

Consultation Meeting of members and officers of the Fire Authority (conducted by Skype) held Monday 30th March 2020

Present:

Cambridgeshire County Councillors: I Gardener, J Gowing, S Kindersley, M McGuire, K Reynolds (Chairman, items 2 + 3 only) and M Shellens

Peterborough City Councillors: J Goodwin, D Over (Vice-Chairman)

Officers: Jon Anderson, Dawn Cave, Shahin Ismail, Chris Strickland, Matthew Warren

(The meeting was held in order for the Chairman to consult with Fire Authority members before making decisions under his urgency powers, in these unprecedented times of living with the restrictions imposed due to the Covid 19 virus. The Chairman will make his decisions in respect of the three matters below in due course after he has considered all the responses from members. His decision will be published, as will any papers that are not exempt from publication.

The Government has now enacted the coronavirus Act 2020, which provides for virtual meetings to be held, but we await the Regulations that will set out how we do this. In the meantime, only business critical decisions will be made by the Chairman, in the exercise of his urgency powers).

(In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Over assumed the Chair)

1. RELOCATION OF HUNTINGDON FIRE STATION AND TRAINING CENTRE

Members considered a report on the relocation of Huntingdon Fire Station and Training Centre.

Following discussion and questions, all Members participating in the Skype consultation confirmed that they were in favour of the report recommendations.

Members formally requested that the Chairman use his urgency powers to progress these recommendations as soon as possible.

In response to a Member question, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Fire Authority's Standing Orders allowed the Chairman to take decision under his urgency powers. It was confirmed that the Chairman would not be taking the decision until 2nd or 3rd April, and would also take into account the views of those Fire Authority Members who were not participating in the Skype meeting.

(Councillor Reynolds joined the meeting and assumed the chair)

2. INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members were reminded that they had considered the Integrated Risk Management Plan at their February Fire Authority meeting. The revised document had been updated following consultation. The range of comments received and the changes made were noted. Feedback from all group had been largely positive.

Members made the following comments and suggestions:

- noting that the current Coronavirus situation was mentioned in the IRMP, suggested that the section should be strengthened and enhanced, and its impact reflected in the language used;
- asked how the Fire Service could best support the Ambulance Service. Officers outlined the steps being taken to support the Ambulance Service, whilst retaining a good level of Fire Service provision. It was agreed that this would be reflected in the IRMP.

All Members who were participating agreed the recommendations set out in the report, and formally requested that the Chairman use his urgency powers to progress these recommendations as soon as possible:

note the feedback from the IRMP consultation activities and approve the amended IRMP at Appendix 1 of the report for publication.

3. MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Members noted the report and supported the report recommendation, and agreed to freeze their allowances for the next twelve months. They formally requested that the Chairman use his urgency powers to progress the recommendation as soon as possible:

Agree the allowance rates within Appendix 1 of the report and apply these for the next 12 months.