

Minutes of a meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held at County Hall, Glenfield on Friday, 26 July 2019.

PRESENT

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

Cllr. S. Barton	Cllr. K. Singh Johal
Mr. I. E. G. Bentley CC	Mr. J. Kaufman CC
Cllr. Hemant Rae Bhatia	Mr. W. Liquorish JP CC
Cllr. K. Bool	Ms. Betty Newton CC
Mr. G. A. Boulter CC	Mr T. Parton CC
Cllr. L. Fonseca	Mr J. Poland CC
Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC	Cllr. A. Thalukdar
Mr. D. Harrison CC	

24. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Mr Rushton CC, Mrs Wright CC and Mr Mullaney CC.

25. Declarations of interests.

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

No such declarations were made.

26. Urgent items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

27. Chair's Announcements.

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- i. The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer had responded to the Health and Safety Executive on 9 July 2019 following receipt of correspondence regarding Day Crewing Plus and the Working Time Regulations. Officers were working with staff to seek a collective agreement and would then review all associated risk assessments and supporting policies; and
- ii. The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) dispute continued. There had been two productive meetings with the FBU on 23 July 2019 and Unison on 27 June 2019 and work continued towards seeking a resolution of the matters raised by the FBU.

RESOLVED:

That a copy of the response from the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer to the Health and Safety Executive be circulated to members.

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

It was reported that no questions had been received under Procedure Rule 9.

29. Minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Combined Fire Authority held on 19 June 2019 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

30. To consider the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting held on 13 March 2019.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting held on 13 March 2019 be noted.

31. Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2018 - 19.

The CFA considered a report of the Treasurer which updated the CFA on the production and audit of the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2018/19. A copy of the report, marked "Agenda Item 8", is filed with these minutes.

Members were informed that the audit was not yet complete and were assured that there were no concerns with the accounts, it was purely a lack of completion due to an amendment to the timescales for the completion of the external audit. The draft accounts would be published on the website by 31 July 2019, along with a note reflecting that the external audit was not yet complete, in order to meet the financial regulations.

The recommendation was moved by Cllr. Singh Johal and seconded by Mr Harrison CC.

RESOLVED:

That the update on the production and audit of the Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2018/19, be NOTED.

32. Our Plan 2019-22, Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2018 - 19.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer concerning Our Plan 2019-22 and Annual Report and Statement of Assurance 2018-19. A copy of the report marked "Agenda Item 9", is filed with these minutes.

Members were informed that the plan had been revised so that the most up to date version of the plan was available for reference during the public consultation on the priorities for the IRMP 2020-2024. The Plan did not include the detail of 'how' the issues would be addressed; this was included in Departmental and Team Plans – something which had been covered by the recent HMICFRS Inspection.

The draft "Performance on a Page" was circulated to members and a copy is filed with these minutes. Members commended the design for its layout and style and made a number of specific comments on the draft design including:

- a. It should be specified that the data detailed in the document related to the financial year;
- b. Reference to the '99% satisfaction rating' should be moved to the top of the page, to highlight this key fact to the public;
- c. The language used within the report should be amended to be more reflective of the work completed so that this was understood by members of the public.

Members also viewed a short video that would be used on social media to promote the performance achievements of the Service and commended the Service for this.

A member requested that the statistics detailed in 'Performance on a Page' include a comparison to the performance of other similar sized fire services. The CFO explained that, although the data could be captured, making an accurate comparison would be challenging as there were many variables that needed to be acknowledged, for example funding, population size and size of the geographical area covered.

Other Members suggested that a comparison of performance for the Service year on year would be more beneficial and would give a more *exact* indication of performance for the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service; the current data included on the 'Performance on a Page' could be used as the baseline for comparisons in future years to be made.

Mr Boulter CC and Mr Kaufman CC both left the meeting at 10.13am in order to attend another meeting.

It was moved by Mr Harrison CC and seconded by Mrs Newton CC that "a year on year comparison of performance for the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service would be undertaken against the benchmark set from this year's performance". The motion was put and carried, with 12 members voting for the motion, and one voting against.

The resolution contained within the report was moved by Councillor K. Singh Johal and seconded by Mrs B Newton. The motion was put and carried unanimously, with 13 members voting for the motion.

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) Our Plan 2019-22 and the Annual Report and Statement of Assurance for 2018-19 be APPROVED for publication;
- b) the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer be authorised to make any necessary minor amendments prior to publication;
- c) a year on year comparison of performance for the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service would be undertaken against the benchmark set from this year's performance.

33. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority will be held on Friday 27 September 2019 at 10.00am at Leicester City Council, City Hall, Leicester.

9.45-10.17am
26 July 2019

CHAIRMAN