



BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY FROM ITS MEETING ON 31 MAY 2018 TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) held a meeting on 31 May 2018 at Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Southfields Road, Kempston. The major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

1. MEMBERSHIP

There were no changes to the membership of the Authority from the previous year.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR 2018/19

Councillor Downing was duly elected as Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority for 2018/19.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR 2018/19

Councillor Chatterley was duly elected as Vice Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority for 2018/19.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Andrew Hopkinson

The new Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Andrew (Andy) Hopkinson, was welcomed formally to his first meeting of the Authority.

HMICFRS Inspection

A meeting between Chairs and Chief Fire Officers of Fire and Rescue Services and members of the national inspection team had taken place the previous day. Areas of focus for the inspection would be efficiency and effectiveness, the Service's People Strategy, governance and finances.

The Service had already submitted its self-assessment, which had been tabled for Members' information and was now published on the Service intranet. The strategic assessment had also been completed and the Chief Fire Officer thanked everyone involved in the process.

Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

The Government had recently published the revised National Framework and the Authority would receive a report on the resulting implications for the Service at a future meeting.

Hackitt Review

The final report on the review of building regulations and fire safety following the fire at Grenfell Tower had recently been published. The report set out a new regulatory framework, with particular focus on high risk high-rise properties. Members were reminded that all high-rise properties in Bedfordshire had been inspected post-Grenfell and no major safety concerns had been identified.

The Authority would receive a report on the review and its implications for the Service at a future meeting.

Voices

Councillors Atkins and Waheed had attended the Service's launch of a new internal support network on Idaho Day, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

Information on the network was tabled for Members' information.

Fire Services Commission Meeting

The Chair and Councillor Atkins had attended the Fire Services Commission with the Deputy Chief Fire Officer.

5. AUTHORISATION OF MEMBERS TO REPORT TO THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS ON MEETINGS OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Councillors Downing, Mingay and Waheed were authorised to report to their respective Constituent Councils on meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority during 2018/19.

6. REPRESENTATION ON THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE, POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUPS, ETC. IN 2018-19

Members were appointed to serve on the following Groups/Committees for 2018/19:

Audit and Standards Committee	Councillor Chapman Councillor Chatterley Councillor Downing Councillor Duckett Councillor Headley (Chair) Councillor Waheed
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Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group	Councillor Chapman (Chair) Councillor Downing Councillor Duckett Councillor Headley Councillor McVicar Councillor Saleem
Human Resources Policy and Challenge Group	Councillor Atkins Councillor Franks Councillor Khan Councillor Mingay Councillor Saleem Councillor Waheed (Chair)
Service Delivery Policy and Challenge Group	Councillor Atkins Councillor Chatterley Councillor Franks Councillor Khan Councillor Mingay (Chair) Councillor McVicar

Membership of the Local Strategic Partnerships for 2018/19 was confirmed as follows:

Bedford Central Bedfordshire Luton	Councillor Mingay Councillor Downing Councillor Waheed
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Councillor McVicar was appointed as the Member representative on the Blue Light Collaboration Group.

7. DECISION MAKING BETWEEN MEETINGS, BRIEFINGS ETC.

The constitution for a formal Executive Committee was agreed. It was noted that, when this Committee met to make decisions, those meetings would be held in public.

8. REPRESENTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) MATTERS 2018/19

The Fire and Rescue Authority agreed its representation on Local Government Association bodies and at the LGA Annual Fire Conference in March 2019.

9. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The Authority approved a programme of Member Development, including station visits, Member Development days and Budget Workshops.

Councillor Duckett was nominated to attend the LGA Fire Leadership Essentials Programme in October 2018 at Warwick Conference Centre, Coventry.

It was agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair be nominated to attend the full Combined Fire Authorities' conference in Milton Keynes on 11 October 2018, with all Members of the Authority able to attend the day event.

COUNCILLOR ***

MEMBER OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY