

**MINUTES OF AN INFORMAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
HELD VIA MS TEAM ON 20 JANUARY 2022 AT 10AM**

Present: Councillors J Chatterley (Chair), K Choudhry and M Headley

CFO A Hopkinson, ACFO A Kibblewhite, Mr J Atkinson, Ms S Fecondi and Mrs S Green were also present

21-22/EC/34 Apologies

- 34.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor McVicar.
- 34.2 DCFO C Bigland and ACO Chambers were unable to attend the meeting.

21-22/EC/35 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

- 35.1 There were no declarations of interests.

21-22/EC/36 Communications

- 36.1 The Chair reported that the Chief Fire Officer had been invited by the Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council, Mark Hardingham, to attend the International Metro Fire Chiefs Conference in May this year and that the Chief Fire Officer had submitted a list of the costs involved, the largest of which was the airfare. This was recognised as an important networking and professional development opportunity. The previous CFO, Paul Fuller, had attended the conference on several previous occasions.
- 36.2 The Chief Fire Officer added that discussions about him attending had arisen after learning that Paul Fuller has been nominated for a lifetime achievement award so would be able to receive it on behalf of the Service and his family. In addition, he may also have the opportunity to speak at the conference, which would raise the international profile of work being undertaken in Bedfordshire. If his attendance was supported by the full Authority, the Chief would provide feedback and learning points from the conference to Members.

- 36.3 The Chair advised that he had been sent a copy of the National Fire Chiefs Council letter regarding the White Paper on Fire Reform and that this would be circulated to Members for information.
- 36.4 The Chief Fire Officer commented that the White Paper was in the final stages of departmental sign-off with an anticipated publication date in February 2022.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority be recommended to support the Chief Fire Officer's attendance at the International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference.

21-22/EC/37 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

21-22/EC/38 Public Participation

- 38.1 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).

21-22/EC/39 Work Programme

- 39.1 The Executive received its updated work programme, noting that there were currently no items on the Work Programme. The Chair reported that a review of the scheme of delegation was ongoing and would be submitted to a future meeting of the Executive. He requested that an informal briefing meeting be held with Members to discuss the way forward before a formal report was prepared.
- 39.2 The Chief Fire Officer outlined new arrangements for the Chair to be briefed prior to meetings of the Executive and the Full Authority so that there was more Member involvement in the agenda setting process. He was meeting with other Officers to identify appropriate items to put forward for consideration at future meetings of the Executive.

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme be received and the cyclical agenda items be noted.

21-22/EC/40 Home Office Immediate Detriment Guidance Update

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 items on the grounds that the matters to be discussed involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 4 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended):

Item

- 40. Home Office Immediate Detriment Guidance Update
- 41. Abatement Issue

The meeting ended at 10.36 am