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# CLEVELAND FIRE AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2009

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<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN:</b> Councillor Porley – Middlesbrough Council
	<b>HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL:</b> Councillors Brash, Flintoff, Lilley, Payne
	<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL:-</b> Councillors Brunton, Clark, McTigue, Rogers, Thompson
	<b>REDCAR AND CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL:-</b> Councillors Abbott, Briggs, Cooney, Dunning, Forster, Ovens
	<b>STOCKTON ON TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL:-</b> Councillors O'Donnell, Patterson, Salt, Stoker, Woodhead
	<b>PROPER OFFICERS:-</b> Legal Adviser, Treasurer
	<b>FIRE BRIGADE OFFICERS:-</b> Chief Fire Officer, Director of Corporate Services, Director of Community Protection
<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b>	Councillors Beall, Cherrett (Stockton on Tees)

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Glynis Abbott from Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council and Councillor Ross Patterson from Stockton on Tees Borough Council to Cleveland Fire Authority.

**101. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

It was noted that no declarations of interest were submitted to the meeting.

**102. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority Meeting held on the 25 September 2009 be confirmed.**

**103. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 13 November 2009, Policy Committee held on 13 November 2009 and the Tender Committee meetings held on 21 September 2009 and 30 October be confirmed.**

**104. TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman informed Members that the following communications had been received since the last meeting:

- Dr Ashok Kumar MP for Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland regarding concerns over the FireControl Project
- Shahid Malik MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary Of State regarding the New Dimension Transfer Of Assets
- Thomas Healy, Fire Chief, Daisy Mountain Fire District regarding an invitation to the CFO to join Baggers

**RESOLVED – that the communications be noted.**



**105. REPORTS OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**105.1 Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/11 – Adoption of the Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the Management of Incidents in Industrial Complexes – Results of the Consultation**

The Chief Fire Officer summarised the Policy Committee's recommendations regarding the results of the consultation in relation to the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2008/11 proposals, namely:

- the adoption of a specific risk based Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the management of incidents in Industrial Complexes, including the response standards
- the removal of one pumping appliance from Billingham Fire Station in order to achieve the most efficient and effective Fire and Rescue Service operations (subject to the Concept of Operations being approved)

The consultation process was discussed and Councillors Stoker and O'Donnell confirmed that a number of consultation meetings had taken place in Billingham and that although residents had concerns regarding the removal of the appliance from Billingham, they accepted the assurances of the Officers present.

Members agreed to ratify the recommendations of the Policy Committee held on 13 November 2009.

**RESOLVED: –**

- (i) that the results of the consultation as outlined in the report presented to the Policy Committee on 13 November 2009 be noted.**
- (ii) that a specific risk based Emergency Response Strategy (Concept of Operations) to the management of incidents in Industrial Complexes, including the response standards be adopted.**
- (iii) that one pumping appliance from Billingham Fire Station be removed in order to achieve the most efficient and effective Fire and Rescue Service operations.**

**105.2 Fire Service Circular 59/2009 – Transfer of Ownership of New Dimension Assets**

The Chief Fire Officer detailed the proposals and arrangements relating to the future ownership of the New Dimension assets and the 'Transfer of Function' appertaining to the New Dimension services and the implications arising thereof for Cleveland Fire Authority.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Assets apportioned to Cleveland Fire Authority are:

- 2 x Prime mover
- 1 x Incident Response Unit (IRU)
- 1 x Fork Lift Truck
- 1 x Fork Lift Training Rigs
- 1 x Detection, Identification and Monitoring Unit (DIM)

**105.2 Fire Service Circular 59/2009 – Transfer of Ownership of New Dimension Assets (cont)**

- 1 x Re-robe Module
- 1 x Dis-robe Module

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that:

- a full analysis of the content, clauses and obligations set out in the Final Draft Transfer Agreement had been undertaken
- the opinion of the Authority's Insurers had been considered
- the long term maintenance contract had been considered
- due consideration had also been given to the proposed Asset Refresh process
- a full appraisal of the recharging schedule (when available) will be carried out
- financial implications including the future assessment of cost have been assessed

Councillor Dunning asked if the Assets were essential. The Chief Fire Officer explained that since moving to a pod based system the forklift equipment is vital and Cleveland Fire Authority would have to provide a DIM and decontamination equipment if these were not available through New Dimension Assets.

Councillor Rogers queried the £35,000 per annum which is received in respect of the extra burden funding to support the maintenance of the required number of skill attributes to deliver the Mass Decontamination capability until March 2011. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the training will have to be maintained, however the Treasurer commented that as the money relates to updating skills, it is unlikely to increase significantly over the coming years.

Members agreed that a visit to Tyne & Wear FRS should be arranged in order to give them the opportunity of seeing the New Dimensions equipment.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the contents of the report, the information presented in Fire Service Circular 59/2009 and the final draft of the Transfer Agreement be noted.**
- (ii) that the CLG's response to the Authority's consultation submission of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 be noted.**
- (iii) that the implications of the transfer of function and assets as detailed in the report and the proposed response of the Authority to CLG's proposals be noted.**
- (iv) that the proposed response to indicate to the CLG that the Authority will sign up to the final version of the Transfer of Ownership Agreement by the end of December 2009 be approved.**
- (v) that through further reports Members are informed of the continued progress in all substantive matters relating to the Transfer of New Dimension Assets.**

**105.3 Chief Fire Officer Information Pack**

- 105.3.1 Fire & Rescue Service Circulars
- 105.3.2 National Joint Circulars
- 105.3.3 NE Regional Management Board Meeting – 3 November 2009
- 105.3.4 Long Service & Good Conduct Medal

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**106 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**106.1 Corporate Governance Information Pack**

- 106.1.1 Standards Committee
- 106.1.2 'Practical Challenges Facing Fire Authorities' Workshop 30 October – 1 November 2009 – Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh
- 106.1.3 Fire Services Management Committee 18 September 2009
- 106.1.4 Feedback from the RMB National Chairs Meeting in London 20 October 2009

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**107. REPORT OF THE LEGAL ADVISER**

**107.1 Business Report – CFA Appointments 2009/10**

The Legal Adviser informed Members of Councillor Fitzpatrick's resignation and Councillor Glynis Abbott's appointment to the Authority. He highlighted the change of political proportionality made by this appointment and asked for nominations for the vacancies on the Overview & Scrutiny and Appeals Committee.

**RESOLVED – that nominations for the vacant positions on the Overview & Scrutiny and Appeals Committee be forwarded to the Legal Adviser within 14 days of the meeting.**

**108. VERBAL BRIEFING ON THE NE FIRE CONTROL COMPANY BOARD**

Councillor Forster informed Members that she had been reappointed as Chair of the LACC Board at the meeting on 9 October 2009 and that Colin Stockwell had been reappointed as Company Secretary at the same meeting. Councillor Forster explained that an Induction Day for Directors had taken place on 22 October with further Induction Sessions taking place on 10 and 11 November. Councillor Forster commented that she had attended the event in Wakefield on 11 November and had found the day particularly useful.

Councillor Forster stated that the first of the staff focus groups had met at the RCC on 13 November and Regional FBU officials had met with LACC Officers on 29 October to discuss the proposed Health & Safety regime and review policy documents.

**108. VERBAL BRIEFING ON THE NE FIRE CONTROL COMPANY BOARD (cont)**

Councillor Forster requested that Members consider sending a letter to the Fire Minister asking that he reconsider the decision regarding the Long Service Awards and that those staff transferring to NE FireControl should still be eligible to receive their Long Service Medal. Members agreed that the letter should be forwarded to the Fire Minister.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (i) that the report be noted.
- (ii) that a letter be forwarded to the Fire Minister from the CFA asking him to reconsider his decision regarding Long Service Awards.

**109. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**109.1 Information Pack**

- 109.1.1 Continuity of Control Room Technology
- 109.1.2 Reducing Health Inequalities

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**110. REPORTS OF THE AUDIT COMMISSION**

The Director of Corporate Services explained that Mr Gavin Barker of the Audit Commission was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Payne suggested that the Audit Commission should present their own reports in future and asked that clarification be sought as to why they were unable to attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED: that clarification be sought from the Audit Commission as to why they were not able to be present at the meeting.**

**110.1 Audit Commission – Use of Resources 2008/09**

The Director of Corporate Services updated Members on the content of the Use of Resources Assessment by the Audit Commission.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**110.2 Audit Commission – Annual Audit Letter 2008/09**

The Treasurer updated Members on the contents of the Annual Audit Letter.

**RESOLVED – that the report be noted.**

**111. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**111.1 LGA Total Place Conference – 30 March 2010**

The Director of Corporate Services tabled a report seeking Members' views on attendance at the LGA Total Place Conference in London on 30 March 2010.

**RESOLVED – that the Chair/Vice Chair and Director of Corporate Services (or their substitutes) attend the Conference.**

**111.2 Referral to Scrutiny**

Councillor Payne requested that the ratio of front line staff to corporate staff in 2000 and 2009 be scrutinised and the results brought back to a meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority.

**RESOLVED – that the ratio of front line staff to corporate staff in 2000 and 2009 be scrutinised and the results brought back to a meeting of the Cleveland Fire Authority**

**112. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) (VARIATION ORDER) 2006**

**RESOLVED - “That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs below of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006”.**

**Minute No – 114 paragraphs 1 and 3**

**Minute No - 115.1 paragraph 3**

**Minute No – 115.2 paragraph 3**

**Paragraph 1– namely information relating to any individual**

**Paragraph 3 – namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)**

**113. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – that the Confidential Minutes of the Cleveland Fire Authority meeting held on 25 September 2009 be confirmed.**

**114. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED - that the Confidential Minutes of the Executive Committee held on 13 November 2009 and Tender Committees on 21 September 2009 and 30 October 2009 be confirmed.**

**115. REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

**115.1 PFI – Outline Business Case**

The Chief Fire Officer updated Members on the progress of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

**115.2 Capital Project Proposal – Centre of Excellence for Young People at Redcar Fire Station**

The Chief Fire Officer informed Members of the progress of the project to deliver a multi-agency Centre of Excellence at Redcar Fire Station and highlighted the key objectives of the project.

**COUNCILLOR PETER PORLEY  
CHAIRMAN**