

# 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, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

### **PRESENT**

Cllr D Bajaj	Cllr H Bhavsar
Cllr K Bool	Mr S Bray CC
Mr M Charlesworth CC	Mr J Coxon CC
Mr G Hart CC	Mr T Kershaw CC
Ms B Newton CC	Mrs C Radford CC
Mr N Rushton CC (Chairman)	Mr R Sharp CC
Mr R Shepherd CC	Sir Peter Soulsby (Vice Chairman)
Cllr A Thalukdar	Mr M Wyatt CC

### **OFFICERS**

Mr S Lunn	Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
Ms A Greenhill	Treasurer
Mr A James	Monitoring Officer
Mrs J Green	Member Services Co-ordinator

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

Apologies were received from Cllr K Singh Johal.

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

None.

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

None.

#### **4. Chair's Announcements**

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) paid their respects to Cllr Roger Begy OBE, Leader of Rutland County Council who recently passed away. Details of his funeral and memorial service were conveyed to Members.

**5. Public Participation/CFA Rules of Procedure Rule 9 – Member Questions**

In line with the provisions set out in the Constitution the Chair of the FBU (Fire Brigades Union), Gavin Lynch was invited to address the Combined Fire Authority (CFA).

A written statement by the Unison Representative was made available at the meeting.

**6. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 as a correct record.**

**RESOLVED:**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the CFA on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record.

**7. Localism Act: Pay Policy Statement 2016/17**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) presented a report to the Combined Fire Authority in relation to the Pay Policy Statement required under the Localism Act 2011.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Sir Peter Soulsby and carried that the recommendation set out in the report be approved

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA approves the Localism Act: Pay Policy Statement 2016/17.

**8. Integrated Risk Management Plan Public Consultation Feedback**

The DCFO presented a report to the CFA containing the consolidated feedback following the completion of public consultation in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2016/17 proposals.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA notes the contents of this report and the detailed consultation summary document attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

**9. Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016/20 Recommendations**

The DCFO presented a report containing the final IRMP 2016/17 recommendations for the CFA's approval and delivered a Powerpoint presentation to enhance the detailed information provided.

It was confirmed that in light of the revised financial settlement compulsory redundancies can be avoided at this stage.

The recommendation within the report was put to a recorded vote. The result being:

For: Cllr Bajaj, Cllr Bhavsar, Cllr K Bool, Mr Coxon CC, Mr Hart CC, Mr Kershaw CC, Mr Shepherd CC, Mrs Radford CC, Mr Rushton CC, Sir Peter Soulsby, Mr Sharp CC, Cllr A Thalukdar and Ms Newton CC.

Against: Mr Bray CC, Mr Charlesworth CC, and Mr Wyatt CC

The motion was carried.

**RESOLVED:**

The Combined Fire Authority approves :

(a) the IRMP 2016/20 package of recommendations that incorporates:

- removal of one of the two whole-time crewed fire engines from Loughborough fire station and its replacement with a Tactical Response Vehicle (TRV) on a trial basis.
- replacement of the on-call fire engine at Melton fire station with a TRV
- replacement of the on-call fire engine at Coalville fire station with a TRV
- replacement of the second on-call fire engine at Market Harborough fire station with a TRV
- upgrading Market Harborough to a whole-time day crewed fire station
- upgrading Lutterworth to a whole-time day crewed fire station

(b) the removal of previously 'high risk' operations savings proposals from future planning assumptions:

- the introduction of 'operational pooling'
- the merger of Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire fire control functions

**10. Budget Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20**

The Treasurer presented a report to the CFA seeking its approval to the proposed budget and capital programme for 2016/17, and the proposed budget strategy for 2016/17 to 2019/20 and delivered a Powerpoint presentation to offer further clarity.

Members wished to thank the Treasurer and her colleagues for all their hard work.

Members asked that they be briefed on the outcome of any review of the management structure, building estate, vehicle fleet and support services prior to the outcome being reported formally to the CFA.

The recommendations were moved and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA:

- a) approves the budget and the capital programme, and the budget strategy described in the report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, subject to any changes proposed by the Treasurer reflecting final figures.
- b) notes that in approving the budget, the Authority is endorsing the financial implications of the IRMP. This is a package consisting of:-
- a target establishment of 334 firefighters,
  - a reduction of 40% in the cost of retained firefighting capacity at four fire stations, to be achieved by natural turnover;
  - a reduction in the requirement for traditional firefighting appliances (by four) and an increase in tactical response vehicles (by five);
  - no reduction in fire stations;
- c) endorses the approach to maximising savings described in the report, involving:-
- improving the efficiency of support services;
  - maximising opportunities presented through the provision of support from the City and County Councils, and collaboration with other blue light services;
  - a full review of the cost of the builds estate, including the use of operational fire stations and the Birstall HQ;
  - a review of management structure;
  - a review of the total vehicle fleet, including appliances and light vehicles, the purpose for which they are used by staff, and the frequency with which vehicles are changed.
- d) notes the reviews in respect of the buildings estate, management structure and vehicle fleet to be undertaken independently from the Fire and Rescue Service and commissioned following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the CFA.
- e) notes the outcome of the local government finance settlement for 2016/17.
- f) notes any comments received on the draft budget.
- g) notes that the aggregate of the tax bases communicated by billing authorities for 2016/17 is £303,489.09. [Item T in the formula in Section 42B of the Act]
- h) agrees the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Section 42A and Section 42B of the Act.
- (i)       £36,215,000       being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in

Section 42(2) of the Act.

- (ii) £17,514,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(3) of the Act.
  - (iii) £18,701,000 Being the amount by which (a) above exceeds (b) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax Requirement for the year. [Item R in the formula in Section 42B of the Act]
  - (iv) £61.6200 being the amount at (c) above (Item R) divided by the amount at 2.7 above (Item T), calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42B of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- i) agrees that the Authority, in accordance with Section 47 of the Act, hereby sets the amounts shown in the attached schedule as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2016/17 for each of the valuation bands.
  - j) agrees that, in accordance with Section 48 of the Act, precepts be issued to each billing authority in the amount shown on the attached schedule.
  - k) notes our view that reserves are adequate during 2016/17, and that estimates used to prepare the budget are robust.
  - l) notes the equality implications arising from the budget, as described in paragraph 18 of the report
  - m) approves the prudential indicators described in paragraph 16 of the report, and Appendix 3
  - n) approves the proposed policy on minimum revenue provision described in paragraph 17 of the report and Appendix 4
  - o) approves the scheme of virement described at Appendix 5 to the report
  - p) determines under Section 52ZX of the Act that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is £61.6200
  - q) determines under Section 52ZB of the Act, that the relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2016/17 is not excessive in accordance with principles issued under Section 52ZC of the Act and expected to be approved by Parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (being an increase of less than 2%).

**11. Appointments to the Corporate Governance Committee and the Employment Committee**

The Monitoring Officer presented a report to the CFA relating to the appointment of Members to the Employment Committee and to the Corporate Governance Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

The CFA:

- a) authorises the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to the Employment Committee and to the Corporate Governance Committee based on nominations provided by the Group Leaders:
- b) notes that the first meeting of the Corporate Governance Committee will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

This was confirmed as **Wednesday** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 (annual meeting) at **11.00am**.  
Group briefings to commence at 10.30am.

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2016**  
**11:00hrs – 12:45hrs**

**CHAIR**