

Minutes of the Meeting of
the TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND
RESCUE AUTHORITY held in the
Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters, Barmston Mere on
MONDAY 16 OCTOBER 2017 at
1.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor T Wright in the Chair

Councillors Dodds, Emerson, Flynn, Forbes, Haley, Harrison, Kilgour, Maughan, Perry, Pickard, Renton and Wright.

Part I

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Oliver, Stephenson and Dame Vera Baird.

Announcements

The Chairman advised the Authority that a meeting had taken place at the Home Office the previous week to discuss the new inspectorate regime. HM Inspectorate would be undertaking a 'light touch' inspection to understand more about the fire service.

The Chairman and Councillor Dodds had recently attended the Fire Commission Meeting and was introduced to the new Chairman who was 'Independent' from the Fire Service.

TWFRS had hosted the Gender Equality Conference which was a national conference promoting excellence in gender equality with an aim to ensure that gender equality continued to improve within the workplace. The Chairman commented that the event was extremely well organised and the guest speakers were very inspirational. A request was made for the Chief Fire Officer to extend the thanks of the Authority Members, to all staff involved in the organisation of this event.

The Chairman proposed that an urgent item of business in relation to pension liability costs be added to the agenda due to the timing of the deadlines involved, and the date of the next Authority meeting being after the imposed deadline.

34. RESOLVED that approval be given to an urgent item of business being considered under Part II of the agenda, which related to pension liability costs

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

35. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the minutes of the Authority, Part I held on 11 September 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record; and
- (ii) the minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Committee held on 24 July 2017 be noted for information.

Resignation of Authority Member

The Chairman advised Members that Councillor Middleton had resigned from the Authority due to work commitments.

Sunderland City Council would be making an appointment to the vacant position at its meeting on Wednesday 22 November and the new appointment would therefore be reported to the Authority on 11th December, 2017.

36. RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Emergency Medical Response (EMR) Trial – Update

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (the Clerk to the Authority), the Strategic Finance Manager and the Personnel Advisor to the Authority submitted a joint report to update members with information relating to the Emergency Medical Response (EMR) trial, covering performance and impact upon Service resources for the period from Monday 11st January 2016 to Thursday 24th August 2017. The report included both qualitative and quantitative information.

Members were reminded that fire crews responded to incidents within two NEAS categories:

- Red 1 (Respiratory/cardiac arrest) – these should receive an emergency response within eight minutes. NEAS deploy two resources to these incidences where possible; and
- Red 2 – All other life-threatening emergencies which should receive an emergency response within eight minutes.

During the period 11th January 2016 and Thursday 24th August 2017 TWFRS received 1,348 requests and attended Red 1 or Red 2 incidences. TWFRS attended

1,130 incidents, of which 356 were recorded as having 'no service rendered'. There were 160 occasions where NEAS stood down TWFRS crews.

Of the 1,348 requests, 9.5% were categorised as Red 1 and 90.5% as Red 2.

NEAS requested TWFRS to attend 32 incidents outside of Newcastle (and the surrounding area) and the service accepted and attended 20 of these requests.

Members were advised that requests for TWFRS assistance was less frequent between 02:00 and 8:59 and experienced peaks between 09:00 and 09:59, 20:00 and 20:59 as well as between 22:00 and 22:59 hours.

There had been 21 EMR incidents attended, which had resulted in a fatality.

Members were then advised that the cost of training staff to the level required by NEAS to participate in this trial to date was £13,600 and the cost of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks was £1549.76.

Overall, the statistics indicated TWFRS had been able to meet the requirements of the trial effectively for the period, with a negligible impact upon the provision of fire cover in the West Denton and surrounding station areas. Even with the removal of A02 in October 2016, only 3.9% of EMR incidents occurred simultaneously with a fire call, and appropriate standby arrangements were in place.

Members noted that the choice of station for the trial, along with staffing and fire cover arrangements that were in place, had been an important factor contributing to this result, and that may not be replicated at other locations across the Service.

TWFRS had contributed to the national NJC evaluation, and additionally an external, regional evaluation of the EMR trial, co-ordinated by Cleveland Fire Brigade. This evaluation was being conducted by Teesside University and results were expected in late 2017.

The Vice-Chairman commented that the statistics were interesting and welcomed the positive impact of TWFRS during this trial. Councillor Forbes then questioned what were the views of both NEAS and TWFRS staff, and also whether the Emergency Medical Response was likely to be repeated again.

ACFO Robson explained that at the beginning of the trial, the views and opinions of staff were mixed, however the service had responded accordingly to any anxieties and supported all members of staff involved, which has resulted in positive views and feelings in relation to the trial. In addition, NEAS had recently changed their response model which had resultantly reduced the number of incidents to around 2/3 per day.

ACFO Robson went on to say that the professionalism of the crews had been outstanding and the trial had clearly added value to both emergency services involved. This could therefore be a beneficial revenue stream for TWFRS in future years however the full financial implications would need to be considered as part of any decision regarding potential future co-responding schemes.

37. RESOLVED that:

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) further reports be received as appropriate.

Statement of Intent: North East FRS Collaboration

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (the Clerk to the Authority) and the Strategic Finance Manager submitted a joint report to seek Members' approval to enter into a formal Statement of Intent for Collaboration between Tyne and Wear (TWFRS), Northumberland (NFRS) and County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service (CDDFRS).

ACFO Baines advised Members that in seeking to further explore collaboration opportunities, discussions between the CFO's of TWFRS, CDDFRS and NFRS had reached a point where a formalised collaboration agreement was recommended. Members were referred to Appendix A of the report, which set out such an agreement, for consideration.

The agreement encompassed the three Fire and Rescue Services whose combined borders aligned with the geographical area of Durham Constabulary (DC) and Northumbria Police (NP). The collaboration arrangements between FRS and each respective OPCC and Police Force were currently covered by separate formalised agreements.

ACFO Baines explained that in keeping with the principles of Police and Fire collaboration, the three Fire and Rescue Services would seek to promote the following aims:

- Deliver better value for money - Producing quantifiable efficiencies;
- Provide improved outcomes - Maintaining or improving the services to local people and communities;
- Reduce demand - Contributing towards strategic objectives of decreasing risk in communities by reducing demand on services; and
- Increased resilience.

The collaboration agreement was non-binding and also did not restrict TWFRS, or any of the signatories, in entering into collaboration agreements with other organisations.

Members were advised that subject to their approval, the CFO would make the necessary arrangements with CDDFRS and NFRS for the signing of the agreement and progression of a work programme with both Northumberland and Durham FRS's.

38. RESOLVED that:

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and

- (ii) the draft Collaboration Agreement between TWFRS, CDDFRS and NFS be approved (as attached at Appendix A of the report) be approved.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation Order) 2006

- 39. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a likely disclosure of information relating to any individual or which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual or information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) or information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5).

(Signed) T WRIGHT
Chairman

Note:

The above minutes comprise those relating to items of business during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

