



MINUTES OF THE CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY held on Wednesday 10 June, 2009 at Fire Service Headquarters, Winsford at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors D Bateman, M Biggin, P Booher, J Crockatt, B Crowe, R I Fletcher, E Johnson, J Joyce, B Livesley, H Mundry, G Merry, K Musgrave, A Needham, S Nelson, C Oliver, R K Polhill, L Redhead, M Simon, G Smith, C Thorley, D Topping, J Weatherill and N Wright.

PART 1 – MATTERS CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Area Managers

The Chair announced that the Area Manager interviews had taken place on 9 June 2009. He confirmed that K Brooks and J Thelwell had successfully been appointed to the positions. The newly appointed Area Managers were congratulated.

Presentations: Cheshire's Award Winning Service

It was reported that Cheshire Fire Authority had won two national awards. The Community Safety Team Excellence award was awarded to the Cheshire Fire Service's Community Safety Department for Team of the Year.

Erin Fulton, Equality and Diversity Officer and Evan Morris, Partnership and Innovation Manager were presented with certificates in recognition of Equality and Diversity for partnership working.

Halton: Princes Trust Project

It was reported by the Chair that the Halton Princes Trust project had been successfully completed. A garden was developed with the Allotment Society for people with disabilities.

Princes Trust Graduation

Members were advised that the graduation event would be held at Mere Golf and Country Club on Tuesday 21 July 2009. The Chair informed Members that the dates had changed due to meeting clashes at Constituent Authorities.

Cheshire Show

The Chair advised Members that the 2009 Cheshire Show would be held on 23 & 24 June. The event would be used to launch the 'Sixth Sense' Safe at Home campaign promoting six vital rules in fire safety.

Fire Station Open Days

Members noted the following Open Day dates;

Knutsford	20 June
Middlewich	20 June
Winsford	4 July
Warrington	25 July
Ellesmere Port	22 August

Fire Minister

It was noted that Sadiq Khan was no longer the Minister for Fire and had been promoted to become the Minister of Transport (confirmation of who would replace him had not yet been received.)

RESOLVED: That

- [1] the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 15 April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record;
- [2] the minutes of the meeting of the Brigade Managers Pay and Performance Committee held on 15 April 2009 and 15 May 2009 be received;
- [3] the Chair of the Fire Authority, Councillor D Topping be appointed as the CFA representative on the LGA Fire Service Forum for 2009-10; and
- [4] Councillor N Wright be appointed as the Authority's representative on the Cheshire Safer Roads Partnership Governance Board and Councillor P Booher be appointed as the deputy representative.

2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT STRATEGY 2009-12

The Head of Corporate Communications presented the revised Community Empowerment Strategy to Members. The existing engagement strategy was fundamental to achieving the objective – "Use consultation and communication to involve local communities in developing services which meet their needs." This had now been reviewed and updated to reflect some fundamental developments that impact on the Service's future consultation and engagement work.

The initial strategy was deferred for further discussion and debate at a dedicated Member away day. At the away day key issues in the strategy were debated and refinements to the original were proposed. These had been incorporated into the revised strategy.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] the Community Empowerment Strategy 2009-2012 be approved; and
- [2] the Authority delegates approval of the recruitment process for co-optees to Unitary Performance Groups to the Chairman and Group Leaders.

3 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Community Risk Reduction presented Members with the Community Safety Strategy. The strategy identified how the Community Safety Fire Department would support the achievement of the Service's vision, aims and objectives, delivering safer and stronger communities in Cheshire. The Strategy aimed to support Service Managers in improving their focus on providing the best "joined up" solutions to improve community safety and add value to Local Area Agreement outcomes.

The strategy detailed how resources would be delivered into the heart of communities on the basis of intelligence led risk assessment. Additionally the strategy outlined how the service would effectively gather risk intelligence and use it to target resources to those more vulnerable in order to make them safer and better supported.

Members suggested that links should to be developed with Town Centre Managers and other partners within the community to work against Anti Social Behaviour.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] the strategy be approved; and
- [2] the underpinning delivery strategies be presented to future meetings of the Authority.

4 ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY 2009-2011

Members were presented with the updated Road Safety Strategy by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Community Risk Reduction. The purpose of the strategy was to act on the duty placed on the Fire and Rescue Service within the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to make provisions for the purpose of rescuing people in Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) and protecting people from serious harm.

The report identified that Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service staff had the skills, knowledge and competence to use rescue equipment and administer

lifesaving treatment at RTCs. However as we had demonstrated through Community Safety activities, the best way to save lives and reduce the trauma to families was through prevention.

The updated Road Safety Strategy set out a clear direction for the next three years and supported the Governments "Tomorrows Roads: Safer for Everyone" Strategy.

Following the presentation of the report Members raised issues with regards to the grant funding for the Road Safety Partnership and its allocation between the authorities.

RESOLVED: That

[1] the draft Road Safety Strategy 2009-2011 be approved.

5 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Integrated Risk Management paper was presented to Members. The strategy had been developed as a consequence of the 'Cheshire Standards' review undertaken in 2008 by leading risk management consultants. It was advised that the strategy incorporated the Authority's existing integrated risk management planning processes which underpinned the production of the Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

RESOLVED: That

[1] the Integrated Risk Management Strategy be approved.

6 SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY AND PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE

As the complete policy had not been made available to Members prior to the meeting it was decided that no formal decision could be made on this paper.

RESOLVED: That

[1] the paper be deferred to the next meeting of the Fire Authority to be held on Wednesday 17 June 2009 for consideration.

7 RAPID RESPONSE RESCUE UNITS

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Emergency Response presented Members with a paper on Rapid Response Rescue Units. The paper outlined a proposal to introduce Rapid Response Rescue Units (RRRUs) at Holmes Chapel and Sandbach Fire Stations.

The primary purpose of the RRRUs was to improve the response times to road traffic collisions on the M6 motorway, particularly between junctions 19 and 16, where historically, the service had failed to meet its response standards. The Policy outlined that the proposal would assist the service in

improving response times and in achieving the new 11 minute response standard for road traffic collisions as noted in the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan 2009/10.

Members noted that the RRRUs would be mobilised to road traffic collisions on the motorway within the two station areas as an additional and dedicated resource. They would provide a faster, more flexible response option and would be equipped with the latest hydraulic rescue equipment technology. Additionally, risk planning would identify where the mini vehicles would be needed and at what times.

Members discussed the deployment of the RRRUs to other high risk areas in Cheshire. The lack of progress on the M6 widening consultation was also discussed and officers were asked to contact the appropriate authorities in respect of the current position.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] a proposition to introduce the Rapid Response Rescue Units at Holmes Chapel and Sandbach Fire Stations be approved; and
- [2] a regular six monthly progress report on the effectiveness and performance of the RRRUs be submitted to the CFA.

8 SUBMISSION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE EVIDENCE TO NORTH WEST REGIONAL SELECT COMMITTEE

The Chief Fire Officer presented Members with a report on the submission of Fire and Rescue Service evidence to the North West Regional Select Committee. The report provided an overview of the collaborative response of Fire and Rescue Services in the North West to an inquiry being undertaken by the North West Regional Select Committee. The inquiry considered the impact of the current economic situation on the North West as a whole.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] the contents of the submission be noted

9 URGENT BUSINESS AND EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Standing Order 3.31 provides that no matter shall be considered at a meeting of the Fire Authority if it is not specified in the Agenda for the meeting unless the Chairman rules that in his opinion the item should be considered as a matter of urgency and specifies the reasons why it is urgent. The ruling, including the reasons for urgency, must be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting.

Any matters brought forward under this item which involve the disclosure of exempt information will be considered in Part 2 of the meeting at the end of the business to be transacted.

[1] Urgent Business

There were no issues to be considered under urgent business.

[2] Exclusion of press and public

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Order 2006, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business listed below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12 A to the Act in the paragraphs indicated:

Item	Paragraph
No. 10 Senior Management Structure	(2) Information is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

PART 2 – BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE

10 SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Members were presented with a report, for information, that identified the background to the Authority's Senior Officer Structure, and outlined a number of drivers for change and issues facing the Authority. The paper also outlined the Senior Officer Restructure that had been agreed by the Pay and Performance Committee, in line with the scheme of delegation.

RESOLVED: That

- [1] Members noted the restructuring of the Brigade Managers roles, and the reduction from four to three; and
- [2] Members noted the reduction in [uniformed/Grey Book] Area Managers positions from five to four.