

MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 APRIL 2021 AT 10:00 AM

Present: Councillors J Chatterley (Chair), Y Waheed and C Atkins
DCFO A Hopkinson, ACO G Chambers and Mr J Atkinson

A minute's silence was held at the start of the meeting in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

20-21/EC/38 Apologies

38.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Franks and D McVicar.

20-21/EC/39 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

39.1 There were no declarations of interests.

20-21/EC/40 Communications

40.1 The Chair reported that he had received an invitation to meet the new Chair of Fire at the Home Office.

20-21/EC/41 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

20-21/EC/42 Public Participation

42.1 Members noted that no questions had been received in accordance with the public participation scheme approved at the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 5 April 2000 (Minute 99/fa/94 refers).

20-21/EC/43 Virtual Meetings after 6 May 2021

- 43.1 Mr J Atkinson, the Secretary and Monitoring Officer, provided an update on the ability of the Authority to hold virtual meetings after 6 May 2021, on which date the legislation allowing virtual meetings ended as Parliament had not sought to extend the necessary primary legislation.
- 43.2 A case in the High Court had been brought by a number of parties, and was now supported by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to test whether the virtual meetings were permissible under the Local Government Act 1972. The case would be heard on 21 April 2021 and a judgement was expected soon after.
- 43.3 As the next meeting of the Authority was scheduled for 29 April 2021, this could be held as a virtual meeting; however, arrangements for face to face meetings from 7 May 2021, including the Annual General Meeting on 27 May 2021, may be required, subject to the outcome of the High Court case.
- 43.4 The Secretary and Monitoring Officer advised that he would provide an update to the full Authority meeting on 29 April 2021.
- 43.5 Members of the Executive expressed support for the continuation of virtual meetings as they recognised the numerous benefits to holding meetings in this way, including reduced travel time for both Members and Officers. Members also supported a hybrid model.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received and that the Secretary and Monitoring Officer provide a further update on virtual meetings after 6 May 2021 to the next meeting of the Authority.

20-21/EC/44 Principal Officer Team Succession Planning

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to Sections 100A(2) and 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the discussion of the following item on the grounds that the matters to be discussed involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended):

Item: Principal Officer Team Succession Planning

The meeting ended at 10.57 am