



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON

FRIDAY, 27 JULY 2007

- PRESENT:**
- CHAIRMAN:**
Councillor Mrs Brenda Forster – Redcar & Cleveland
- HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:**
Councillors Cook, Henery, Payne
- MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors Clark, Ismail, Jones, Porley, Williams
- REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors Briggs, Cooney, Dunning
- STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-**
Councillors Dixon, Kirton, Stoker, Woodhead
- AUTHORITY OFFICERS:-**
Deputy Clerk , Treasurer
- FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS:-**
Executive Director
- APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- | |
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| Councillor Marshall (Hartlepool) |
| Councillors Ovens, Fitzpatrick (Redcar & Cleveland) |
| Councillors, O'Donnell , Roberts, (Stockton) , |
| Councillor Pearson, (Middlesbrough) |

The Chairman expressed her congratulations on behalf of the Authority to Ian Hayton on being awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal.

Councillor Forster thanked everyone for sponsoring her on the Boundary 500 Motorcycle Challenge. She informed members that she had completed the challenge and had raised a total of £758.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Woodhead back to the Authority.

37. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

It was noted no declarations of interest were submitted to the meeting.

38. MINUTES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 01 June 07 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 08 June be confirmed.

39. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of The Executive Committee held on 29 June 2007, the Minutes of The Policy Committee held on 06 July 2007 and the Minutes of the Standards Committee held on 17 July 2007 be confirmed.

**40. TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING 15 JUNE 2007**

40.1 RMB – Fire Control Project Update

The Executive Director provided an update on progress with regard to the Regional Fire Control Centre Project and referred Members to the CFA meeting on 8th June, where members had voiced concerns and sought further clarification. These concerns had now been resolved and the letter signed and returned to Angela Smith, MP (see Executive Meeting minutes of (29/6/07). The Executive Director also advised Members that the formal signing of the contract triggered the release of key information on the project and the next version of the Business Case, proposed Cost Apportionment Model, and the National Functions are also scheduled for imminent release.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the report be noted**
- ii) That Members supported a regional seminar to discuss the RCC business case with the National Team**
- iii) That Members endorsed the RMB's recommendation to defer responding to the CLG Governance report until further clarification is forthcoming.**
- iv) That further reports be received as appropriate**

40.2 RMB Reports for Information

RESOLVED: That the following minutes and reports be noted

- i) Minutes of 13/4/07**
- ii) Liaison visit by Peter Betts CLG**
- iii) Membership of the Board**
- iv) Dates, time and Venue of future meetings**
- v) NEFRA Collaboration PFI Project: - update**

41. REPORTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

41.1 EQUALITY SCHEME 2007 – 2010

The Executive Director, informed Members that the Policy Committee had considered the Equality Scheme and recommended its approval. He reported that the scheme meets the changes in legislation, policy, guidance and procedure, and covers all six strands of equality issues. He advised Members that the Authority were being evaluated in August against Local Government Standards for Equality and Diversity and were hoping to achieve "level 3"

Councillor Dunning sought further information regarding the present CFA Disability Target Guide and the Executive Director agreed to forward this information.

RESOLVED: that Members approved the Equality Scheme 2007 – 2010.

41.2 The Mo Mowlam Memorial Fund

Councillor Cooney declared a non prejudicial interest.

The Executive Director informed Members that a request had been received from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council regarding the making of a contribution to the Mo Mowlam Memorial Fund. Councillor Clarke reported that although he had greatly admired Mo Mowlan, he did not feel it appropriate for the Authority to make a donation and agreed with the Authority policy of not making donations. Members agreed to follow Authority policy and not make a donation, but suggested that Members make their own personal donations if they wished to do so.

RESOLVED - that the Authority do not make a donation and that individual Members make a personal donation if they wish to do so.

41.3. INFORMATION PACK July 2007

- 41.3.1 Fire and Rescue Service Circulars
- 41.3.2 National Joint Circulars
- 41.3.3 Employers Circulars
- 41.3.4 United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial Trust
- 41.3.5 Expression of Appreciation from Chief Inspector P Veitch
- 41.3.6 Letter of Thanks from Gus O'Donnell
- 41.3.7 Letter of Thanks and Appreciation from Mrs Boagey

The Executive Director drew members attention to the three letters of appreciation detailing the outstanding work our firefighters are doing within the community which demonstrated how the crews go above and beyond the call of duty.

Members agreed that letters of appreciation be sent to the relevant stations.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the report be noted
- ii) That the chairman send letters of appreciation to the crews involved in the English Martyrs School bus crash, and the flooding incidents.

42.1 "Firelink" Chief Fire Officers Response to the Individual Detailed Design Specification (IDDS) issued by Firelink for comment

The Executive Director appraised Members of the receipt of the consultation document in respect of the "Firelink" project, which is an important investment in radio communications bringing improved resilience and inter-operability within the service and with other emergency services and, as such, will play an important part in making sure each Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) can respond to priority incidents. He reported that current radio systems are the responsibility of individual FRS which has lead to differences in the type and nature of existing systems across the country and limited the level of inter-operability. The Executive Director reported that, in general, the technical issues within the Individual Detailed Design Specification (IDDS) of the Firelink project are satisfactory, but there are a number of associated issues which will be influential in achieving an acceptable level of performance. The following 3 issues, Officers in Charge having hand held radios; a facility for the driver to communicate from the back of the pumps and officers having car provision communication, have or may be classed as optional extras. He reported that these are all classed as essential standard elements within Cleveland Fire Authority and informed

Members that if these 3 items were classed as “extras” the potential financial consequences would be an increase in the revenue budget from £52,000 to £290,000 (Appendix 2 refers). The Executive Director reported that the CLG have stated on numerous occasions that additional” costs attributable to the move to Firelink will be funded through New Burdens, (which is where additional costs are supplemented by a grant).

Members discussed this issue at great length and agreed that as the Authority have these 3 systems in currently in place they should be covered within the new system as standard and not extras, and therefore covered by the New Burdens money. Members agreed that the new system should enhance not decrease the current system in place.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted
- (ii) That a letter be sent to CLG asking that the 3 standard items be included within the New Burdens money.

43. REPORTS OF THE PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY CHAIR

43.1 Performance Scrutiny Committee – Forward Work Programme (FWP)

The Chair of the Performance Scrutiny Committee outlined the Performance Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for 2007/8. He informed Members that the FWP would remain flexible to enable referrals throughout the year.

RESOLVED - That the Performance Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2007/08 be approved.

43.2 CFA Corporate Risk Register

The Chair of the Performance Scrutiny Committee informed Members that the Performance Scrutiny Committee had scrutinised the 2007-2008 Cleveland Fire Authority Corporate Risk Register and found no issues of concern.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the report be noted.
- ii) That the CFA Corporate Risk Register and Active Business Planning process be approved and used in the business planning process.
- iii) That the Performance Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the Corporate Risk Register on a quarterly basis.

43.3 Chairs Information Pack – July 2007

The Chair of the Performance Scrutiny Committee outlined the following reports that were presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 July 2007 and informed Members that no areas of concern had been identified.

43.3.1 Progress Against Revenue & Capital Budgets 2007/2008 – Appendix A

43.3.2 Annual Performance Review 2006/2007 – Appendix B

43.3.3 Annual Efficiency Statement – Backward Look 2006/2007 – Appendix C

RESOLVED - that the reports be noted

44. REPORT OF THE CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY
Clerk's Information Pack

- 44.1 Delegated Powers – Executive Committee Meeting of 29/6/07
44.2 Fire & Rescue Conference 2007

RESOLVED - that Members noted the reports

45. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER
Code of Conduct

The Treasurer on behalf of The Legal Advisor invited the Authority to adopt the revised model code of conduct. He advised Members of the main changes within the Code.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the revised Code of Conduct with the addition of the preamble incorporating the ten general principles of Public Life, but omitting para 12 (2) of the model code be approved.
- ii) That the Deputy Clerk advertise the new Code of Conduct and undertake all other necessary action incidental to its adoption.

46. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman referred Members to discussion on Local Area Agreements (LAA) that had taken place at the informal briefing meeting and Members agreed that a Member Reference Group be established with 3 members from each Local Council. Nominations were sought and agreed.

Councillor Kirton reported that the Stockton Deputy Chief Executive had offered to discuss the LAA with the members and Officers of the Fire Authority. Members agreed to accept this offer and agreed a meeting should be arranged as soon as possible.

RESOLVED –

- i) That a Member Reference Group be established with the terms of reference to be drawn up and presented to the next Cfa meeting
- ii) That the Membership of the Member Reference Group be as follows:-
Hartlepool - Councillors Cook, Henery and Payne
Middlesbrough - Councillors Jones, Porley and Clark
Redcar & Cleveland - Councillors Briggs, Dunning and Cooney
Stockton on Tees - Councillors Kirton, Woodhead and O'Donnell
- iii) That a meeting with the Deputy Chief Executive of Stockton Borough Council be arranged as soon as possible.

47. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Members are requested to pass the following resolution:-

“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 paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act namely information relating to any individual”

48. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The Chairman referred to the Members Allowance report which contained the requested Fire and Rescue Authority’s comparative information. Members reported that at no time had comparative information been sought with the Police Authorities.

RESOLVED - that the confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on 29 June 2007 be confirmed.

**COUNCILLOR MRS BRENDA FORSTER JP
CHAIRMAN**