

NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING (VIRTUAL MEETING)

25 MAY 2021

1.30 PM

PRESENT: Ms C McKinney, Chairperson presiding
Mr M Graham, Chief Fire & Rescue Officer
Ms B Anley
Mr J Craig
Mr C Enright
Mr K Henning
Mr R Irvine
Mr T O'Hanlon
Mr J Quinn
Mrs H Singleton
Ms L Smith

APOLOGIES: Mr G Smyth

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M Deeney, Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer
(Transformation, Performance & Governance)
Mr P Gallagher, Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer (Service
Delivery)
Mr A Jennings, Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer (Service
Support)
Mrs P White, Interim Director of Finance
Mrs D O'Connor, Interim Director of Human Resources
Ms I Hill, Governance & Business Support Services Advisor
Ms C Alcock, Local Government Association
Mr M Bradley, HSC Pensions
Ms R Morgan, DoH Observer

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

The Chairperson explained that NIFRS had secured a short presentation from Clair Alcock, Local Government Association, Senior Pension Advisor, to update Members on Public Sector Pensions and the impact on NIFRS. She sought Members' approval for Ms Alcock and Mr Bradley to join the Meeting.

Members agreed to this.

Public Sector Pensions Update

The Interim Director of Finance introduced Ms Alcock, Senior Pension Advisor, and explained that Ms Alcock would be briefing Members on the current position with respect to the McCloud pension issue, the challenges and risks and the position nationally. She also introduced Mr Bradley, Head of HSC Pensions, NIFRS' Pension Administrator, noting that he would be providing a perspective from the NI side of issue.

At this point,
Mr Henning joined the Meeting

The Chairperson welcomed Ms Alcock and invited her to make her presentation to the Board. She stated that she would then revert to Members for any questions.

Ms Alcock provided Members with a detailed overview of the Immediate Detriment for decision-makers as a result of the McCloud legal case and updated Members on the current position and also with respect to the deferred choice underpin.

With respect to the deferred choice underpin, Members were informed that this approach means all eligible members will receive a choice at the point of retirement whether to take legacy or reformed scheme benefits for the period between 1 April 2015 and 31 March 2022, known as the remedy period.

Referring to the Immediate Detriment, Ms Alcock gave an overview of the work progressing on the legislative steps required to implement the remedy and reformed scheme.

Ms Alcock summarised the 5 main areas for consideration in relation to Immediate Detriment - Employee Contributions; Policy decisions and Regulations; tax; and member's choice. She also updated Members with respect to Mandatory and Voluntary Scheme Pays and with respect to unauthorised tax charges. She noted the knowledge required to deal with the decision-making and the associated risks therein. She also highlighted the areas of data which will be required to implement the remedy.

Ms Alcock noted that FRSs in England and Wales will need to conduct a self assessment covering current arrangements; data (pay, service and contributions); process and impact; information, communication co-ordination; and knowledge; capability and capacity and she suggested that this may be useful for NIFRS to complete

The Chairperson thanked Ms Alcock for her presentation and opened the floor to Members for comment.

During a full discussion, Ms Alcock answered Members' questions and provided clarification relating to the information which had been presented. Members accepted that it is a very complex issue and expressed their concern regarding the lack of legislation and guidance available to employers to assist with the decision making process.

The Chairperson deferred to the Interim Director of Finance who then provided Members with a brief oversight in terms of work with DoH to try and understand the Immediate Detriment from a NI perspective. She stated that Mr Bradley could provide a wider overview in terms of systems/resources.

The Chairperson invited Mr Bradley to comment.

Mr Bradley acknowledged the work in moving to a new system and expressed his appreciation to the NIFRS Finance Team for their work thus far. He raised his concern to Members with regard to moving forward without clear policies and guidance. He noted the position within Health, the level of work to be undertaken and the challenges ahead.

Mr Bradley informed Members that a Business Case had been submitted seeking resources to administer the McCloud remedy and outlined the process to be followed/ implemented. He reiterated that it was very complex issue and a significant challenge.

Referring to communication for Pension Scheme members, Mr Bradley updated the Board on the information currently provided and he explained that they would endeavour to provide as much information and clarity on the matter as is possible.

During further discussion, Members noted the enormous amount of work to be undertaken to move the matter forward. They indicated the need to reflect further on this complex issue and the work to be undertaken. It was suggested that there may be the potential for a small team to be established to keep a watching brief on progress.

The Chairperson welcomed this suggestion and agreed that she and the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer would discuss the potential for the establishment of a small Working Group with the Interim Director of Finance, to work through the issues and provide Member oversight. She also suggested that perhaps there was a need for a single item agenda meeting going forward to discuss the liability of the Board and the necessary governance. Members also supported this approach.

The Interim Director of Finance welcomed the potential of a scrutiny Working Group.

She updated Members on the Communication strategy which included consideration of joint communications with the FBU.

The Chairperson commented positively on the Pension presentation which had been useful for Members. Although the item had taken longer than anticipated she acknowledged that it had been necessary and noted that there were actions to be further considered and taken forward. She asked Members if they would wish to have a short comfort break at that point of or proceed with the Meeting. **Members agreed to proceed with the Meeting.**

The Chairperson commented on the volume of documentation for the Meeting. She advised Members that she and the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer had an initial discussion regarding the continually high level of documentation being presented of late to the Board and demands on Members within the virtual environment as a result of same. She advised that it would be essential that this is reviewed as a priority. The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer agreed to take that forward.

Item 1: Apologies

Apologies from Members were noted.

Item 2: Conflicts of Interest

The Chairperson enquired as to whether any Members of the Board wished to declare any potential conflicts of interest with any of the business items on the Agenda. Members confirmed there were no apparent conflicts of interest.

Mr Quinn declared a potential conflict of interest with respect to Agenda Item 5 – Finance Report. The Chairperson noted same and stated that if she considered it appropriate she would ask Mr Quinn to leave the Meeting for this item of business.

Item 3: Minutes of Board Meeting – 23 March 2021

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 23 March 2021, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a true record, on the motion of Mr Irvine, seconded by Mr Henning.

Arising out of the Minutes:

Pensions Board

The Interim Director of Finance updated Members on the current position with respect to providing clarity on the role and responsibilities of the Pension Board Chair and their reporting lines, etc.

The Chairperson requested that she bring back more detailed responses to Member questions for further consideration by the Board.

The Interim Director of Finance informed Members that the Business Case relating to remuneration for the Pension Board Chair had been submitted to DoH.

The Chairperson was content that the Interim Director of Finance would collate and bring back the necessary information to the Board. She stated that once all the information required was brought before them, Members would then decide on how the matter would be taken forward.

Item 4: Items for Adoption/Approval Reports from Board Committees, including noting of Committee Minutes and Adoption of Recommendations

Service Delivery Committee - Meeting – 11 May 2021

It was noted that a Meeting of the Service Delivery Committee had been held on 11 May 2021 and the Minutes of the Meeting will be presented at the next Meeting of the Board.

Mr Irvine, Chairperson of the Service Delivery Committee, presented the recommendation emanating from the Meeting.

Mr Irvine proposed that the Committee's recommendation, as detailed below, be adopted by the Board. This was seconded Mr Henning.

Service Delivery Committee – Recommendation

- **Approval of the draft Protection Training Strategy.**

Audit, Risk & Governance Committee – Meeting – 10 March 2021

It was noted that a Meeting of the Audit, Risk & Governance Committee had been held on 13 May 2021. The Minutes of the Meeting will be presented at the next Meeting of the Board.

Mr Enright, Audit, Risk & Governance Committee Member, noted the recommendations emanating from the Meeting. He also noted a discussion regarding the Board Business Improvement sessions and in particular the importance of same for new Members. He added that a date would be confirmed in due course.

Mr Enright, proposed that the Committee's recommendations, as detailed below, be adopted by the Board. This was seconded by Mr Irvine.

Audit, Risk & Governance Committee – Recommendations

- **Acceptance of the Audits of Cyber Security; Recruitment of Wholetime Firefighters; Risk Management; Performance Management – Regional Control Centre; and Independent Review Follow-Up;**
- **Approval of the Year-End Follow-Up on Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations;**
- **Approval of the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22;**
- **Approval of the NAO Audit Committee Self Assessment Checklist 2020/21.**

Remuneration Committee - Meeting – 25 May 2021

It was noted that a Meeting of the Remuneration Committee had been held immediately prior to the Board Meeting. The Minutes of the Meeting will be presented to a future Meeting of the Board.

Mr Henning informed Members that the Committee had considered an On-Call Contract and Management System Proposal Paper. He provided a brief synopsis of the Business discussed noting the recommendation being brought forward with the caveat that the Board be kept informed of progress. The chairperson thanked Mr Henning for his synopsis.

Mr Henning proposed that the Committee's recommendation, as detailed below, be adopted by the Board. This was seconded Ms McKinney.

Remuneration Committee – Recommendation

- **Approval of the On-Call Contract and Management Systems Proposal Paper and to proceed to consultation with the relevant staff.**

Standalone Strategic Items NIFRS Our People Strategy 2021-2026

The draft NIFRS Our People Strategy 2021-2026 was noted.

Mr Henning, Chairperson of the People & Culture Committee, explained that the draft Strategy had been reviewed by the People & Culture Committee on 11 May 2021 and the Committee had recommended that the Strategy proceed to consultation subject to Board approval.

Members commended the Interim Director of HR and her team for all their work to develop the Strategy.

The Board, on the motion of Mr Henning, seconded by Ms McKinney, unanimously agreed to approve the draft NIFRS Our People Strategy 2021-2026.

Business Cases

Strategic Outline Case (Property Transactions) for Service Level Agreement between NIFRS and Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA)

Members noted the Strategic Outline Case (Property Transactions) for Service Level Agreement between NIFRS and Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) for accommodation at Bangor Fire Station.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Jennings outlined the background to the Agreement and explained that this was a renewal of an existing agreement between NIFRS and MCA. He answered Members' questions relating to the information presented.

The Board, on the motion of Mr Irvine, seconded by Ms Smith, unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the Strategic Outline Case (Property Transactions) for Service Level Agreement between NIFRS and Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) for accommodation at Bangor Fire Station.

Addendum – Business Case for delivery of Estates Maintenance Services through Estates Term Service Short Contract

The Addendum to the Business Case for delivery of Estates Maintenance Services through an Estates Term Service Short Contract (TSSC) was noted.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Jennings provided an explanation for the information presented.

Mr Irvine stated that it would have been helpful if the original Business Case Summary of Need had been presented with the Addendum. This was noted by the Executive Leadership Team.

The Board, on the motion of Mr Irvine, seconded by Ms McKinney unanimously approved the Addendum to the Business Case for delivery of Estates Maintenance Services through an Estates Term Service Short Contract (TSSC).

Item 5: Items for Information/Noting

Financial Oversight Review

Members noted the Financial Oversight Review Report.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer outlined the background to the Report explaining that in response to a letter to him as Accounting Officer from the Permanent Secretary he commissioned an External Financial Oversight Review. He noted the Terms of Reference for the Review which had been developed in conjunction with DoH.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer explained that the Review had focussed on 3 specific areas of financial management. He gave Members a high level overview of the information presented and summarised the recommendations emanating from the Review. He informed Members that he and the Interim Director of Finance will take forward the recommendations as an action plan.

Mr Quinn acknowledged the work of the Payroll section within Finance and extended his appreciation to that team for the work they had done.

The Chairperson advised that in her view when developing the action plan, the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer should include an enhanced background context to the report. She fully acknowledged that there had been improvement, however she emphasised the importance of new colleagues being fully briefed contextually as well as the Board being given assurances on progress. She suggested that the action plan should be included as an Agenda Item on the appropriate Committee and progress regularly monitored by Members against it.

Ms Anley thanked the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer for the Review report. She referred to the level of detail received with regard to finance. She expressed concern that the Board was only receiving a high level report relating to Finance. She reiterated the need for more detail to come through to Members to ensure assurance in relation to the governance aspect of financial management.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer thanked the Members for their comments and agreed to look at a number of options to address the points made.

The Chairperson noted that it was for the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer as Accounting Officer amongst others to provide that assurance to Members. She was confident an appropriate action plan would address this.

Motor Insurance Business Case Update

Members noted a paper providing an update on NIFRS Fleet Motor Insurance Renewal.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney informed Members that further to Business Case approval in March 2021, the novel element of the Motor Insurance renewal has been considered and subsequently not approved by Department of Health. He explained that the novel element relates to insuring NIFRS personnel in vehicles in the absence of any other mechanism to mitigate personnel injury claims risk at an approximate cost of £65k. He gave Members a detailed overview of the Departmental consideration and follow-up processes.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney explained that as such NIFRS remain liable for all such personnel injury claims, however if an unusually high value claim arise that could not be managed without significant impact to services, DoH have provided written confirmation that they will sympathetically consider the provision of additional funding. He stated that based on this, NIFRS has only renewed the Business As Usual element of the Vehicle Insurance renewal providing the minimum required cover to fulfil the requirements of Part VI Section 143 of the Road Traffic Act (1998).

During a full and frank discussion, Members expressed concern regarding the Department's position and stated that they were of the view that the additional £65k would be appropriate to mitigate the risk. Mrs Singleton referred to the position within NIAS with regard to passenger insurance and pointed out that they had a statutory exemption under Article 90(2A) and that this exemption did not apply to NIFRS. She sought clarity regarding the authority to reach a conclusion regarding the issue.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney explained that NIFRS had no choice but to accept the Department's position. He noted the legal advice received by NIFRS hence it was felt it was appropriate and correct for NIFRS to put in place a policy of insurance that insures all passengers whatever their employment status might be. He further noted that this was contrary to the Department's legal advice. Members noted that this element of the Insurance had been approved last year and queried why the position had changed for this year.

Members concurred with NIFRS' position that it was appropriate to put in place a policy which insures all passengers. Members sought further clarification around the exemption position.

The Chairperson sought comments from the DoH Observer.

Ms Morgan explained that she was not close to the issue but would be happy to seek clarity from DoF and collate same for NIFRS.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer stated that it would be reasonable to raise the matter again with the Department particularly given the position last year and the lateness of their decision.

It was agreed that, based on the issues raised by the Board, the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer and Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney would write to the appropriate Department regarding the matter and noting the Board's comments.

The Chairperson requested that the letter should then be circulated to Members for information.

Finance Report

The Finance Report updating Members on the financial position for the period ended 31 March 2021 was noted.

The Interim Director of Finance provided a synopsis of the information presented with respect to the Revenue Budget. She reported on the positive engagement with DoH that had resulted in NIFRS securing an additional £3m. This funding means that NIFRS can bring forward spend that would otherwise create pressure for the next financial year. She noted the areas of spend for this additional funding which included addressing the backlog of operational equipment. She thanked DoH for their support.

Referring to the year-end position, the Interim Director of Finance informed Members that breakeven has been achieved with a small over spend of £11k. She provided a detailed overview of the main variances affecting the year-end position.

The Interim Director of Finance updated Members on the spend relating to COVID-19 noting that it largely relates to the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and sanitisation. She noted that Pay costs include an adjustment of £340k to account for untaken annual leave balances at year-end.

Referring to the Capital Budget, the Interim Director of Finance updated Members on the position as at 31 March 2021 highlighting the general capital allocation for 2020/21 has been utilised with the exception of a small underspend of £25k.

The Interim Director of Finance reported positively on NIFRS Prompt Payment Performance and commended the Finance Team for their excellent work.

Members noted the Losses and Special Payments Register for 2020/21.

The Interim Director of Finance updated Members on the position with respect to NIFRS financial planning for 2021/22 noting that NIFRS has received formal confirmation of its opening allocation of £80.1m. She explained that a comprehensive Breakeven Plan is under development and highlighted the areas of focus. She noted the Plan will be presented to the next Meeting of the Board for consideration.

Members noted that in conjunction with the opening allocation confirmation, DoH had commissioned the June monitoring round which provided NIFRS with the opportunity to bid for additional funding for COVID-19 related pressures. NIFRS has submitted a bid of £1.4m which has been supported by our Sponsor Team, and will proceed through the Departmental approval process.

The Interim Director of Finance answered Members' questions relating to the information presented.

Referring to the 2021/22 Budget, Mr Quinn, whilst noting that a Breakeven Plan is to be discussed at the next Board Meeting, expressed his concerns regarding the budget allocation and the impact on NIFRS' resources and service delivery. He stressed that NIFRS has statutory obligations to meet and also stressed the importance of any Breakeven Plan being safe as any adjustments involves the quality of service. He also noted his concerns with respect to the position in relation to overtime. He enquired if requests for additional funding were being made.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer noted discussions which had taken place with DoH with respect to the budget allocation and the measures within the paper. He accepted that there is a responsibility to ensure a safe and effective Fire & Rescue Service and assured Members that a detailed Plan will be presented to the Board.

Mr Henning expressed concern regarding the rising level of Agency staff within NIFRS and the cost of same. The Chairperson stated that this had been an ongoing concern of the Board for a number of years and requested that this matter be flagged again through the People & Culture Committee with a detailed report from the executive Leadership Team on costing and numbers to come back to the Board as soon as practicable.

Mr Irvine pointed out that that NIFRS is in the middle of a Transformation Programme which is considering how NIFRS will deliver its service utilising the allocated financial and human resources and also how it will consult on same. He explained that different workstreams were coming through the Service Delivery Committee, incorporating research collated over a number of years, to assist to inform NIFRS' service delivery model and to support the reprofiling of NIFRS budgets.

Mr O'Hanlon concurred with Members' comments and pointed out the need for the Executive Leadership Team to clearly articulate the budget pressures/scenario planning to demonstrate the impact on the Service before the Board would take any final decisions.

The Chairperson enquired if it would be the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer's intention to bid in to DoH for additional funds.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer stated that a detailed risk assessment would support the breakeven plan and he assured Members that any proposals developed by the Executive Leadership Team would be brought forward to the Board in an informed, evidence-based way.

The Chairperson adjourned the Meeting at 3.45 pm for a 5 minute comfort break
Mr Enright left the Meeting

Update on Independent Review into Issues around the Investigation Processes and Timescales

Members noted the Independent Review Action Plan Update as at 19 May 2021.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney reported positively on progress and drew Members' attention to the outstanding elements of work particularly with respect to Policy Reviews. He provided an explanation of the current position with regard to the review of key governance policies and the engagement with the Representative Bodies. He highlighted that clarity is being sought with regard to the Code of Conduct and noted that this will impact on the development & Probity training module as this will incorporate the Code. Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney stated that it was the expectation that these elements would be closed off by 30 June.

The Chairperson commented on the minor issues raised during consultation with the Representative Bodies and sought assurance that these can be resolved with the Representative Bodies. Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney indicated that he was confident that these elements of work will be closed out.

Mr Quinn, Board Representative on the Independent Review Working Group, reported positively on progress. He assured Members in relation to the work progressed by the Group and congratulated them on the progress achieved.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Quinn and Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney for their assurances to the Board that the planned work remains on target.

Project Highlight Report

A Project Highlight Report providing updates on COVID-19; Service Delivery Modelling; and EU Exit was noted.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer updated Members on the management of COVID-19. He noted the statistics relating to COVID-19 absences as at 10 May 2021 and outlined the key areas of work progressed including continued engagement with Health colleagues; contact tracing now embedded as an HR function; focus on safe return to key organisational activities, eg, training and prevention activities; COVID impacts/recovery being managed through the Executive Leadership Team as business as usual.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer suggested that, as the management of COVID-19 is now embedded as business as usual within management structures, formal reporting to the Board could move to reporting by exception.

Members commended NIFRS on its exceptional response to the pandemic and stated that it was testament to everyone within the Organisation who had all played their part throughout this difficult time.

In response to a question from Ms Smith, the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer explained that a lessons learned exercise had been undertaken following the first wave of the pandemic and that it was intended to revisit this in due course.

Referring to the Service Modelling Project, Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney updated Members on the progress with respect to the development of the Transformation Programme Business Case; the Red Fleet Review; the establishment of the Programme Management Office and also the Transformation Programme Board.

With respect to the EU Exit Project, Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney stated that NIFRS has not noted any significant impacts of exiting the EU. However, the increase in cost of raw materials had been noted and this will be factored into individual projects.

Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Officer Deeney explained that NIFRS EU Exit Planning Group had been suspended and that the situation was being kept under review. Given the current position, Assistant Chief Fire & Rescue Deeney enquired if the Board would be content for this Project to be removed from the Highlight Report and that going forward he would report by exception.

The Chairperson sought Members' views regarding the updates pertaining to the COVID-19 and EU Exit Projects. **Members agreed that these Projects be reported on by exception.**

Performance Management

Members noted the Annual Business Plan Quarter 4 Progress Updates and the Performance Management Updates as at 31 March 2021 including the Performance Reports from each of the Standing Committees.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer referred to the Annual Business Plan updates and highlighted that the pandemic had had an impact on some areas of work. He provided an explanation with respect to those tasks with a Red RAG status.

Reports from Committees, including noting of Committee Minutes and adoption of Recommendations

Audit, Risk & Governance Committee - Minutes – 10 March 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit, Risk & Governance Committee held on 10 March 2021 were noted. It was also noted that the recommendations contained therein were adopted by the Board at its Meeting on 23 March 2021.

Service Delivery Committee - Minutes – 11 March 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Service Delivery Committee held on 11 March 2021 were noted. It was also noted that the recommendation contained therein was adopted by the Board at its Meeting on 23 March 2021.

People & Culture Committee - Minutes – 11 March 2021

The Minutes of the Meeting of the People & Culture Committee held on 11 March 2021 were noted. It was also noted that the recommendation contained therein was adopted by the Board at its Meeting on 23 March 2021.

People & Culture Committee - Meeting - 11 May 2021

A Meeting of the People & Culture Committee was held on 11 May 2021. The Minutes of the Meeting will be presented at the next Meeting of the Board.

Item 6: Chairperson's Business

The Chairperson informed Members that Members will be updated on a number of confidential matters under separate cover.

Item 7: Relevant Correspondence

There was no relevant correspondence.

Item 8: Documents for Sealing

There were no documents for sealing.

Item 9: Schedule of Future Meetings, etc

A Schedule of Meetings, etc, was noted.

The Chairperson confirmed to Members that the Audit, Risk & Governance Committee had been rescheduled to 2 July 2021.

The Chairperson commented that it had been a long meeting acknowledging the duration of the Clair Alcock Pension update which had been very useful and that there were actions which needed to be taken forward.

Referring to the fires in the Mourne, the Chairperson, on behalf of the Board, expressed her appreciation of the work of NIFRS and the professionalism of its personnel. She commented on the positive PR received by the Service and thanked everyone involved. Members concurred with the Chairperson's comments.

The Chairperson noted that Minister Swann had, along with herself and the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer, visited the site on the Sunday of the incident.

The Chairperson reported positively on the Minister's visit which had been appreciated by all personnel on the ground.

The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer thanked all for their comments. He stated that the incident had been a huge commitment not only for NIFRS but also the other Agencies at the scene. He expressed his appreciation to the local community for all their support. The Chief Fire & Rescue Officer explained that NIFRS is now managing the areas of work falling out of the incident noting in particular the work with respect to prevention activities.

In response to a question from Ms Anley with regard to the Board's commitment to Health & Safety within the workplace and how that agenda will be taken forward, the Chairperson advised that the Chief Fire & Rescue Officer will discuss with Mr Irvine, the Health & Safety Champion and Service Delivery Committee Chairperson, to consider the most appropriate way to take this important area forward through a whole Board approach. Members will then be fully apprised on same.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their contribution to the Meeting.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
AND THE MEETING ENDED
AT 4.20 PM
