

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2021

Present: Councillors J Chatterley (Chair), Y Waheed, C Atkins, D Franks, and D McVicar
DCFO A Hopkinson, ACO G Chambers, Ms S Fecondi and Mr J Atkinson
Cllr M Headley was present in a non-voting capacity

20-21/EC/45 Apologies

45.1 There were no apologies.

20-21/EC/46 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

46.1 There were no declarations of interests.

20-21/EC/47 Communications

- 47.1 The Chair advised that he had forwarded on almost all correspondence received to Members of the Executive. The only omission to this was to report that the individual appointed to the interim Assistant Chief Fire Officer post, Alison Kibblewhite, was currently a serving Officer at South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. She would be offered use of a fire house in Toddington during her period as interim Assistant Chief Fire Officer and had indicated that she was likely to relocate to the area whilst employed in that role.
- 47.2 As a result of the postponement of the Annual General Meeting to 29 June 2021, which had been the date of the next Executive meeting, the Executive was asked to confirm if the meeting could be arranged to follow the meeting of the Authority on 15 July 2021. This was agreed.
- 47.3 In response to a request from the Chair, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer provided an update on the recruitment process for a new Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Chief Fire Officer. Whilst the advertisement had not yet been released, a number of expressions of interest had already been received. The candidate packs would be shared with Executive Members before the end of the week.

47.4 The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that interim appointments were being made to October 2021. It was hoped that the permanent appointments would be ratified by the full Authority on 15 July 2021 and the successful candidates could then serve out their notice periods and commence in post sometime during October 2021.

20-21/EC/48 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

20-21/EC/49 Public Participation

49.1 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/50 LGA Update

50.1 The Assistant Chief Officer and Treasurer provided an update following the LGA meeting on 4 May 2021. No further updates regarding tapering arrangements had been made, so the position agreed by the full Authority at its meeting on 29 April 2021 stood, with the relevant employees being tapered into the 2015 Pension Scheme.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received.

20-21/EC/51 Review of Portfolio Leads

51.1 The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported that a review of portfolio responsibilities was being undertaken in line with the Authority's Annual Review of Effectiveness process to feed into the report to be presented to the Annual General Meeting. He requested that Executive Members submit any comments on the portfolio areas to him.

51.2 The Chair commented that Equality, Diversity and Inclusion covered all areas of portfolios and all service areas.

- 51.3 A comment was made about the result of the recent election of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire and his role in respect of the Fire and Rescue Service. It was suggested that when the Deputy Chief Fire Officer meets the new Commissioner he could discuss, amongst other things, the previous arrangements with the Commissioner's predecessor who was invited to attend and contribute to Authority meetings but not to vote.
- 51.4 Options for involving the Commissioner in the Authority were discussed and the Secretary and Monitoring Office advised that the previous arrangements were personal to the former Commissioner. He suggested that any future arrangements should be considered further at a meeting of the full Authority, possibly the Annual Meeting.
- 51.5 The Chair expressed the view that a work programme should be introduced for the Executive Committee. He suggested that a review of delegations to the Chief Fire Officer and a review of certain policies should be included on the work programme.
- 51.6 Other suggestions for inclusion on the work programme were the Service website and delegations to the Assistant Chief Officer.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That it be noted that a review of Portfolio Leads was ongoing and that the outcome would be presented to the full Authority.
2. That the Authority consider the involvement of the new Police and Crime Commissioner in Authority meetings at the Annual General Meeting.
3. That a work programme be introduced for the Executive Committee.

20-21/EC/52 Abatement Discussion

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 Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended):

Item

Abatement Discussion

(Please note: the Deputy Chief Fire Officer left the meeting and took no part in the discussion of the confidential item.)

The meeting ended at 12.13 pm