



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Full Authority

Wednesday, 16 September 2020,10:00

Chairman: Mr R Phillips
Vice-Chairman: Mr P Tuthill

Minutes

Members Present: Mr R C Adams, Ms P Agar, Mr T D Baker-Price, Mr S Bowen, Mr B Clayton, Mrs E Eyre BEM, Mr A Fry, Ms K S Guthrie, Mrs K Hey, Dr C A Hotham, Mr R J Morris, Mrs F M Oborski MBE, Mr R J Phillips, Mrs J Potter, Mr L Stark, Mr C B Taylor, Mrs D Toynbee, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall

Also in attendance: Mr John Campion, West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner

270 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Amos, Cllr Hardiman, Cllr Hardman, Cllr M Hart, Cllr Pollock and Cllr J Raine.

271 Declarations of Interest (if any)

Cllr Phillips declared that he was a member of the NJC for Fire Service, Vice Chair of the Firefighters Scheme Advisory Board (England & Wales), Chair of the Local Government Pension Scheme Advisory Board (England & Wales) and a member of the Fire Commission.

Cllr Oborski declared that she was a member of the Fire Commission.

272 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman informed Members that Deputy Chief Fire Officer John Hodges had recently retired from the Fire Service with a socially distanced farewell by Group Leaders and Officers.

The Chairman then informed Members that he had recently attended numerous meetings with Group leaders, Vice Chairman and the Chief Fire Officer. Had also attended meetings in regard to the NJC pay negotiations and had provided, with the CFO, feedback to the Grenfell enquiry. He then reminded Members that HMICFRS were undertaking a

National Inspection of Fire Services in response to the Covid pandemic.

273 Public Participation

There was no public participation.

274 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on 10 June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at an appropriate time.

275 Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive Appointment – Options Analysis

The Chief Fire Officer presented the Authority with an options analysis for the appointment of a new Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, recommending the best option that most effectively met both the current and likely future challenges and needs facing the Authority over the medium term.

[Cllr L Stark joined the meeting at 10.15am].

Members praised the Chief Fire Officer for his commitment to the Service during the past 4 years, expressed that he would be greatly missed but was leaving the Service in a better place than when he started.

The Chief Fire Officer thanked Members for their kind words and expressed what a hard decision it had been for him to retire. He commented that Hereford & Worcester was a fantastic Fire Service and wanted to leave it to go from strength to strength.

Following discussions of the 4 options provided to Members, it was agreed to seek the permanent appointment of a new Chief Fire Officer with the requisite operational command and strategic Fire Service management experience (Option 1) in succession to the current postholder whose retirement was planned for early 2021.

The Chairman informed Members that an Appointments Committee would meet as soon as possible to start the process and a timeline would be shared with Members when available.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Fire Authority agreed to appoint a substantive operational Chief Fire Officer in succession to the current postholder;**
- 2. the Appointments Committee would commence a recruitment**

process as soon as possible;

- 3. there would be no change to the remuneration package of the Chief Officer post at this time;**
- 4. the Fire Authority would maintain the flexibility to accommodate potential candidates' personal circumstances (e.g. home location within an approved area outside of the two county boundaries).**

The Meeting ended at: 11:00

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman