



Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority held at Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on Wednesday, 28 September 2022.

PRESENT

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

Mr. N. D. Bannister CC
 Cllr. Hemant Rae Bhatia
 Cllr. K. Bool
 Mr. S. L. Bray CC
 Cllr. A. Byrne
 Mr. B. Champion CC
 Cllr. L. Fonseca
 Cllr. P. Westley

Mrs. H. J. Fryer CC
 Mr. K. Ghattoraya CC
 Mr. R. Hills CC
 Mr. B. Lovegrove CC
 Ms. Betty Newton CC
 Mr. C. A. Smith CC
 Cllr. M. Valand

In attendance

Callum Faint, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
 Paul Weston, Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
 Lauren Haslam, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
 Colin Sharpe, Treasurer
 Karl Bowden, Interim Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
 Gemma Duckworth, Democratic Services Officer

31. Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Barton, Mr D Gamble CC, Mr D Grimley CC and Mr J Orson CC.

32. 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.

33. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items.

34. 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:

- High Reach Fire Appliance
- Chief Challenge
- Chief's Commendations.

Arrangements would be made for members to view the new high reach fire appliance at the CFA meeting on 30 November.

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

It was reported that no questions had been received.

36. Minutes.

The minutes of the CFA meeting held on 27 July 2022 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor H. Rae Bhatia and seconded by Councillor K. Bool that the minutes of the CFA meeting held on 27 July 2022 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the CFA meeting held on 27 July 2022 be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

37. To consider the minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting held on 13 July 2022.

The minutes of the Corporate Governance Committee meeting held on 13 July 2022 were considered.

It was moved by Councillor K. Bool and seconded by Mrs. M. E. Newton CC that the minutes of the Corporate Governance meeting held on 13 July 2022 be noted.

The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Corporate Governance meeting held on 13 July 2022 be noted.

38. Financial Monitoring to the end of July 2022.

The CFA considered a report of the Treasurer which presented the financial monitoring to the end of July 2022. This was the first report in the budget monitoring cycle and presented the key issues arising from the revenue budget and capital programme as at the end of July 2022. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 8', is filed with these minutes.

The revenue position currently showed an overall forecast overspend of £33,000; this was planned to be funded from the budget strategy reserve. The overspends had been offset by the phased recruitment of new posts created as part of the 2022/23 budget and On Call being below establishment. It was highlighted that the 2022/23 pay awards had not yet been agreed and could exceed the budget provision. The forecast unbudgeted grant income of £262,000 for the Protection Uplift Grant was proposed to be transferred to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Recommendations reserve.

The capital programme was reporting a spend of £748,000 to date. Slippage of £3,058,000 had been identified and was being kept under review.

In response to a query around high energy costs, assurance was given that these would be factored in when preparing the budget for the next financial year, along with funding for the CFA and the pay award.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) the revenue budget and capital programme position as at the end of July 2022 be noted; and
- b) the transfer of £262,000 of unbudgeted grant income to implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry to an earmarked reserve to fund future expenditure be approved.

39. Service Delivery Update.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which provided an update on key service delivery performance for the period 1 April – 30 June 2022. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 9', is filed with these minutes.

It was pleasing to note that the number of fire safety audits being completed remained on a continued upward trajectory in line with the risk based inspection programme. A recent successful fire safety prosecution was also highlighted, along with an improved attendance time for life risk incidents.

Members wished to formally record their appreciation for the work undertaken by officers during the summer period.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) The update provided on the key service delivery matters for the first quarter (1 April – 30 June 2022) be noted, in particular:
 - The successful prosecution under the Fire Safety Order
 - The increase in the number of fire safety audits being completed and support to local businesses
 - The positive feedback received from the public when responding to emergency incidents; and

- b) Officers be thanked, from the CFA, for the work undertaken during the summer period.

40. Day Crewing Plus Update.

The CFA considered a report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which highlighted the further activity undertaken regarding the withdrawal from the Day Crewing Plus duty system and the preferred proposed option. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 10', is filed with these minutes.

Elements of the preferred option included the introduction of a 'self-rostering' duty system to provide operational availability over a 24 hour period at three DCP stations. This would be piloted, firstly at Coalville Fire Station and then Hinckley. The Service would begin to engage with staff at the pilot station during October 2022, with a view to commence the transition at the beginning of 2023. An update on progress would be provided to the next meeting of the CFA, along with further information on the timescales and what the duty systems would look like.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) The work undertaken within the Shift Working Group to establish the various options as the Service transitions away from the Day Crewing Plus Duty system be noted;
- b) The early introduction of a pilot for a self-rostering duty system at one of the identified DCP stations, with the commencement at the start of 2023, be noted; and
- c) A further update be provided to the next meeting of the CFA.

41. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority will be held on 30 November 2022 at 1.30pm.

42. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

It was moved by Mr. N. J. Rushton CC and seconded by Councillor H Rae Bhatia 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:

- Appointment of the Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
- Forge Health Limited – Review of Operational Risk
- Industrial Action
- Industrial Action – Business Continuity Planning, as defined in Paragraph 3; and

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:

- Appointment of the Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
- Forge Health Limited – Review of Operational Risk
- Industrial Action
- Industrial Action – Business Continuity Planning, as defined in Paragraph 3; and

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

43. Appointment of the Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Employment Panel which advised of the outcome of the Employment Panel, established to consider the appointment to the Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (Service Support). A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 14', is filed with these minutes.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) The outcome of the recent recruitment campaign and subsequent assessments be noted; and
- b) The appointment of Judi Beresford as the Assistant Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (Service Support) be approved.

44. Forge Health Limited - Review of Operational Risk.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, the Treasurer and the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer which provided an overview of the commercial operation of Forge Health Limited, the outcome of a recent review of contractual arrangements held with public and private sector bodies and which sought a decision regarding the future of Forge Health Limited. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 15', is filed with these minutes.

Since the report had been written, a potential opportunity had presented itself and this would therefore be explored as an option.

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

RESOLVED:

That:

- a) The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, following consultation with the Treasurer and the Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, be authorised to explore options to remove the CFA from Forge Health Limited and to arrange for the provision of occupational health advice to LFRS directly via the Service;
- b) The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer be authorised to take such specialist legal, tax and other advice as may be required to progress (a) above;
- c) The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer be authorised to incur expenditure up to £150,000 in connection with (a) and (b) above; and
- d) There be a further report on the plan and progress at the CFA meeting on 30 November 2022.

45. Industrial Action.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which raised awareness of the increased likelihood of industrial action across the Fire and Rescue Sector, at a national level. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 16', is filed with these minutes.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report, the increased likelihood of Industrial Action and the potential impacts for the community and Service, be noted.

46. Industrial Action - Business Continuity Planning.

The CFA considered an exempt report of the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer which provided the information required for it to consider whether or not to extend the contract with a third party provider for contingency arrangements to the Service. 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 Councillor Rae Bhatia. The motion was put and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That the CFA agrees to extend the current contract with a third party provider to ensure that resilience cover is maintained within the Service during periods of Industrial Action.

10.00 - 10.33 am
28 September 2022

CHAIRMAN

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