



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 10 December 2024.

PRESENT

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (in the Chair)

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|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. R. G. Allen CC | Mr. K. Ghattoraya CC |
| Cllr. S. Barton | Mr. D. J. Grimley CC |
| Mr. B. Champion CC | Mr. B. Harrison-Rushton CC |
| Mr. D. A. Gamble CC | Ms. Betty Newton CC |
| Mr. D. Harrison CC | Cllr. M. March |
| Cllr. D. Bajaj | Cllr. N. Porter |

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
 Collette Sutton, Head of Corporate Financial Services
 Ben Bee, Area Manager Community Risk
 Gemma Duckworth, Senior Democratic Services Officer

132. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Mr. S. Bray CC, Mr. J. G. Coxon CC, and Councillor S Harvey.

133. 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.

134. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items.

135. 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:

- HMICFRS Inspection
- Eastern Fire Station

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

It was reported that no questions had been received.

137. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the CFA meeting held on 2 October 2024 were considered.

It was moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Councillor Barton that the minutes of the CFA meeting held on 2 October 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 2 October 2024 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

138. Minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee.

The minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting held on 11 September 2024 were considered.

It was moved by Mr Allen CC and seconded by Mr Harrison CC that the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee held on 11 September 2024 be noted.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee held on 11 September 2024 be noted.

139. Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 and External Audit Update.

The CFA considered a report of the Treasurer which provided details of the delay in presenting the Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 and the delay in Grant Thornton, the external auditor, presenting its two audit reports, the Auditors Annual Report and Audit Findings Report for 2023/24. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 8' is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that Grant Thornton had confirmed that there had been no material errors to the accounts and, on Value for Money, no significant weaknesses had been identified to date. It was the intention to present the reports to an additional CFA meeting on 23 January 2025.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

140. Day Crewing Plus Transition Update.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which provided an update on the progress made regarding the withdrawal from the Day Crewing Plus (DCP) duty system. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 9' is filed with these minutes.

It was noted that the plan required an operational workforce of 402 personnel, necessitating the recruitment of an additional 52 staff members. Funding to support this had secured through previous increases in council tax precepts agreed in 2022/23, generating £1.8m. Early evaluations of the new duty systems had highlighted positive outcomes for staff wellbeing, operational efficiency and public safety.

The Service remained on track to successfully complete the transition away from the DCP duty system by May 2025. A further report would be presented to the CFA on the evaluation of the 12/12 self-rostering duty system at Hinckley and Wigston stations.

The recommendations contained within the report were moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Mr Allen CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the progress made in advancing the transitional arrangements as the Service phases out DCP be noted;
- b) That the revised establishment figure of 402 operational personnel to support the delivery of the transitional plan be agreed.

141. Mobilisation System Go-Live.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer detailing the successful go live of the new mobilising system. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 10' is filed with these minutes.

The CFA congratulated officers for the work undertaken to ensure the successful switch over to the new system.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Mrs Newton CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the successful go-live and switch over of the mobilising system and the resulting increased resilience and reduction of organisational risk be noted.

142. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Update.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which provided an update on progress with Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 11' is filed with these minutes.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were raised:

- i) It was acknowledged that although significant progress had been made around firefighter ethnicity, there was still further work to do to encourage ethnic minority groups to consider the Service as a career.
- ii) In terms of the female workforce, the majority were support staff rather than operational and further work would be undertaken to improve this. A new EDI Lead was now in post within the Service who was introducing a dashboard.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Mrs Newton CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted, in particular the progress made by the Service in the areas of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

143. Consultation on Enabling Remote Attendance.

The CFA considered a report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer which set out the proposed response from the CFA to the Government consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at CFA meetings. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 12' is filed with these minutes.

The consultation document had been circulated to members of the CFA seeking their views to enable a collective view to be submitted. However, due to the responses being similar to those of the County Council, it was proposed that the same response be submitted on behalf of the CFA. It was hoped that an increased flexibility would strike the balance between the principle that significant in-person engagement remained important and a recognition that there would, on occasion, be a need to accommodate members' requirements to attend formal meetings remotely.

The CFA agreed that, although it was important to allow flexibility on attendance, any decision making bodies should continue to meet in person. However, procedural meetings, which were not in the public domain, could take place as a fully remote meeting.

With regard to proxy voting, it was agreed that, based on the proposed response in relation to remote attendance and the fact that the current substitute model worked well, it did not seem necessary to introduce proxy voting.

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

RESOLVED:

That the proposed consultation response be endorsed.

144. Review and Revision of the Constitution.

The CFA considered a report of the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer seeking approval for the proposed changes to the CFA's constitution. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 13' is filed with these minutes.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Mr Allen CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed changes to the CFA's Constitution, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

145. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority will be held on 23 January 2025 at 11.30am.

146. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

It was moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Mr Champion CC 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 item of business as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act detailed below:

- Remediation and Making Buildings Safer

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 item of business as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act detailed below:

- Remediation and Making Buildings Safer

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

147. Remediation and Making Buildings Safer.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which informed of the Government drive to increase the pace of remediation and make buildings safer, including the impact and the local context for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 17' is filed with these minutes.

The recommendation contained within the report was moved by Mr Rushton CC and seconded by Mr Champion CC. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted, including the establishment of a Remediation Regulators Forum locally.

10.00 - 10.55 am
10 December 2024

CHAIRMAN