



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority held at County Hall, Glenfield on Wednesday, 24 July 2024.

PRESENT

Mr. R. G. Allen CC	Mr. D. A. Gamble CC
Cllr. S. Barton	Mr. K. Ghattoraya CC
Mr. S. L. Bray CC	Cllr. S. Harvey
Mr. B. Champion CC	Ms. Betty Newton CC
Mr. D. Harrison CC	Cllr. N. Porter
Mr. J. Poland CC	Mr. C. Smith CC
Mr. R. Ashman CC	

In attendance

Callum Faint, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
 Paul Weston, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
 Judi Beresford, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
 Lauren Haslam, Monitoring Officer
 Amy Oliver, Treasurer
 Collette Sutton, Interim Chief Finance Officer
 Gemma Duckworth, Senior Democratic Services Officer

99. Variation of Order of Business.

Consent of the CFA was sought and obtained to vary the order of business from that set out on the agenda.

100. Urgent Items.

There was one urgent item, which related to the Appointment of Vice Chairman.

Due to the resignation of the current Vice Chairman, the Democratic Services Officer invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairman.

It was moved by Mrs Newton CC and seconded by Mr Poland CC that Councillor S Barton be elected Vice Chairman of the CFA.

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Barton was appointed Chairman for the duration of this meeting.

Councillor S Barton – in the Chair

101. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Mr. N. Rushton CC, Mr. J. Coxon CC, Mr. B. Harrison-Rushton CC, Mr. D. Grimley CC, Councillor M March and Councillor A Osman.

102. Declarations of Interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare an interest in respect of items on the agenda.

No declarations were made.

103. Chairman's Announcements.

The Chairman's announcements were circulated in advance of the meeting, a copy of which is filed with these minutes. The announcements covered the following matters:

- Mobilising System
- Oakham Fire Station
- Re-opening of Market Bosworth Fire Station

Best wishes would be sent to the Chairman of the CFA, Mr Rushton CC, who was currently unwell.

Thanks were given to Mrs Newton CC for undertaking the role of Vice Chairman previously.

104. Public Participation/ CFA Rules of Procedure Rule 9 - Member Questions.

It was reported that no questions had been received.

105. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the CFA meeting held on 24 June 2024 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Mr Allen CC that the minutes of the CFA meeting held on 24 June 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the CFA meeting held on 24 June 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

106. Minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee.

The minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting held on 13 March 2024 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Mr Allen CC that the minutes of the Corporate Governance meeting held on 13 March 2024 be noted.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Corporate Governance meeting held on 13 March 2024 be noted.

107. Draft Statement of Accounts and Outturn 2023/24.

The CFA considered a report of the Treasurer which highlighted the delay in publishing the Draft Statement of Accounts and finalising the revenue and capital outturn position for 2023/24. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

The draft Statement of Accounts had been required to be published by the statutory deadline of 31 May 2024. However, like many other authorities, this had not been possible due to resourcing issues and delays in completing the 2022/23 external audit. It was the intention to publish the Draft Statement of Accounts by the end of July 2024. The final revenue and capital outturn position for 2023/24 was currently being finalised and would be presented to the next meeting of the CFA.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Mr Harrison CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

108. Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2023/24.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which presented the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2023/24. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9', is filed with these minutes.

Members agreed that the report demonstrated the outstanding work undertaken by staff and asked that their thanks to officers be recorded.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Mr Harrison CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That the content of the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2023/24 be noted.

109. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority will be held on 2 October 2024 at 10am at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters.

110. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

It was moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Councillor Harvey that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information during consideration of the following items of business as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act detailed below:

- Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023
- Cyber Security Event

That in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that it will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information during consideration of the following items of business as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act detailed below:

- Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023
- Cyber Security Event

That in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

111. Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which provided an update on the Strikes (Minimum Service Level) Act 2023. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 13', is filed with these minutes.

The recommendations contained within the report were moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Mr Bray CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That no public comment or media statement on the CFA's position is made until all the information is available, if at all.

112. Cyber Security Event.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which provided details of a recent cyber event directed against Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 14', is filed with these minutes.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Councillor Barton and seconded by Councillor Harvey. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the report, and the successful defence of a cyber event, be noted.