

Item 4 (i)

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 17 JULY 2017 at
10.30am.

Present:

Councillor T Wright in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Flynn, Forbes, Haley, Kilgour, Maughan, Oliver, Perry, Pickard, and Stephenson.

Part I

Welcome and Introductions Police and Crime Commissioner

In the absence of the Police and Crime Commissioner, it was agreed that Dame Vera Baird be welcomed and introduced at the next meeting of the Authority.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Dame Vera Baird and also Councillors Burdis, Dodds and Harrison.

Announcements

Members were reminded that there was a training session for all Councillors on Exercise Black Kite at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Chairman advised members that Newcastle Pride was to take place between Friday 21 July and Sunday 23 July 2017 with the procession leaving Newcastle Civic Centre at noon on the Saturday. All members were encouraged to attend.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes

14. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the minutes of the Authority, Part I held on 19 June 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record; and

- (ii) the minutes of the meeting of the Governance Committee held on 27 March 2017 be noted for information.

Bravery and Meritorious Conduct Award

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (the Clerk to the Authority) submitted a report which provided for Members of the Authority to recognise individuals who performed commendable acts of bravery, gallantry or community actions.

Members were advised that on 16th June Mr Jarvis witnessed fire and dense gasses coming from the first floor window of 24 Hillheads Road and entered the property with no regard for his own welfare, to lead the elderly occupant of the property to safety.

Mr Jarvis without doubt placed himself at extreme risk throughout this rescue, having carried out his actions prior to the emergency services attendance, and undoubtedly saved the person's life.

Councillor Stephenson, on behalf of the Authority, presented Mr Jarvis with a meritorious conduct award and congratulated him on his bravery.

15. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Fire Authority Award of Meritorious Action be noted and endorsed; and
- (ii) Mr Paul Jarvis be congratulated and thanked for his actions.

Immediate Actions Following the Fire at Grenfell Tower, London

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 providing members with an overview of the actions undertaken by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) because of the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, London on 14th June 2017.

Members were advised that since 14th June, TWFRS implemented a number of actions to reassure residents and ensure housing providers discharge their responsibilities as far as the Fire Safety Order 2005 extends.

The Chief Fire Officer had written to all Chief Executives of local housing providers, setting out those responsibilities and providing options for future joint engagement initiatives to continue to improve the safety of residents. In addition, fire safety officers had liaised with housing providers within the Authority's area to ensure fire safety audits of the premises notified as having ACM panels in their construction were undertaken.

ACFO Robson explained that from 3rd July 2017, a daily programme of premises audits with a whole community safety approach had begun to cover all residential dwellings in buildings six storeys and above. This programme would also cover operational requirements such as site specific risk assessments, fire safety audits

and home safety/safe and well checks. Members were referred to Appendix A of the report which detailed further information of the programme of audits and the schedule of building visits.

Councillor Stephenson commented upon the additional resource required to undertake this work, and commented that additional funding should be received from government. Clearly this was a priority across the country which had financial implications, therefore it was imperative that additional funding was received to ensure that it did not add to the huge financial savings which already needed to be realised over the forthcoming years by the fire service.

Councillor Stephenson then went on to say that apartments were being built in India which were over 50 storeys' high which automatically had an aerial ladder platform installed and commented that this is something which should be considered in Tyne and Wear.

ACFO Robson advised that the outcomes of the investigations into Grenfell were anticipated in the early part of next year and once the impact was known, information would be used to inform future Integrated Risk Management Plans.

Members were advised that of all the buildings inspected only 11 had ACM panels in their construction which was very low and that where it was found, it was only found in very small parts, for example small infill panels.

Councillor Kilgour expressed her concerns in relation to hospitals and was advised that these had been a priority due to life risks and was advised that of all the hospitals within Tyne and Wear, only 4 contained a very small amount of ACM panels. One in Newcastle and three in Sunderland.

Members of the Authority congratulated officers on the way in which they had responded to the public enquiry and commented that the work undertaken had been exemplary and welcomed the reassurances which had been given.

On behalf of the Authority, the Vice-Chairman thanked all firefighters who fought the Grenfell Tower blaze and commented that firefighters in this country continued to show incredible amounts of courage and bravery.

16. RESOLVED that:-

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

Member Links with Community Fire Stations

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 setting out for the consideration of Members, a revised list of links between Members and Community Fire Stations and departments within Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Members were advised that there were many benefits from Authority Members having direct contact with employees through visiting Community Fire Stations and departments on a regular basis to meet local staff, discuss current issues and to be appraised on progress with regard to the delivery of the Strategic Community Safety Plan.

In addition, the direct link also enhanced the communication process by providing for the exchange of local information relevant to the appropriate ward areas and promoting networking between Members, Officers and Local Ward Councillors.

Members were referred to a revised table of Members Links detailed at Appendix A of the report, which set out the proposed links between each fire station and service departments and Fire Authority Members.

17. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The proposed links set out in Appendix A of the report be approved; and
- (ii) The links between Members and stations/departments be noted and endorsed.

The Revised National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework for England

The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (Clerk to the Authority) submitted a report to inform Members of the publication of the 3rd edition of the National Coordination and Advisory Framework (NCAF) for England.

Members were advised that the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England stated that during emergencies the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) would work with other government departments, partner organisations, and the devolved administrations to co-ordinate the deployment arrangements for fire and rescue assets. On 1st April 2016, the duty transferred to the Home Office following the transition of governance for fire and rescue services.

During this transition, the role of the Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor (CFRA) became incorporated in to that of the Chair of the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) and the duty National Strategic Advisory Team (NSAT).

Members were then advised that as of April 2017, Merseyside FRS became responsible for the delivery of national resilience assurance under a sector led model. This revision delivered a 25% saving, whilst minimising disruption to the services delivered. To support this transfer the National Coordination Centre (NCC) that co-ordinates the monitoring and mobilisation of national assets transferred to Merseyside FRS.

Members were advised that the diagram in Appendix A represented NCAF as it operated at a strategic level, and how it was flexible in application depending on the nature of the incident and resources required.

The NCAF arrangements were tested successfully during Exercise Black Kite with mobilisation to Tyne and Wear of five Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams and two enhanced Logistic Support (ELS) vehicles.

18. RESOLVED that:

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

Strategic Community Safety Plan 2017-20

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 outlining in draft the Strategic Community Safety Plan 2017-2020 (SCSP) which incorporated the Integrated Risk Management Plan. The report provided explanatory details for all sections for review and approval by Members.

ACFO Baines advised Members that if approved, the SCSP would be published via the external website and the intranet.

The four aspirational goals were sub-divided into six high level priorities, each with specific strategies underpinned by physical programmes with responsibility for delivery, for which targets could be set and monitored.

The new 2017-2020 priorities were as follows:

Priority 1 – Reduce the occurrence of all incidents attended and their consequences.

Priority 2 – Work collaboratively with partners to promote community safety, health and wellbeing, social responsibility and inclusion.

Priority 3 – Use resources economically, efficiently and effectively by focusing on areas of greatest risk and minimising impact on the environment.

Priority 4 – Collaborate with partner agencies to develop and resource effective emergency plans, inform response arrangements and ensure it was a resilient service.

Priority 5 – Provide a highly skilled, healthy, motivated workforce, embracing equality, diversity and inclusion to be served communities.

Referring to page 23 of the plan, members noted and welcomed the reduction in the number of accidental fires. ACFO Baines explained that as the installation of smoke alarms did not prevent fires this was due to an intelligence led and targeted approach helped by the significant number of Home Safety Checks which were now being undertaken (30,000 per annum). Members acknowledged that the number of HSC's undertaken was challenging for the Authority and commented that this would need to be monitored, especially given the reduction in the number of staff now employed by the service.

Councillor Stephenson commented that it would be useful to drill down into the accidental dwelling fires statistics to ascertain exactly where these areas were. ACFO Baines explained that this information was available and agreed to circulate it to Members of the Authority as this level of information was regularly reported to the Policy and Performance Committee.

The Vice Chairman explained that the Policy and Performance Committee had expressed concerns that some targets were now unable to be achieved due to a reduction in resources and commented that performance could continue to deteriorate due to the financial burden placed on the Authority. Councillor Forbes questioned the reduction in number of firefighters and was advised of the following reductions in staff numbers:

Rider - 194
Non Rider - 79
Fire Safety - 12
Retained - 0
Control - 7
Green Book – 99.12

19. RESOLVED that:

- (i) The contents of SCSP 2017-2020 at Appendix A be noted and endorsed;
- (ii) The SCSP for 2017-2020 be approved; and
- (iii) The new Strategic Priorities set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be approved.

Update on Collaboration Between Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service and Northumbria Police

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 provide Members with an update on progress of collaboration between Tyne and Wear and Northumberland Fire and Rescue Services and Northumbria Police.

Members were referred to Appendix A of the report (Statement of Intent) and also Appendix B (structure and activity flow of the Joint Strategy Board and the Joint delivery group).

In developing collaborative opportunities, the Joint Strategy Board set out nine key areas of business to explore. These being as follows:

- Sharing Knowledge and Information
- Service Delivery, including; Prevention, Response and demand reduction
- Estate and Asset Integration
- Control Room
- Service Support functions
- Training and Development

- Threat, harm and risk assessment
- Public Engagement and accountability; and
- Finance including funding opportunities and procurement.

Members were then advised that since the formation of the Joint Strategy Board and joint Delivery group, significant areas for collaboration had been explored with several areas of clear and effective progress.

Decisions made and collaborative activity undertaken, had already identified improved:

- Outcomes for people and communities;
- Inter-operability;
- Staff welfare; and
- Value for Money.

Members of the Authority welcomed the collaborative work which had been undertaken to date and commented that it would be excellent to have the North East Ambulance Service also involved.

20. RESOLVED that:

- (i) The progress on collaboration be noted; and
- (ii) Support be given to the continuation of collaboration between NP, TWFRS and NFRS.

National Resilience Assurance – Exercise Black Kite

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 inform members of the recent national resilience assurance exercise held in Tyne and Wear between 19th and 23rd June 2017.

Members were advised that Exercise Black Kite examined combined response capabilities by bringing together all the major organisations who would participate in minimising the impact of a major incident. The broad objective being to test arrangements in place across partner agencies responding and recovering from a complex major terrorist incident.

The design and planning of the exercise took over 18 months to complete and was managed by the TWFRS Resilience Team in partnership with a range of Category 1 and 2 responders from the military, public and private sectors.

Members were advised that Black Kite 1 (19/6/17) dealt with an attack resulting in a building collapse and the need for police to confront attackers.

Black Kite 2 and 3 followed on from Black Kite 1, as the location was assessed as free from further terrorist threat allowing rescue and recovery phases to commence. The key aspect of Black Kite 2 was the USAR response involving national mutual aid, including the deployment of four additional USAR teams from Merseyside, West

Yorkshire, Lancashire and Lincolnshire FRS to support the TWFRS team and operational response. This phase also tested air support from the Royal Air Force (RAF) and Great North Air Ambulance (GNAA).

Members were advised that these phases tested mass casualty and mass fatality planning including disaster victim identification (DVI) protocols.

Initial feedback had been positive and the exercise achieved the key objectives well. Members would be provided with further information in due course, once further information was available.

21. RESOLVED that:

- (i) The contents of the report be noted for information; and
- (ii) Further reports be received as appropriate.

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

22. 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 the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) or to consultations or negotiations in connection with labour relations matters arising between the Authority and employees of the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 3 and 4).

(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.