

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 Thursday 25th September 2014.

PRESENT

Cllr D Bajaj	Mr J Coxon CC
Cllr S Barton	Mr P Lewis CC
Cllr C Bhatti (left at 16:30)	Mr B Liquorish CC
Cllr K Bool	Ms B Newton CC
Mr S Bray CC	Mr O O'Shea CC
Cllr A Byrne (left at 16:30)	Mr P Osborne CC
Mr M Charlesworth CC	Mr R Shepherd CC
Cllr S Corral (Chair)	Mr M Wyatt CC (left at 16:30)

OFFICERS

Mr D Webb	Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Mr R Chandler	Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Mr T Peel	Treasurer and Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Mr M Andrew	Head of HR, Planning and Performance
Mr R Hall	Temp Area Manager – Organisational Change Project
Mr G Goodman	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Mrs J Green	Member Services Co-ordinator

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs A Breadon	PricewaterhouseCoopers (left at 15:45)
Ms S Maher	Director HR & Cllr Development, East Midland Councils

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs Jo Fox CC.

The Chair welcomed Mr Peter Osborne CC to the meeting in place of Mrs Christine Radford CC.

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) wished to convey their sincere

condolences to Mrs Radford following the sad loss of her husband. Mrs Radford is expected to be reappointed to the CFA shortly.

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

The Chair's announcements were circulated ahead of the meeting.

The Chair confirmed a further date being his attendance at the forthcoming opening ceremony of Coalville Fire and Rescue Station on 1st October 2014.

6. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held on 25th June 2014 as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

The CFA confirmed the Minutes of the Meeting of the CFA on 25th June 2014 as a correct record.

7. CFA Rules of Procedure Rule 9 – Member Questions

None.

8. To consider the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 27th August 2014

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 27th August 2014.

9. To consider the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 3rd September 2014

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 3rd September 2014.

The CFA requested it be noted that they wish to have a report presented to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of 'Co-operation with other Emergency Services'.

10. Annual Report 2013/14

The Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (DCFO) presented the Annual Report 2013/14 to the CFA.

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Annual Report for 2013/14 and approved the Equalities Report.

11. Statement of Accounts 2013/14

The Treasurer welcomed Ms Alison Breadon, External Auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers to the meeting to assist with the presentation of the CFA's Financial Statements and the 2013/14 Statement of Accounts for its approval.

RESOLVED:

The CFA:

- a) Noted the ISA260 report presented by PricewaterhouseCoopers.
- b) Approved the Letter of Representation
- c) Agreed the Statement of Accounts 2013/14.

12. Sale of Redundant Fire Appliances

The DCFO presented this report informing the CFA of the potential income generation of circa £137,000 to £165,000 for the sale of the current redundant Scania and Volvo fire appliances.

Members were happy with the report and requested a further report detailing all redundant properties and in addition any other marketable commodities.

RESOLVED:

The CFA approved a policy of disposing of redundant fire appliances on the open market to obtain the best possible prices.

13. National Condition of Service Review

The DCFO presented this report to inform of the National Conditions of Service Review and sought a response from the CFA.

RESOLVED:

The CFA approved the set-up of a working group to look into Section 3 of Appendix 3 comprising of one member from each group (Michael Wyatt CC, Cllr Sue Barton and Cllr Ken Bool appointed).

14. Managing Unwanted Fire Signals

Andrew Quine, Station Manager (Fire Protection) presented the findings of the

study into charging for repeated attendance at Unwanted Fire Signals (UFS) and the proposed recommendation to the CFA to approve the adoption of a policy to charge.

Members were informed that in some cases charging would be a last resort and exemptions would be carefully considered to ensure the vulnerable did not experience additional financial burdens.

If appropriate, an update report will be presented to the CFA in a year's time.

RESOLVED:

The CFA agreed to a policy, in principle, of recovering costs for UFS.

15. Arrangements for the Recruitment of the next CFO

The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (CFO) welcomed Sam Maher, Director HR and Cllr Development, East Midlands Councils to assist with the presentation of this report.

Members were provided with detailed information but during discussions questioned if the role of the CFO could be a shared post with the roles and responsibilities being undertaken by current staff.

RESOLVED:

Mr S Bray CC moved to defer any decision pending a further report to consider all other options regarding sharing and redistribution of duties. This was seconded by Mr M Charlesworth CC. A vote was taken and the resolution was approved unanimously.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

A special meeting of the CFA would take place on 5th November 2014 to consider that further report.

16. Organisational Change Project (Balancing the Budget) – IRMP Proposals

The CFO presented this report on the work undertaken towards the Organisational Change Project (OCP) and to seek the approval of the CFA to commence consultation on a new Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) document.

The consultation will commence early October and run for three months. Members were invited to attend a detailed presentation on the consultation by Opinion Research Services (ORS) at the Policy Committee Meeting on 5th November 2014.

The CFA confirmed their wish to lobby Members of Parliament to consider a one off special dispensation of £5 on Council Tax, clarifying the financial difference this would make as a result.

The CFA were also interested in more work being undertaken to explore greater collaborative working options.

RESOLVED:

- a) The CFA gave its approval to consult upon the proposals outlined in

the proposed Consultation Document via the proposed Consultation Plan subject to the following amendments:

- remove questions 15 and 16 in their current form
 - remove the reference to a referendum but illustrate the financial difference a one off £5 dispensation would provide
 - ask members of the public if they would be prepared to pay more for their fire and rescue service?
 - if so how much? Either a £5 or £10 increase on Council Tax
- b) The Chair and Group Leaders to agree the revised Consultation Document with the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer prior to publication.

17. Date of Next Meeting

This was confirmed as the Extraordinary Meeting to be held Wednesday, 5th November 2014. The next Ordinary Meeting will be held on 10th December 2014.

18. RESOLVED:

To exclude the public for consideration of the following items which are exempt under Part 2, paragraph 10 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the public interest in the items remaining confidential outweighs the public interest in disclosure as the CFA is entitled to discuss its decision in these items on a confidential basis.

19. Exempt Item: Organisational Change Project

The CFO presented this update report to the CFA on the Support Staff Review to seek its approval for the proposals as set out in the report.

RESOLVED:

The CFA approved the proposed Support Staff redundancies for collective consultation.

20. Exempt Item: Pensions – Employers Contribution Payments during Strike Action

The CFO presented this report to seek a decision on the CFA's discretionary powers concerning the ability to pay employer's pension contribution payments during strike action.

RESOLVED:

The CFA agreed that it did not wish to exercise its discretionary powers with regards to payment of employer's pension contribution payments during strike action.

**25th September 2014
14:00 – 16:42**

CHAIR