



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY held on Wednesday, 28 April 2021. Remote Meeting held via Skype at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Councillors Bob Rudd (Chair), Michael Beanland, Mike Biggin, David Brown, Razia Daniels, Martyn Delaney, David Edwardes, Phil Harris, Jill Houlbrook, Marilyn Houston, Gina Lewis, Nick Mannion, Les Morgan, Karen Mundry, Stef Nelson, James Nicholas, Stuart Parker, Jonathan Parry, Rob Polhill, Peter Wheeler, Norman Wright and Steve Wright

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A Recording of Meeting

The meeting was held using Skype for Business and in accordance with the Remote Meeting Rules. The Director of Governance and Commissioning confirmed how participants were connected to the meeting and how it would be broadcast. He also mentioned how the meeting would be monitored throughout.

Members were reminded that the meeting would be audio-recorded.

B Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rachel Bailey.

C Chair's Announcements

The Chair advised that Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Gus O'Rourke had retired on 26th March 2021 after 30 years and six month of continuous service and the Head of Prevention, Nick Evans had retired on 31st March 2021 after 20 years and 10 months continuous service. The Chair on behalf of the Authority thanked both Gus O'Rourke and Nick Evans for the hard work and commitment they had given to the Service over the years and wished them all the best for the future.

The Chair advised that the Brigade Managers' Pay and Performance Committee had met on 30th March 2021 and after a rigorous selection process had appointed Paul Binyon as the new Assistant Chief Fire Officer for Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chair congratulated Councillor Martyn Delaney on being appointed Lord Mayor Elect of Chester and Councillor Jill Houlbrook on being appointed Sheriff Elect of Chester for the 2021-22 municipal year.

The Chair asked Members to note the content of the Chair's Announcements that included details of activities carried out by Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service during the Coronavirus pandemic. Staff from across the Service continued to provide

exceptional support to partners and the community in response to Covid-19 in a wide variety of areas. This was vital work to reduce risks and support the vulnerable in the community, making a huge difference to many lives.

D Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of Members' interests.

E Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions submitted.

F Minutes of Fire Authority

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 10th February 2021 be approved as a correct record.

G Minutes of Performance and Overview Committee

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Performance and Overview Committee held on 24th February 2021 be noted.

H Minutes of Staffing Committee

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 22nd March 2021 be noted.

I Minutes of Brigade Managers' Pay and Performance Committee

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Brigade Manager's Pay and Performance Committee held on 22nd March and 30th March 2021 be noted.

J Minutes of Governance and Constitution Committee

The Director of Governance and Commissioning advised that there were two minutes where the Governance and Constitution Committee had made recommendations to the Fire Authority that were to be considered at this meeting:-

Minute 4 – Amendments to Scheme of Delegation

Minute 5 – Review into the way that Seats on the Fire Authority are Allocated to the Constituent Authorities (Minute 3 refers).

RESOLVED: That

[1] the minutes of the Governance and Constitution Committee held on 7th April 2021 be noted; and

[2] the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation be approved.

K Notes of the Risk Management Board

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the Risk Management Board held on 16th March 2021 be noted.

L Notes of the Local Pension Board – Firefighters Pension Scheme

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the Local Pension Board – Firefighters’ Pension Scheme held on 17th March 2021 be noted.

M Notes of the Member Training and Development Group

RESOLVED:

That the notes of the Member Training and Development Group held on 23rd March 2021 be noted.

2 ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021-22

The Internal Auditor, Anne-Marie Harrop from Mersey Internal Audit Agency (MIAA) presented the Internal Audit Plan for 2021-22.

The findings from internal audits were used by management to take action where control weaknesses were identified and to provide the evidence upon which MIAA base a professional opinion about the effectiveness of the Authority’s governance, risk management and control arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

[1] the Internal Audit Plan for 2021-22 be approved.

3 REVIEW INTO THE WAY THAT SEATS ON THE FIRE AUTHORITY ARE ALLOCATED TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES - RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

The Director of Governance and Commissioning presented the report which allowed Members to consider the outcome of the Review into the Way that Seats on the Fire

Authority are Allocated to the Constituent Authorities. A report was presented to the Governance and Constitution Committee on 7th April 2021 concerned with the review and the Committee made two recommendations that were detailed at paragraph 3 of the report.

Councillor Steve Wright, Chair of the Governance and Constitution Committee confirmed that the Committee had considered the report in detailed and had agreed the recommendations detailed within the report. He advised that the Monitoring Officer of Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, Ms Louise Taylor, conducted the review and reached a number of conclusions and made recommendations for Members to consider.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Ms Louise Taylor for undertaking the review.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] the appointments for 2021-22 continue to be allocated in the same way that they have since local government reorganisation; and**
- [2] the Review be considered further once the White Paper has been published and considered.**

4 ANTI-BULLYING CHARTER

The Director of Governance and Commissioning presented a report which asked Members to consider the recommendation of the Cheshire Anti-Bullying Commission, including the Cheshire Anti-Bullying Charter.

Members were advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire had set up the Cheshire Anti-Bullying Commission in May 2019. The Commission had published a report (the Commission's Report) concerned with the first phase of its work that focused on under 25s. A copy of the Commission's Report was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Members welcomed Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service signing up to the Cheshire Anti-Bullying Charter.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] the Authority sign-up to Cheshire Anti-Bullying Charter.**
- [2] a whole organisation strategy to support the development of an effective and sustainable Anti-Bullying Policy be created.**