

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATED SPOKESPERSONS FOR EACH CONSTITUENT AUTHORITY

SUMMARY

1. This report requests that Members appoint a nominated spokesperson to each Constituent Authority, to answer any questions concerning the Fire Authority at meetings of their respective Authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That a Member from each Constituent Authority is appointed as a spokesperson in respect to 2015/16.

REPORT DETAIL

3. At its meeting held on 18 February 2005 (copy attached at Appendix 1, Minute 1326 refers) the Fire Authority approved arrangements for dealing with questions by members of Constituent Unitary Authorities on fire matters. The Fire Authority agreed to nominate a Member from amongst the representatives of each Constituent Unitary Authority to answer questions at meetings of their respective Councils who will be appointed annually at the Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

4. The appointment of nominated spokespersons for each Constituent Authority would assist in delivering the outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

5. None arising.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None arising directly.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

7. No direct actions required.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8. The recommendations set out in this report support the governance of the Authority.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9. None arising directly.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

10. The four constituent authorities will be notified.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

12. None.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

13. That a Member from each Constituent Authority is appointed as a spokesperson in respect to 2015/16.

M BUCKLEY

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1326 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT UNITARY AUTHORITIES ON FIRE MATTERS - The Secretary submitted a report, further to Minute 1294 regarding the proposal by North Lincolnshire Council that arrangements be made to allow Members of that Council the opportunity of asking questions at full Council meetings about the functions of Humberside Fire Authority and the work of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service. The matter had been discussed at the Unitary Authority Leaders' meeting held on 19th January, 2005 when all four authorities indicated their desire to re-iterate North Lincolnshire Council's request on their own behalf and asked the Fire Authority to reconsider that request and come to a favourable decision.

Resolved - (a) That the Constituent Unitary Authorities be reminded that the following avenues already exist for obtaining information on Fire Authority matters:

- (i) Members of the Constituent Unitary Authorities who are representatives on the Fire Authority already respond to queries raised at their own Council's, albeit on an informal basis;
- (ii) the Fire Authority has demonstrated its willingness, when requested by a Council to participate in Overview and Scrutiny meetings to discuss fire related issues by authorising the Chair and the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive to represent the Fire Authority;
- (iii) a written response is always sent to any written request for information from a Council to the Chairman or Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive;
- (iv) the Fire Authority consults Councils and the public widely through its fire service planning processes i.e. Integrated Risk Management Plan. These are widely available including via the internet;
- (v) a copy of the Agenda papers for meetings of the Fire Authority is sent to the Chief Executive of each Council for information purposes.

(b) however, for any Constituent Unitary Authority wishing to adopt a formal arrangement for asking questions on Fire Authority functions the Fire Authority approves the request by North Lincolnshire Council, as endorsed by the Unitary Leaders' Group, subject to the following requirements:

- (i) written notice of any question must to be given to the Authority's nominated spokesperson and the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive no later than 5 clear working days prior to the relevant Council meeting (excluding the day the question is received (not sent) and the day of the Council meeting), and
- (ii) this arrangement excludes supplementary questions from being asked at the Council meeting.

(c) that the Authority nominate a Member from amongst the representatives of each Constituent Unitary Authority to answer questions at meetings of their respective Councils who will be appointed annually at the Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority and that initially the following Members be nominated:

East Riding of Yorkshire Council – Councillor Jefferies
Kingston upon Hull City Council – Councillor Randall
North East Lincolnshire Council – Councillor Dalton
North Lincolnshire Council – Councillor Barkworth

