

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 10th December 2014.

PRESENT

Cllr D Bajaj	Mr P Lewis CC
Cllr S Barton	Mr B Liquorish CC
Cllr C Bhatti	Ms B Newton CC
Cllr K Bool	Mr O O'Shea CC
Mr M Charlesworth CC	Mrs C Radford CC
Cllr S Corrall (Chair)	Mr R Shepherd CC
Mr J Coxon CC	Mr M Wyatt 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 M Andrew	Head of HR, Planning and Performance
Mr G Goodman	Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Mrs J Green	Member Services Co-ordinator

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr A Byrne, Mrs J Fox CC and Mr S Bray CC.

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

Mr J Coxon CC declared a personal interest in respect of Exempt Item 24, Sale of Moira Fire Station as a member of the Planning Committee of North West Leicestershire District Council.

3. Urgent Business

None.

4. Public Participation

None.

5. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) that Item 13 on the Agenda, Firefighters' Pension Schemes – Pensionable Allowances was being withdrawn and would be presented at a future meeting.

Members wished to know if public interest for the ongoing Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) consultation had been good so far and if it appeared to be proving 'fit for purpose'. Members sought assurance that it would be able to show a true reflection of the views of the CFA's communities. The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (CFO) confirmed there had been a significant number of responses received to date but the final results would only be known when the consultation concluded.

The Chair invited the CFO to provide a verbal update in respect of further Industrial Action undertaken by the Fire Brigades' Union over firefighters' pensions.

He confirmed that any imminent resolution appeared unlikely at this point. However, Parliament had announced that a voted debate would take place in this regard on 15th December. He again offered assurance that the best contingency arrangements possible under the circumstances would be provided.

The CFA conveyed their gratitude to those providing cover and expressed an understanding of the difficulties this matter is causing.

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

RESOLVED:

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

7. To confirm the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held on 5th November 2014 as a correct record.

The CFA confirmed the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the CFA on 5th November 2014 as a correct record.

8. CFA Rules of Procedure Rule 9 – Member Questions

None.

9. To consider the draft minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 29th October 2014

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting held on 29th October 2014.

10. To consider the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 5th November 2014

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 5th November 2014.

11. To consider the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 19th November 2014

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 19th November 2014.

12. Capital and Revenue Revised Estimates 2014/15

The Treasurer presented this report which set out the current financial position in respect of the 2014/15 Capital Programme and Revenue Budget along with recommendations for approval by the CFA.

RESOLVED:

The CFA

- a) Agreed the Revised Capital Programme for 2014/15 of £5,733,356 as set out in **Appendix 1**
- b) Agreed that the Prudential and Treasury indicators required under the Prudential Code are to remain as set in the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2014/15 as set out below:

	<u>2014/15</u> <u>(£000)</u>
Authorised limit for external debt:	
i) Borrowing	21,853
ii) Other long term liabilities	7,234
Operational Boundary for external debt:	
i) Borrowing	19,353
ii) Other long term liabilities	6,734

- c) Agreed the Revenue Revised Estimate anticipated underspend of £100,870 for 2014/15 as set out in **Appendix 2**.
- d) Agreed the transfer of £100,870 to the General Reserve.

13. Item 14 on the Agenda - Statement of Assurance 2013/14

The Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (DCFO) presented the draft Annual Statement of Assurance for 2013/14 to the CFA for approval prior to its publication.

The document will be published electronically with hard copies available upon request.

RESOLVED:

The CFA approved the Annual Statement of Assurance for 2013-14 for publication.

14. Item 15 on the Agenda - Equalities Scheme 2014-17

The DCFO presented the proposed Equality Scheme for 2014-17 to the CFA for approval.

The CFA's Equality Champion wished to express thanks to all involved for their continued commitment.

During discussions Members requested a detailed report to a future meeting outlining the work undertaken to recruit from a Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) background.

RESOLVED:

The CFA approved the proposed Equality Scheme 2014-17 subject to the amendments proposed in paragraph 3.9 of the report.

15. Item 16 on the Agenda - Treasury Management Annual Report 2013/14

The Treasurer presented the Annual Treasury Management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2013/14 to the CFA.

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Annual Treasury Report for 2013/14.

16. Item 17 on the Agenda - Treasury Management Mid-Term Report 2014/15

The Treasurer presented the CFA's Treasury Management activities covering the first six months of 2014/15.

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the Treasury Management activities during the first six months of 2014/15.

17. Item 18 on the Agenda - Travel, Subsistence and other Allowances and Expenses Policy – Proposed Changes

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented this report outlining the proposed changes to the Travel, Subsistence and Other Allowances and Expenses Policy for approval ahead of its consultation with representative bodies.

The recommendations as set out in the report were put to a vote as a block with

12 in Favour and 1 Against.

The recommendations were carried.

RESOLVED:

The CFA agreed:

- a) That the lunch allowance be removed.
- b) That any inflationary increase to subsistence allowances is reviewed annually and incorporated into the Medium Term Financial Plan.
- c) That a Statutory Officer in consultation with the Chair and Group Leaders approves any overnight accommodation claim above the national rate in the case of the CFO.
- d) That the policy and authorisation for first class rail travel is adopted.
- e) That a Statutory Officer in consultation with the Chair and Group Leaders approves any first class rail travel in the case of the CFO.
- f) That a register of all first class rail travel authorised is maintained by the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.
- g) That the mileage rate for travel to and from training courses for firefighters and Control staff is increased to the casual user rate.

18. Item 19 on the Agenda - Firefighters' Compensation Scheme

The Treasurer presented this report to inform the CFA that a sum of £257,650 has been included in the Revised Estimate to correct a long standing error in the accounting treatment of compensation payments made under the Firefighters' Compensation Scheme in relation to the dependants of firefighters who have died whilst on duty.

RESOLVED:

The CFA noted the report and requested an update following the meeting on 19th December 2014 with other affected Fire and Rescue Authorities.

19. Item 20 on the Agenda - Firefighter Fitness Standards and Assessment Consultation – Proposed Response

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented this report to seek the approval of the CFA to the proposed response on its behalf to the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) consultation on firefighter fitness standards and assessment issues.

Upon request, DCLG had given approval for the submission deadline to be extended to 10th December 2014 to allow for this matter to be considered by Members today.

A discussion took place on the correct wording in respect of the impact of aging on the fitness of female firefighters. The response will be reviewed and revised in this respect.

RESOLVED:

The CFA approved the draft consultation response subject to the revised

wording on female firefighters.

20. Item 21 on the Agenda - Combination of Technical Rescue and Fire and Rescue functions at Southern Fire and Rescue Station

The Director of Community Services presented this report seeking the CFA's approval for recommendations that will enable the extant proposal to amalgamate the Technical Rescue and Fire and Rescue functions at Southern Fire and Rescue Station to be achieved.

RESOLVED:

The CFA, subject to consultation:

- a) Approved the wholetime duty system (2/2/4) as the duty system for the combined function.
- b) Approved the setting of the establishment for the combined function at 28 and standard crewing at 5.
- c) Approved the requirement for all staff appointed to the combined function to undertake a dual contract role.
- d) Agreed that further work be undertaken in the future to explore alternative duty system arrangements that could potentially be implemented for the combined function.
- e) Agreed that a switch crewing strategy be developed and implemented (through consultation with staff) to cover all incident scenarios and all resources within the combined function.
- f) Approved the payment of an additional responsibility allowance of 8.9% to all staff appointed to the combined function with the pensionable status of this allowance to be confirmed at the next meeting of the CFA.
- g) Agreed that the work is undertaken towards the achievement of Accredited Centre status for Rope and Water Rescue capabilities.

21. Date of Next Meeting

This was confirmed as Wednesday, 11th February 2015.

22. RESOLVED:

To exclude the public for consideration of the following items which are exempt under Part 1, paragraphs 3, 4 and 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 respectively; and in accordance with 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.

For Item 24 this is because the CFA is entitled to maintain the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information prior to a decision being made so as not to

prejudice its financial interests.

For Item 25 this is because the CFA is entitled to discuss its decision on a confidential basis prior to any engagement with employees and their representative body.

For Item 26 this is because the CFA is entitled to discuss its response to the dispute on a private basis so as not to prejudice its interests and its on-going relationship with the FBU.

23. Item 24 on the Agenda - Exempt Item: Sale of Moira Fire Station

The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented his report to the CFA for the sale of Moira Fire and Rescue Station.

RESOLVED:

The CFA:

a)	Accepted the bid from LSP Developments.
b)	Authorised the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to dispose of the site on the best possible terms.

24. Item 25 on the Agenda - Exempt Item: Proposed Fire Control Merger

The CFO presented this report to the CFA.

RESOLVED:

The CFA agreed:

a)	A full merger of the fire control functions for Nottinghamshire and the CFA at the Leicestershire site.
b)	The formation of an appropriate governance structure to oversee the implementation and long term delivery of the fire control function.
c)	The commencement of planning and implementation immediately with initial outcomes expected during 2015.

25. CFO Recruitment - Update

All Officers except the Treasurer and the Solicitor left the meeting at 15:45hrs
CFO Webb provided the CFA with an update on the current position with regards to the recruitment process for the next CFO.

RESOLVED:

The CFA agreed unanimously to re-advertise the post. All applications to date will be carried forward.

26. Item 26 on the Agenda - Exempt Item: Payments to Brigade and Area Managers during periods of Strike Action

The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer presented this report.

The recommendations were put to a vote:

Recommendation (a): carried unanimously

Recommendation (b): 5 In Favour, 6 Against and 2 Abstentions

Motion fell.

RESOLVED:

The CFA:

- a) Approved retrospectively the payments made to Area Managers for the last strike period as set out in Appendix 1.
- b) Did not approve the disturbance allowance for Brigade Managers for strike cover as set out in Appendix 2.
- c) Authorised the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to amend the Pay Policy Statement to reflect any additional payment(s) approved by the CFA.

10th December 2014
14:00 – 16:15

CHAIR