C L E V E L A N D F I R E A U T H O R I T Y

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

25 JANUARY 2019

PRESENT:

CHAIR
Councillor Jan Brunton Dobson - Middlesbrough Council
HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Rob Cook
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillor Mary Ovens
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL
Councillors Jean O'Donnell, Paul Kirton (Sub)
AUTHORISED OFFICERS
Director of Corporate Services, Legal Adviser & Monitoring Officer , Treasurer
BRIGADE OFFICERS
Director of Technical Services
Martin Miley – Station Manager (observing)

APOLOGIES:

Chief Fire Officer
Councillor Tom Mawston – Middlesbrough Council
Councillor Ray Goddard – Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Councillor William Woodhead – Stockton Borough Council

In accordance with Standing Order No. 35 Councillor Paul Kirton substituted for Councillor William Woodhead.

84. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

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

85. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee on 23 November 2018 be confirmed.

86. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

86.1 Community Safety Strategy

The Director of Technical Services (DoTS) referred Members to the Community Safety Strategy, as attached at Appendix 1, and reported that its key aim is to support the strategic outcomes underpinning the strategic goal of Safer, Stronger Communities.

He reported that the strategy was set out into a number of themes aimed at making a significant and positive impact on mitigating risk and the safety of communities; these being:

86.1 Community Safety Strategy cont.

- Safer Homes
- Safer Buildings
- Safer Roads
- Safer High Hazard Industries
- Safer Neighbourhoods and the Environment
- Supported National Resilience
- Improved Health Outcomes

To support the implementation of the strategy each theme will be underpinned by delivery plans which can be adapted going forward to reflect changes to risk profiles and any other emerging risks.

The DoTS reported that the document had been Equality Impact Assessed with no detrimental impact on any group and was considered to have a positive impact on community cohesion and relationships.

Councillor Ovens asked if the recent campaign to provide locks on bins in certain parts of the Brigade area was a partnership initiative. The DoTS confirmed that the Brigade had identified hotspots through carrying out arson audits and one of these was the security of refuse bins.

The Chair thanked all officers and members of staff involved in producing and delivering the strategy and stated that given the reduction in funding it was commendable that the Brigade continued to make vulnerable people a priority.

RESOLVED - That the Community Safety Strategy at Appendix 1 be noted.

86.2 Health & Safety Strategy 2018-22

The DoTS reported that this strategy aims to set out a clear framework for Health & Safety for the next four years based around the Brigade's number one value 'safety' by supporting people in the delivery of risk critical services.

He referred Members to the strategy, attached at Appendix 1, and reported that it had been aligned to three broad outcomes:

- Legally Compliant
- Staff Competence in Safety
- Positive Safety Culture

He reported that Cleveland had the second lowest rate of injury/accidents in the country going back to 2016/17 which was a fantastic achievement supported by strong leadership in Health & Safety and an embedded culture.

The Chair asked if there had been a reduction in incidents of violence towards staff since the trial of body worn cameras. The DoTS reported that an evaluation would be carried out once the pilot was completed and the details reported back to the Authority.

Councillor Kirton asked whether the cameras recorded audio and video footage. The DoTS confirmed that they did record both.

86.2 Health & Safety Strategy 2018-22 cont.

Councillor Cook referred to paragraph 6.3 on page 21 of the strategy which detailed the vehicle accident figures for 2015/16 and asked for current figures. The DoTS confirmed that 41 accidents per year were reported for both 2016/17 and 2017/18 and a slight reduction was expected for 2018/19 owing to the various measures that have been implemented to address the levels.

Councillor Cook asked what percentage of accidents were attributed to Brigade driver error. The DoTS confirmed that two thirds were caused by 'human error' with the rest caused by a third party. He added that an enhanced training provision has been provided to reduce this figure which currently puts the Brigade in the 3rd bottom quartile nationally.

RESOLVED – that the Health & Safety Strategy 2018-22 at Appendix 1 be noted.

86.3 HMICFRS Inspections 2018/19 – Summary of Findings from Tranche 1

The Director of Corporate Services (DoCS) provided Members with details of the findings from the first tranche of inspections undertaken in 14 fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) as detailed at Appendix 1.

She referred Members to the table at section 3.4 of the report giving an overview of how the 14 FRAs had been rated from Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate on the three pillars of judgement: Effective; Efficiency; People.

The DoCS reported that she had attended a HMICFRS event in London on 21 January with the Chair which focused on the outcomes from Tranche 1 inspections and sector improvement.

Nick Hurd, Minister of State for Policing and Fire, had addressed the event stating that he thought even though the Fire and Rescue Service was recognised as a world class service it needed to drive improvement and value for money in line with the Government's Reform Agenda.

The DoCS reported that Zoe Billingham of HMICFRS had outlined many positives from the first tranche of inspections and provided a list of areas of focus for improvement from each of the pillars. She had also indicated that early Findings from Tranche 2 inspections had revealed similar issues.

Locally, the DoCS reported that the new Service Liaison Lead (SLL) Keith Carruthers made his first inspection visit to Cleveland on 22 January where he visited Hartlepool Community Fire Station, attended the Employee Health & Wellbeing Board and spent time with Risk and Performance and the Area Manager for Emergency Response.

In preparation for inspection, which would be in the third and final tranche scheduled to take place in Spring/Summer 2019, the Authority was continuing to produce its self- assessment which would be shared with Members once completed.

86.3 HMICFRS Inspections 2018/19 – Summary of Findings from Tranche 1 cont.

The Chair noted that the Authority needed funding to change to protect the community of Cleveland and would need to concentrate its efforts to lobby parliament.

Councillor Cook stated that while Cleveland continued to deliver an excellent service on a reduced budget the Government would not consider the need for extra funding.

Councillor Ovens noted that as austerity had hit the Authority early and it did not have massive reserves to fall back on it had already put efficiency measures in place and though it continues to achieve good results it was rapidly approaching the limit in relation to budget cuts.

RESOLVED – that the HMICFRS' summary of findings from their inspection of the fourteen 'Tranche 1' fire and rescue services attached at Appendix 1 be noted.

87. 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 and 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."

88. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 23 November 2018 be confirmed.

89. CONFIDENTIAL JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND TREASURER

89.1 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2018/19 to 2022/23 and Reserves Strategy

The Treasurer provided a detailed presentation relating to the MTFS 2018/19 – 2022/23 and Reserves Strategy.

90. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

90.1 Fire /Police Collaboration Update

The Director of Technical Services updated Members on current and future plans for Fire / Police collaboration.

90.2 Procurement Update Report

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

90.3 Refurbishment of Guisborough and Loftus Fire Stations – Tender Acceptance
Members considered Tender submissions for the refurbishment of Guisborough and Loftus Fire Stations.

COUNCILLOR JAN BRUNTON DOBSON
CHAIR