised council tax by £12 to raise an additional £1m but he would not want to put further pressure on the local community which was already struggling.

The Chair asked what the national view was regarding funding. The CFO reported that the fair funding review would make inroads at least into ensuring the Authority's voice is heard.

The Treasurer reported that 2021 would be critical for this Authority when business retention rates would be increased from 50% to 75%. He confirmed that one off money had been built into the current budget but this would definitely not exceed 24 months.

RESOLVED – that Members noted the implications for the Authority set against the recommendations within the final report that has been completed and published in anticipation of them being adopted in their entirety.

50.6 Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme – Project Progress Update

The CFO updated Members on the latest position regarding the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme which was originally planned to transition in mid 2019 to replace the current Airwaves radio system. The new system was intended to provide next generation emergency services communications including secure and resilient mobile broadband data for both routine and mission critical emergency service use.

The Head of Information, Communications and Technology (HoICT) reported that due to a number of technical delays a programme re-planning exercise was initiated by the Home Office to consider timescales, costs and different approaches to delivery. This concluded that an incremental approach be taken over a longer period of time and for each FRS to decide how and when it will adopt the various components of the new network. The Home Office gave assurances that the Airwave Radio System would remain operational until all Emergency Services were fully transitioned onto the new network

The HoICT confirmed that locally, Cleveland continued to work closely with partners on the North East Regional Fire Board and has scheduled an upgrade to its Control Room communications and mobilising systems in January 2019 which would make it the first in the country.

He added that the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) has met with the Home Office Permanent Secretary to discuss future funding concerns, however it was unlikely any funding assurances would be forthcoming until the review of the full finance business case is completed later in 2018.

Councillor Ovens thanked the HoICT for the report and for the work undertaken to ensure Cleveland was at the forefront of programme.

RESOLVED – that the progress made both nationally and locally, with regard to the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme be noted.

51. 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 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.”

52. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

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

53. CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

53.1 Procurement Progress Report

Members received details relating to contract letting procedures and exemptions to contract procure rules.

**COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON DOBSON
CHAIR**