



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 2 JUNE 2006

- PRESENT:**
- HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:**
Councillors Payne, Tumilty, Waller
- MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors Biswas, Clark, Jones, Mawston, Porley
- REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors Briggs, Cooney, Dunning, Forster, Smith, Walker
- STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors Brown, Kirton, O'Donnell, Roberts, Walmsley, Woodhead
- PROPER OFFICERS:-**
Clerk, Legal Adviser, Treasurer
- FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS:-**
John Doyle, Ian Hayton,
- AUDIT COMMISSION:-**
Ross Woodley
- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- | |
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| Councillor Allison (Hartlepool) |
| Councillor Pearson OBE, (Middlesbrough) |
| Councillor Salt, (Stockton) |

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Clerk sought nominations for the position of Chairman of Cleveland Fire Authority for the ensuing year. Councillor Mrs Brenda Forster was subsequently proposed and seconded whereupon nominations were closed.

RESOLVED - that Councillor Mrs Brenda Forster be appointed Chairman of Cleveland Fire Authority for the ensuing year.

Councillor Mrs Brenda Forster in the Chair.

The Chairman thanked Members for their nomination and that she looked forward to continuing working with Members and Officers on the challenges facing the Authority in the coming year. Councillor Forster wished to place on record the Authority's thanks to Councillor Payne for his outstanding Chairmanship over the last two years and presented him with a small memento on behalf of the Authority. Councillor Forster also placed on record the Authority's thanks to Councillors Blott, Smith, Flintoff, Cambridge, Leonard and Jackson for the support and contribution during their time on the Fire Authority. She gave special thanks to Councillor Jackson who had been a Member of the Fire Authority for over 10 years. Councillor Forster also welcomed Councillors Tumilty, Briggs, Smith and Brown to the Authority and welcomed Councillor Kirton on his return to the Fire Authority.

Councillors Cooney and Mawston also extended their thanks to Councillor Payne.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The Chair sought nominations for the position of Vice Chair to Cleveland Fire Authority for the ensuing year. It was subsequently proposed and seconded that Councillor Jones be appointed Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Jones be appointed Vice Chair of Cleveland Fire Authority for the ensuing year.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Meeting held on 31 March 2006 be confirmed.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Executive Committee held on 13 April 2006 be confirmed

5. COMMUNICATIONS SENT TO THE CLERK AND THE CHAIRMAN

The Clerk had received a card from Councillor Pearson thanking staff and Members for their best wishes during her recent illness. She also wished to thank Councillor Forster and Paul Joyce for their kindness during the recent Fire Improvement Group Visit. The Chairman wished Councillor Pearson a speedy recovery.

6. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMISSION

6.1 AUDIT PLAN 2006/2007

Ross Woodley advised Members of the Audit and Inspection work proposed to be undertaken by the Audit Commission in 2006/07. He also advised Members that the Audit Commission had recently appointed Steve Nicklin as Relationship Manager of Cleveland Fire Authority who is the Audit Commission's primary point of contact with the Authority and is also the interface at local level between the Commission and other Inspectorates.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

7. REPORTS OF THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

7.1 BUSINESS REPORT

The Clerk submitted a report detailing the revised schedule of Authority meetings, role of CFA Members and Committee structure for 2006/07 and sought Member representatives on outside bodies.

In relation to resolution (iii) below a vote was taken on the recommendation that Policy and Executive Committee Members cannot be members on Scrutiny Committees. The recommendation was carried with fourteen votes for and six against.

RESOLVED -

- (i) that the revised schedule of Meetings and Committees of the Authority (Appendix A) and role of CFA Members (Appendix B) be approved.**
- (ii) that a Member of a Non Controlling Group be nominated as Chair of the Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee.**
- (iii) that the Policy and Executive Committee members cannot have membership on the Scrutiny Committees.**
- (iv) that the Policy Committee membership be the same as the Executive Committee membership.**
- (v) that the Cleveland Fire Authority Meeting and Committee structure, terms of reference and membership as defined in Appendices C – F be approved.**
- (vi) that the Chair, Vice Chair and Head of Democratic and Member Services discuss the nominations for an independent member on the Policy and JCC Committees.**
- (vii) that the quorum for Committees be reduced from 5 to 4 Members.**
- (viii) that informal briefing meetings be held for all Authority Members prior to the bi monthly Cleveland Fire Authority meetings.**

- (ix) that the Safer Partnership representatives meet quarterly and report to the full CFA on their achievements and future activities.
- (x) that the Chairman, Vice Chair and Chief Fire Officer hold regular briefings.

7.1.1 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

The following nominations were made to the following Committees:

POLICY COMMITTEE (4 -1 -1 -1)

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Allison, Payne
MIDDLESBROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Jones, Mawston, Pearson
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillor Forster
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillor O'Donnell

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (2 – 1) plus 2 independent persons

Majority Member:-	Councillor Clark
Majority Member:-	Councillor Briggs
Minority Member:-	Councillor Salt

SERVICE DELIVERY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (4 - 1 – 1 – 1)

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillor Waller
MIDDLESBROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillor Porley
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Cooney, Dunning, Smith
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Brown, Roberts

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (4 – 1 – 1 - 1)

MIDDLESBROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Biswas, Porley,
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Briggs, Walker
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Brown, Walmsley, Woodhead

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (4 - 1 - 1 - 1)

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Allison, Payne
MIDDLESBROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Jones, Mawston, Pearson
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Forster
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors O'Donnell

TENDERS COMMITTEE (2 - 1)

Chairman	-	Councillor Forster
Vice Chair		Councillor Jones
Minority Member		Councillor Woodhead

APPEALS COMMITTEE (2 – 1)

Majority Member:-	Councillor Forster
Majority Member:-	Councillor Jones
Minority Member:-	Councillor Walker

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (4 – 1 –1 -1)

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Allison, Payne, Tumilty
MIDDLESBROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillors Jones, Pearson
REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillor Forster
STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-	Councillor Kirton

RESOLVED - that the Committees as detailed in Appendix D to the report be constituted with the Membership as indicated above.

7.1.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DELEGATED POWERS OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – that the Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers of Committees as set out at Appendix E to the report be approved and adopted.

7.1.3 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Members nominations were sought for representatives and substitutes to the Local Government Association, Regional Management Board (RMB), CDRP/Safer Partnership Forums and Hartlepool Local Strategic Partnership Board as outlined at Appendix G.

RESOLVED -

- (i) that Councillor Forster or substitute be appointed as the LGA representative for the ensuing year.
- (ii) that the Chairman and Vice Chair and Councillors Pearson and Mawston be appointed as the RMB representatives for the ensuing year and that Councillors Payne, O'Donnell, Cooney and Roberts be the named substitutes for the RMB for the ensuing year.
- (iii) that Councillor Waller be appointed on the Safer Hartlepool Partnership, Councillor Jones be appointed on the Safer Middlesbrough Partnership, Councillor Forster be appointed to the Redcar Community Safety Partnership and Councillor Kirton be appointed to the Safer Stockton Partnership for the ensuing year.
- (iv) that Councillor Payne be appointed on the Local Strategic Partnership Board, Councillor Jones act as substitute to the Executive Director on the Middlesbrough Strategic Partnership Board, that Councillor Forster act as substitute for the Executive Director on the Redcar & Cleveland Strategic Partnership Board and Councillor Kirton act as substitute for the Stockton District Manager on the Stockton Strategic Partnership Board.
- (v) that the Chairman, Vice Chair, Councillors Payne, Mawston and Pearson OBE, Proper Officers and Brigade Managers make up an established Working Party to review the Delegated Powers of Officers as a result of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. The current Delegated Powers are outlined at Appendix H.

7.1.4 FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES

RESOLVED – that the Financial Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix I to the report, be approved and adopted.

7.1.5 STANDING ORDERS AND CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Attached at Appendix J are the revised Standing Orders which include Scrutiny Committees and the Contract Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED – that the Standing Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business and the Contract Procedure Rules as set out in Appendix J be approved and adopted.

7.1.6 APPROVED POLICIES OF THE BRIGADE

Attached at Appendix K for Members endorsement were the approved policies of the Authority.

RESOLVED – that the approved policies of the Authority as outlined at Appendix K be endorsed.

7.1.7 MEMBERS DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Waller reported that it would be helpful if Members only had to undergo training once in certain subject matters e.g. codes of conduct or equality and diversity, rather than have to repeat the training on each outside bodies Members were appointed to. Attached at Appendix L was the Members Development Programme for 2006/07.

RESOLVED – that the Members Development Programme for 2006/07 as outlined at Appendix L be approved.

7.1.8 MEMBER VISITS TO FIRE STATIONS

The Clerk sought Members views on how they wished a programme of Member visits to Fire Stations be established throughout the year. Councillor Payne reported that a Member should be able to visit a station after giving 24 hours notice and also felt it would be beneficial to arrange Member Awareness Days in each of the Districts. He also requested that Borough Council elected Members be invited to events within their own District.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members agreed that visits to fire stations could be undertaken following 24 hour notice.**
- (ii) that Members agreed that a Member Awareness Day be held in each of the Districts.**
- (iii) that Borough Council Members also be invited to events within their own District.**

7.1.9 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

The Membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel be noted.

7.1.10 MEMBER CHAMPIONS

The Clerk sought Members nominations for an Equality and Diversity Champion and an E-Government Champion.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Biswas be the Equality and Diversity Champion and Councillor Dunning the E-Government Champion.

7.2 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS – 14 JULY 2006

The Clerk sought Members wishes in respect of Member attendance at the Local Strategic Partnerships Conference “After the White Paper” on 14 July 2006 which also coincided with the planned Member Development Day.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Kirton attend the Local Strategic Partnerships Conference on 14 July 2006 in London.

7.3 FIRE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – 8-9 NOVEMBER 2006

The Clerk sought Members wishes regarding Member attendance at the Fire 2006 Conference and Exhibition.

RESOLVED - that the Chairman, Vice Chair and a Member of a minority party attend the Fire 2006 Conference and Exhibition.

7.4 FIRE CONTROL AND FIRELINK NORTH EAST – SENIOR STAKEHOLDER SEMINAR – 7 JUNE 2006

The Clerk sought Members wishes regarding Member attendance at the FireControl and Firelink North East Senior Stakeholder Seminar on 7 June 2006 in Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Washington and asked that they confirm their attendance to the Head of Democratic and Member Services. It was also agreed that Member attendance at any future free regional Seminars be approved by the Head of Democratic and Member Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members confirm their attendance at the FireControl and Firelink North East Senior Stakeholder Seminar on 7 June 2006 in Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service HQ, Washington to the Head of Democratic and Member Services**
- (ii) that Member attendance at free regional Seminars be approved by the Head of Democratic and Member Services in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority.**

7.5 CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY'S INFORMATION PACK

- 7.5.1 Member Attendances at Conferences.
- 7.5.2 Contact Telephone Numbers.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

8. REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN FIRE AUTHORITY IMPROVEMENT GROUP OVERSEAS VISIT

Councillor Forster briefed Members on the learning outcomes from the member/officer performance improvement visit to a diverse array of USA Fire Departments that took place between 22 April and 1 May 2006. Councillor Forster stated that although the visit was hard work it had been worthwhile, 'good value for money' and extremely beneficial to be given the opportunity to share information with the American Fire Departments.

The Clerk advised Members that the Policy Committee would be considering the way forward in relation to national policy issues of residential sprinklers and emergency medical services and that further reports on the local policy development issues would also be considered by the Policy Committee to determine the way forward. He also acknowledged the importance of encouraging the development of a wider improvement network to generate good practice and innovative approaches in community safety.

The Chief Fire Officer congratulated Members on the Authority's resolution for the Improvement Group Overseas Visit. He referred that staff from the USA Fire Departments were staggered at the amount of community safety work being carried out within Cleveland and recognised that Cleveland are leading the country in certain areas. The Chief Fire officer advised Members that in America the Mayor appoints a Fire Chief and residential sprinklers are dealt with by City Auditors. He also reported that Cleveland Fire Brigade's Uniform Policy would be revisited. Councillor Forster added that the representative from the Fire Brigade's Union was an asset to the team and had enabled some great ideas to be brought back. Councillor Forster stated that she had asked for an executive summary to be produced for circulation.

Councillor Dunning referred to the large number of women firefighters in America and enquired as to the selection criteria used at recruitment of the firefighters. The Chief Fire officer replied that there had been changes recently to our firefighter selection test.

RESOLVED –

- (i) **that the report be noted.**
- (ii) **that National Policy issues of residential sprinklers and emergency medical services be referred to the Policy Committee to consider the way forward.**
- (iii) **that further reports on the local policy development issues should be considered by the Policy Committee to determine the way forward.**
- (iv) **that the development of a wider improvement network to generate good practice and innovative approaches in community safety be encouraged.**
- (v) **that the Executive Director provide an Executive summary of the report.**
- (vi) **that the Cleveland Fire Brigade Uniform Policy be revisited.**

9. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

The Chief Fire Officer conveyed his thanks to Councillor Payne for his term as Chairman of Cleveland Fire Authority and stated that Cleveland would continue to work towards being the best Fire and Rescue Service in the UK. He passed his congratulations to the Chairman and Vice Chair on their appointments and welcomed Members to the meeting.

9.1 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD – 28 APRIL 2006

9.1.1 REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE GOVERNANCE

The Chief Fire Officer requested Members to consider the Regional Management Board recommendations and resolutions of the Regional Control Centre Governance report considered at its meeting of 28 April 2006.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members considered the recommendations of the Regional Management Board.
- (ii) that Members noted the response to the consultation on the governance arrangements.
- (iii) that Members approved the creation of a local authority company to manage the North East RCC.
- (iv) that Members agreed to the recommendation of the RMB to establish a working group involving Chief Fire Officer R. Bull and the four Chairs to explore the options and report back to the Board for ratification.

9.1.2 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD - REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the following reports for Members information: Minutes of 17 March 2006, Dates, Times and Venues of future meetings, NEFRA: Gateway Review II: Procurement Approval.

RESOLVED – that the minutes and reports as outlined be noted.

9.2 AUTHORITY IMPROVEMENT GROUP

The Chief Fire Officer sought Members approval for visits to Merseyside and Staffordshire Fire Authorities and their views regarding Member representation on the Fire Authority Improvement Group. At the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting on 25 November 2005, Members resolved the formation of an improvement partnership with Merseyside and Staffordshire Fire Authorities. The improvement partnership would work to the mutual benefit of all three Authorities involved and a report would be produced detailing a programme of work designed to deliver mutual advantage.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Chairman, Vice Chair, two Labour Members and two Members of a minority group be the representatives on the Fire Authority Improvement Group.
- (ii) that Members approved visits to Merseyside and Staffordshire Fire Authorities as part of the Authority Improvement Group Programme.
- (iii) that Members agreed Cleveland host a visit from Merseyside and Staffordshire Fire Authorities as part of the Authority Improvement Group Programme.

10. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY (SERVICE DELIVERY) CHAIRMAN

10.1 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2006/07 IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee sought Members approval on the recommendations of the Scrutiny (Service Delivery) Committee in relation to the scrutiny review of the Safety Improvement Plan 2006/07 Implementation Programme. A Special Meeting had taken place prior to the annual meeting and the following recommendations were proposed.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that the report be noted.
- (ii) that each Phase of the Safety Improvement Plan 2006/07 Implementation Programme be implemented.
- (iii) that the Scrutiny (Service Delivery) Committee scrutinise each of the three phases of the programme, 6 months after implementation, to ensure that the outcomes identified have been achieved and that there has been no detrimental effect on any other area of the services provided by Cleveland Fire Brigade.
- (iv) that during the Implementation of each Phase of the Safety Improvement Plan, a proposal be submitted to the Scrutiny (Service Delivery) Committee for consideration detailing the potential information sources which could be utilised for reviewing/monitoring purposes.
- (v) that Phase 2 of the Safety Improvement Plan Implementation Programme (crew size adjustments requirement at Thornaby and Redcar) is not undertaken until the evaluation of the minimum staffing requirements at Billingham is considered by the Service Delivery Scrutiny Committee on 1 December 2006 and a Special CFA called in December to discuss the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee.

11. REPORT OF THE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE SUMMARY REPORT 2005/06

The Executive Director provided Members with a provisional summary of the Brigade's annual performance against Best Value and Home Office Indicators for 2005/06. He advised Members that it was pleasing to note that overall the organisation have worked toward a 25% total reduction in fires.

RESOLVED – that Members noted the report.

12. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

12.1 FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2006/07

The Executive Director gave Members an overview of the Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2006/07. He detailed the three areas for assessment: Service assessment, Direction of Travel and Use of resources. In April of this year the Audit Commission published its plans to build upon the Fire CPA process to monitor how well Fire Authorities are improving in delivering services to local people. The Audit Commission's proposals are set out in the "Fire and Rescue – Performance Framework 2006/07" which had been published, initially as a consultation document to invite feedback from Fire Authorities. The Executive Director highlighted the high levels of deprivation currently affecting the performance indicators. Councillor Dunning commented that it was positive that the Audit are now taking notice of the high levels of deprivation in the area.

The Executive Director highlighted for Members that the Performance Framework would determine signs of significantly improving or deteriorating performance and would be measured through a corporate assessment that could result in re-categorisation. Re-Categorisation would be subject to further consultation in the autumn of 2006 and a report would be brought back to the Fire Authority. The deadline for feedback submissions to the Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2006/07 was 30th May 2006 following which the Audit Commission would publish their confirmed framework in July 2006. The Executive Director asked Members to note the letter from Councillor Payne (as Chairman) to Andrew Hughes, Fire and Rescue Service Policy Lead at the Audit Commission and asked them to note the contents of the formal consultation response to the Audit Commission attached to the letter.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members noted the content and proposals of the draft FRS Performance Framework.
- (ii) that Members noted the implications and issues arising from the Framework and considered the role of Scrutiny in supporting the achievement of the best outcome for the Authority.
- (iii) that Members noted the contents of the formal consultation response to the Audit Commission.
- (iv) that Members engage proactively to raise political and local awareness of the potential negative impacts of the proposed framework as it is applied to the Cleveland Fire Authority.
- (v) that Members of the Cleveland Fire Authority receive further reports on Re-Categorisation.

12.2 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF LAND

The Executive Director advised Members of the proposed transfer of land from One NorthEast to Cleveland Fire Authority and sought Members approval for the Authority's Legal Adviser to prepare and execute the relevant land transfer documentation.

RESOLVED – that Members approved that the Legal Adviser prepare and execute the relevant land transfer documentation.

12.3 INFORMATION PACK NO. CFA 56 – MAY 2006

- 12.3.1 Fire Brigades National Employers Circulars
- 12.3.2 Fire and Rescue Service Circulars
- 12.3.3 Corus Teesside Works & CFB Fire Safety Competition for Local Secondary Schools
- 12.3.4 Equality Impact Assessments

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

13. REPORT OF THE TREASURER TO THE AUTHORITY

13.1 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The Treasurer informed Members that the Independent Remuneration Panel had carried out a review of the Members Allowances Scheme and asked Members to consider their recommendations (Appendix 2). Members were also asked to note the report and approve the amended Members Allowances Scheme as attached at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members considered the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and agreed to the proposed recommendations as follows:-
 - a) that members' Basic Allowance be increased to £2,000
 - b) the SRA of Performance Scrutiny Chair be increased (x 0.5 basic) to £1,000
 - c) the SRA of Service Delivery Scrutiny Chair be increased (x 1.75) to £3,500
 - d) the SRA of the Vice Chairman be increased (x 2 basic) to £4,000
 - e) the SRA of the Chairman be increased (x 4 basic) to £8,000
 - f) that the Independent Remuneration Panel review the Members Allowance Scheme in 6 months' time.
- (ii) that Members approved the amended Members Allowances Scheme as attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

13.2 ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPROVING THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer asked Members to consider the arrangements for approving the Statement of Accounts and that the authority be delegated to the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that the authority to approve the Statement of Accounts be delegated to the Executive Committee on a permanent basis, subject to the usual annual review of delegated power.
- (ii) that the Statement of Accounts be presented to the Executive Committee Meeting on 30 June 2006.

13.3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2006/07

The Treasurer provided a review of the Treasury Management for the financial year 2005/2006 and outlined the Treasury Management Strategy for 2006/2007. He advised Members that the Authority had undertaken strategic borrowing which would meet its requirements for the next three financial years. This has enabled it to lock into historically low interest rates and ensure stability for the revenue budget. Further borrowing would not be required in the current year.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that the contents of the report be noted.
- (ii) that Members approved the Treasury Management Strategy 2006/07.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Biswas referred to the incident at the Terra plant in Billingham on 31 May 2006 and expressed his disappointment that the firefighters had not been commended in the press for their outstanding work carried out at the plant which resulted in the fire being brought under control quite quickly. He felt the Fire Brigade could work in conjunction with the local press office in briefing the public at the time of such an incident.

Members requested that a letter be sent to the firefighters involved congratulating them on their remarkable work and also that a press statement be released.

RESOLVED –

- (i) that Members agreed that a press statement be sent to the local press on the remarkable efforts of firefighters in controlling the fire at Billingham Terra plant on 31 May 2006.
- (ii) that Members agreed that letters be sent to the firefighters commending them for their efforts on 31 May 2006.

15. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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 7 of Schedule 12A to the Act namely information:- relating to any individual; relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information); relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (other than the Authority)"

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of Proceedings of the Cleveland Fire Authority Meeting held on 31 March 2006 be confirmed.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of Executive Committee – 13 April 2006 be confirmed.

18. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

18.1 REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD – 28 March 2006

RESOLVED – that the minutes of 17 March 2006 Part II be noted.

**COUNCILLOR MRS BRENDA FORSTER JP
CHAIRMAN**