



CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 28 JANUARY 2011

PRESENT:

CHAIR:-

Councillor O'Donnell – Stockton on Tees Borough Council

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:-

Councillors Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, Flintoff, Payne

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL:-

Councillors Brunton, Clark, Morby, Porley, Rogers, Thompson

REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-

Councillors Briggs, Cooney, Dunning, Forster, Ovens

STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-

Councillors Kirton, Lewis, Stoker

AUTHORISED OFFICERS:-

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

OFFICERS:-

Director of Technical Services, Head of Corporate Support

**APOLOGIES FOR
ABSENCE**

Councillor Abbott (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)

Councillors Salt, Woodhead (Stockton Borough Council)

**108. PRESENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS
AWARD**

The Chair and Chief Fire Officer presented the Community Engagement and Partnerships Award to Mr Denis Hampson, on behalf of the Tall Ships Safety Advisory Group. The Group which included representatives from Cleveland Fire Brigade, the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit, Cleveland Police, the Coast Guard and Hartlepool Council met for a period in excess of two years to ensure the safety and success of the Tall Ships Event.

109. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

Councillor Akers-Belcher declared a non-prejudicial interest in Minute No 113.3 as a Co-ordinator of a Youth Project.

110. MINUTES

The Chief Fire Officer referred to Minute No 92.1 in regard to Private Finance Initiative Update and advised Members that a meeting had taken place in London with the Fire Minister, at which, the Vice Chair, Councillor Payne, and Chief Fire Officer represented Cleveland Fire Brigade.

110. MINUTES cont

Councillor Payne informed Members that they had been informed there was no further PFI funding, following which a request that all expenditure incurred by Cleveland Fire Brigade with regard to this project be refunded. The Fire Minister commented that he would look favorably on Cleveland for any money that becomes available. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that he had written requesting clarity regarding what money was available and if no further funding was available, would formally write request repayment of the £2.5m incurred by the three organisations in progressing PFI to date.

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Meeting held on 26 November 2010 be confirmed.

111. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 7 January 2011 and the Tender Committee held on 14 January 2011 be confirmed.

112. COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman outlined the following correspondence received since the last meeting:

Bob Neill MP - CSR and Fire & Rescue Services, General Powers for FRS, FiReControl Project and Control Room Services in England.

Kevin Robson – NERCC Director, re FiReControl

Shona Dunn – CLG, re FiReControl Project Cancellation and Funding

113. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

113.1 Fire Futures

The Chief Fire Officer informed Members that the Fire Minister announced a Strategic Review of the Fire and Rescue Services in August 2010 with the objective of shaping the future and direction of the Fire and Rescue Service in England. He reported that the Minister has called for reaction from sector partners on the options included in the reports and the Chief Fire Officer requested that Members consider the outcomes, options and proposals for the future direction of the Fire and Rescue Service and that any views be fed back to the Director of Corporate Services.

Councillor Forster sought further clarification regarding the financial implications of some of the recommendations. Councillor Thompson highlighted the omission of Fire Prevention in the report and the Chief Fire Officer reported that this will be included in our submission. Councillor Ovens suggested a move to providing more Co-responder services, making flooding a statutory duty and raised concern regarding any move towards using volunteers rather than retained Firefighters.

Councillor Morby stated that he would not like to see a full merger between the Ambulance Service and Fire and Rescue Services due to the differing protocols in responding to incidents. Councillor Forster commented that merged services were in operation in the USA which worked very effectively.

113.1 Fire Futures cont

RESOLVED: –

- (i) That Members views regarding the Fire Future reports be forwarded to the Director of Corporate Services**
- (ii) That further reports be received as appropriate.**

113.2 Equality & Diversity Policy

Members approved the Equality & Diversity Policy which had been amended to incorporate changes in legislation.

RESOLVED – that the Executive Committee’s recommendation to approve the Equality & Diversity Policy be ratified.

113.3 Children and Young Persons Policy and Automatic Fire Suppression Systems Policy

Members approved the Children and Young Persons Policy and Automatic Fire Suppression Systems Policy which will ensure effective delivery of balanced services to meet community needs. Members discussed the merits of incorporating automatic fire suppression systems in new builds and the potential benefits of the Brigade being consulted on this matter at the Planning Committee stage.

RESOLVED:- that the Executive Committee’s recommendation to approve the Children and Young Persons Policy and the Automatic Fire Suppression systems Policy be ratified.

113.4 Chief Fire Officer Information Pack

- 113.4.1 Fire and Rescue Service Monthly Bulletins**
- 113.4.2 National Joint Circulars**
- 113.4.3 Employers Circulars**

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

114. VERBAL BRIEFING ON THE NE FIRE CONTROL COMPANY BOARD

Councillor Forster updated Members on the current position regarding the NE FiReControl Company. She confirmed that the Board had met on 25th January and was given formal notification of the Fire Ministers announcement to terminate the Project. The Company Secretary presented a paper in relation to the company’s future and the process and implications involved in winding up the Company. Councillor Forster reported that the Company are in discussions with DCLG regarding the arrangements required for handing back the lease for the RCC Building in Durham.

Councillor Morby requested that thanks be passed on to all those involved.

RESOLVED: that the briefing be noted.

115. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

115.1 Information Pack

- 115.1.1 Duty System
- 115.1.2 Organisational Structure
- 115.1.3 Contractual Arrangements

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

116. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) (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 items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006”.

Minute Nos 117 & 119 – Paragraphs 3 and 4

Minute Nos 118.1 & 118.2 – Paragraph 4

Paragraph 3 – namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Paragraph 4 – 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.

117. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on 7 January 2011 and the Tender Committee held on 14 January 2011 be confirmed.

118. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

118.1 Service Transformation

- (i) Organisational Structure**
- (ii) Workforce Transition**
- (iii) Revised Duty System**

The Chief Fire Officer updated Members on the progress of the Authority's Transformation Programme.

118.2 North East Fire Control Project

Members were updated on the current position of the NE FiReControl Project.

- 119 ANY OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS
CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES
RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Meeting held on 26 November 2010 be confirmed.

COUNCILLOR JEAN O'DONNELL
CHAIR