

# LEICESTERSHIRE

## FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

DRAFT

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority, held at the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

### **PRESENT**

Cllr D Bajaj	Mrs J Fox CC
Cllr S Barton	Mr A Kershaw CC
Cllr C Bhatti	Mr P Lewis CC
Cllr K Bool	Mr B Liquorish CC
Mr S Bray CC	Ms B Newton CC
Cllr A Byrne (left 15:50hrs)	Mr O O'Shea CC
Mr M Charlesworth CC	Mrs C Radford CC (Vice Chair)
Cllr S Corrall (Chair)	Mr M Wyatt CC
Mr J Coxon CC	

### **OFFICERS**

Mr D Webb	Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Mr R Chandler	Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Mr S Lunn	Director of Community Services
Mr T Peel	Treasurer and Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Mr R Hall	Temporary Area Manager (Organisational Change Project)
Mr G Goodman	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Mrs J Green	Member Services Co-ordinator

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this Agenda**

None.

#### **3. Urgent Business**

None.

**4. Public Participation**

None.

**5. Chair's announcements**

These had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

**6. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 as a correct record.**

**RESOLVED:**

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) confirmed the Minutes of the Meeting of the CFA on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2014 as a correct record.

**7. CFA Rules of Procedure Rule 9 – Member Questions**

Mr M Charlesworth CC asked the following question:

*"Will Cllr Susan Barton apologise for the misleading and offensive remarks made at the meeting of the CFA in December 2014, when she said that the officers providing cover during periods of strike action were prolonging this Industrial Action".*

Cllr Susan Barton responded by assuring the CFA that she did not intend to imply that the fault lay with any individual. She did not intend to offend and fully apologised to those present and acknowledged that the very best was being achieved in the circumstances.

Mr Charlesworth acknowledged and appreciated the apology given. There was no supplementary question asked.

**8. To consider the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**9. To consider the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**10. Appointment of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer**

DCFO Chandler left the meeting during this report.

The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented this report to the CFA advising of the outcomes of the selection process for the appointment of a new Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (CFO) along with the recommendation of the Staffing Committee.

A vote was taken for the appointment of DCFO Chandler as Chief Fire and Rescue Officer on the terms set out in the report with 16 in favour and 1 abstention.

Members expressed their congratulations to DCFO Chandler.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA:

- a) Approved the appointment of Richard Chandler as Chief Fire and Rescue Officer with effect from 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015.
- b) Approved the salary of the new CFO at £140,612 subject to any pay award nationally agreed by the NJC with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.
- c) Approved the pay review clause set out at paragraph 3.4 in the report in the new CFO's contract of employment.

**11. Budget 2015/16**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented this report to the CFA to request its approval of the Annual Budget, Council Tax and Treasury Management Strategy for 2015/16 and the 2015/16 Capital Programme.

Members noted the contents of the report and all agreed to take all the recommendations on block.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA:

- a) Set the gross Volume Standstill budget for 2015/16 at £38,035,290 as shown in Appendix 2.
- b) Agreed the total gross budget requirement of £37,123,957 as shown in Appendix 2 based on the Volume Standstill budget adjusted for the growth and savings items listed in Appendix 3 and a decrease in the General Reserve of £61,286.
- c) Set the Band D Council Tax for 2015/16 at £60.4311.
- d) Authorised the Treasurer to issue the necessary precepts to Billing Authorities in accordance with the budget requirement above and the tax base notified by the Billing Authorities, and to take any other action, which may be necessary to give effect to the precept.
- e) Approved the Capital Programme for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix

- f) Noted the 2015/16 financial position shown in Appendix 5.
- g) Approved the Prudential and Treasury Indicators and the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 6 to the report, including the policy on approved organisations for lending (Annex 3) and the approved Countries for investment (Annex 4).
- h) Noted the Prudential and Treasury indicators required under the Prudential Code set out in paragraph 3.2 of Appendix 6 and approved the following limits:

	<u>2014/15</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>£000</u>
Authorised Limit for external debt:				
i) Borrowing	20,716	22,730	21,775	20,796
ii) Other long term liabilities	7,337	6,377	5,478	5,492
Operational Boundary for external debt:				
i) Borrowing	18,216	20,230	19,275	18,296
ii) Other long term liabilities	6,837	5,877	4,978	4,992

- i) Delegated authority for the Treasurer to effect movement within the Authorised Limit for external debt between borrowing and other long term liabilities.
- j) Approved the following borrowing limits for the period 2015/16 to 2016/17:

	<b>2015/16</b>	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
<b>Interest rate Exposures</b>			
	<b>Upper</b>	<b>Upper</b>	<b>Upper</b>
<b>Limits on fixed interest rates based on net debt</b>	100%	100%	100%
<b>Limits on variable interest rates based on net debt</b>	50%	50%	50%
<b>Maturity Structure of fixed interest rate borrowing 2015/16</b>			
	<b>Lower</b>	<b>Upper</b>	
Under 12 months	0%	30%	
12 months to 2 years	0%	30%	
2 years to 5 years	0%	50%	
5 years to 10 years	0%	70%	
10 years and above	0%	100%	

- k) Authorised the Treasurer to enter into such loans or undertake such

arrangements as necessary to finance capital payments in 2015/16, subject to agreed prudential limits.

- l) Approved the removal of the accelerated incremental progression payment for support staff detailed in paragraph 3.34
- m) Approved the Revised Establishment detailed in paragraph 3.48.
- n) Approved the changes to the Specified Amounts contained in Appendix 7.
- o) Approved the revised rates for Special Service Charges contained in Appendix 8 effective from the 1st April 2015.

## **12. Organisational Change Project – Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Consultation Outcomes**

The Chair agreed to a presentation from a representative of the Fire Brigade Union (FBU).

Mr G Lynch thanked the CFA on behalf of the FBU for the opportunity to speak. He confirmed to the CFA that the FBU have grave concerns with regards to the impact that implementation of the recommendations within this report would have on the public.

The FBU urged rejection of the recommendations at this meeting today but expressed a keenness to work with the CFA on alternative proposals.

The CFO presented the outcomes of the IRMP Consultation on Proposals for Change to the CFA.

The CFA agreed to take each recommendation in turn.

The Chair confirmed that Item (g) of the recommendations had been removed but an additional recommendation (h) was to be put forward.

Members thanked the CFO and the FBU for giving their time to offer a wide scope of information.

The CFA considered the consultation responses and determined the following for each proposal:

- a) **Remove one fire engine from Oakham Fire & Rescue Station.**

### **RESOLVED:**

The CFA unanimously decided to defer a decision until its next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

- b) **Make 4 the standard crewing level across the Service.**

It was moved by Mr M Charlesworth CC and seconded by Mr S Bray CC to defer a decision until the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

A vote was taken, the result being 10 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention. The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA deferred a decision until its next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

c) **Discontinue the Resilience Team.**

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA unanimously agreed to discontinue the Resilience Team.

d) **Change from the current duty system to Day Crewing Plus at Wigston Fire & Rescue Station.**

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA unanimously agreed to change from the current duty system to Day Crewing Plus at Wigston Fire and Rescue Station.

e) **Remove one fire engine from the city area.**

A vote was taken, the result being 7 in favour, 3 against and 6 abstentions. The recommendation was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA agreed to the removal of one fire engine from the city area.

f) **Remove one fire engine from Loughborough Fire & Rescue Station**

It was proposed by Mr T Kershaw CC and seconded by Mr J Coxon CC to remove one fire engine from Loughborough Fire and Rescue Service with the remaining fire engine manned by 5 as standard not withstanding any decision agreed at Item b. A vote was taken the result being: 7 in favour and 9 against. The motion was lost.

A vote was taken on the original recommendation. The result being: 4 in favour 6 against and 5 abstentions. The motion was lost.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA rejected the proposal to remove one fire engine from Loughborough Fire and Rescue Station.

h) **RESOLVED:**

The CFA agreed that the CFO implement recommendation (e) above taking all reasonable steps to avoid compulsory redundancies in the wholtime establishment. If this proves not to be possible the CFO shall seek the permission of the CFA to make any such compulsory redundancies.

**13. Proposed Dates for the 2015/16 Municipal Year**

The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented for approval the schedule of future meeting dates for the CFA and its various Committees.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA approved the proposed schedule of dates for the 2015/16

Municipal Year.

**14. Date of Next Meeting**

This was confirmed as Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015 (Extraordinary Meeting)

**11<sup>th</sup> February 2015**  
**14:00 – 16:20**

**CHAIR**