

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters, Eastleigh on 22 November, 2010

PRESENT:

Councillors: L. Fairhurst (Vice-Chairman); D. Harrison; R. Smith;
Mrs. M. Tucker.

Also in attendance was Kate Handy, District Auditor.

COUNCILLOR L. FAIRHURST VICE-CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR

46 APOLOGIES

ACTION

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors:
A.S. Carew and R. McIntosh.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally, at the time of debate, declare their interest and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Fire Authority's Code of Conduct consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

There were no declarations of interest.

48 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 September, 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

49 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to the meeting.

50 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements by the Vice-Chairman.

**51 AUDIT COMMISSION'S ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER
(INCLUDING USE OF RESOURCES REPORT)**

The Committee considered the Audit Commission's

Annual Audit letter summarising findings from the HFRA 2009/10 Audit. (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Kate Handy, the District Auditor introduced the report. She highlighted the positive outcomes in relation to the audit of financial statements and assessment of arrangements to achieve value for money. Also, Members were advised of some of the future challenges facing the Authority as a result of the economic downturn and government cuts in future financial support for fire authorities. They welcomed the District Auditor's view that, as a result of the strength of approach to strategic financial and operational planning, the Authority was well placed to address the risks arising from this future challenge.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Letter summarising findings from the HFRA 2009/10 Audit be received.

52 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2010/11

The Committee considered the report of the Treasurer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the progress of Internal Audit work during 2010/11. It included progress against the Authority's Internal Audit Plan for 2010/11; an update on all actions taken by management to address the issues raised in previous years; significant matters arising from 2010/11 Internal Audit work and priorities for the remainder of 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the progress of Internal Audit work during 2010/11 be supported.

Treasurer
(Internal Audit
Team)

53 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS ARISING FROM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on audit action items and on progress made towards the recommendations for improvement.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approves the audit action reports, and progress made towards the implementation of

Chief Officer
(Performance

recommendations for improvement.

Review
Team)

54 STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) on the current version of the Strategic Risk Register. Members received a detailed update on the direction of travel of each of the identified risks since the item was last presented to the Authority in September, 2009. The Committee supported a proposal by the Chief Officer to arrange a training session for Members on this matter at an appropriate time in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the current version of the Strategic Risk Register be approved.

Chief Officer
(Performance
Review
Team)

55 INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION – PROGRESS UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Treasurer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) giving an update following the report on 24 March, 2010 regarding the required implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the financial year 2010/11.

Treasurer
(Corporate
Finance
Team)

RESOLVED:

That the Committee support the progress made and note the work still required for the successful implementation of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Code of Practice.