

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Borough Council Offices, Eastleigh on 9 February, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors: R. Smith (Chairman); I. Beagley; A.S. Carew; C. Carter; K. Chapman; M. Cooper; Sam Darragh; A. Evans; L. Fairhurst; J. Frankum; D. Fuller ; Jacqui Hancock; D. Harrison; F. Jonas; R.J. Kimber; T. Knight; R. McIntosh; K. Morrell; J. Moulton; E. Neal; F. Pearce; R.H. Price; D. Simpson; Mrs M. Tucker.

223 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. West.

224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should, normally at the time of the 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.

Those Members also serving on either Hampshire County Council or Hampshire Police Authority declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the item concerning joint working arrangements between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary (Minute 233 refers).

225 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Authority held on 7 December, 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matter Arising:

Vacancies And Appointments (Minute 210)

Councillor C. Carter was appointed to the vacancy on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership for Eastleigh.

226 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to this meeting.

227 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

There were no Members' questions.

Councillor Chapman reported on a National Seminar about sprinklers which he and other interested parties, including Members of Parliament, had attended on

6 February 2012. Councillor Chapman outlined the programme and issues which had been raised. It was agreed that the Chief Officer would circulate further information from the presentations to Members of the Authority.

228 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman was delighted to report that Group Manager, Pete Crook, had been awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal in the New Years Honours List in recognition of his outstanding contribution to international search and rescue during his thirty-two year career with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chairman reported on a number of recent changes within the Service Management Team. As reported from the last Authority meeting, John Beckerleg had now taken over from David Howells as Director of Corporate Services. Andy Chapman had been appointed as Head of Facilities Management. Caroline Wayment had become deputy to Geoff Howsego, and Bob Ratcliffe of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Neil Odin of West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service had been appointed to fill the two Assistant Chief Officer vacancies.

The Chairman reported that Wendy Lambert, currently Head of Financial and Office Services, would be retiring in May 2012 after twenty-three years of sterling service with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Finally, it was reported that Kelvin Ridout was retiring as the primary democratic services officer for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority for the past eighteen years. The Chairman presented Kelvin with a small gift on behalf of the Authority. The group spokespersons paid their individual tributes and Kelvin thanked the Authority for their gift and Members for their kind words.

229 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority considered the report of Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) highlighting prevention, protection and response activities in each of the group areas covering the period 29 October until 22 December, 2011.

Over the course of discussion various comments were raised and answered at the meeting. However, the Chief Officer agreed to respond to the various matters raised by Councillor A. Carew outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Activity Report be noted.

230 **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PLAN 2012 TO 2015 : PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SERVICE PRIORITY TARGETS**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the proposed revision of service priority targets for inclusion in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2012 to 2015. In introducing the report, the Chief Officer reported that the priorities and other information referred

to had now been assessed by the Plain English Campaign and a few minor changes made in response to this. Whilst supporting the revised priority targets, Members asked the Chief Officer to arrange for a greater explanation to be given in the covering text to the calculation of the percentage changes from the baseline mentioned. A note on the progress made against achieving the Priority targets for 2009 to 2012 in the Annual Plan was due to be published in the Autumn with a report to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee in September 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the revised priority targets set out in appendix 1 to the report be approved and included in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2012 to 2015.

231 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 13 JANUARY, 2012

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 January, 2012 (Item 9 in the Minute Book) which included recommendations to the Authority on budgetary and another matter. The recommendation about changes to the capital programme and addition of a water rescue vehicle (Minute 81 refers) and for Councillor A.S. Carew to be appointed as Lead Authority Member on carbon reduction activity (Minute 83 refers) were approved by the Authority.

232 HFRA BUDGET 2012/13

The Authority considered the report of the Treasurer and Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on the proposed budget for 2012/2013. The Treasurer presented the report and it was noted that appendix 12 to this was the HFRS draft pay policy statement , with a minor change, since being recommended for approval by the Human Resources Committee on 17 January 2012 (Minute 238 of this meeting refers).

Members supported the proposed budget which included the Government's offer of a 'Council tax freeze' grant worth the equivalent of a 3% increase in council tax for fire authorities, enabling the council tax to remain at £61.38 for a Band D property. The Authority had received a small increase in formula grant for 2012/13. However, it was planning for a 12.5% reduction in grant in both 2013/14 and 2014/15. As the position for future capital funding remained unclear, it was proposed to add both the current year's underspend and budget surplus for 2012/13 to the capital payments reserve. Members noted that the Union, business and community representatives had been consulted in the normal way on the budget proposals and had raised no particular concerns about potential council tax increases in future years. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revenue budget for 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved.

- (b) That the Capital Programme for 2012/13 set out in Appendix 7 of the report be approved.
- (c) That the recommendations set out in Appendix 9 of the report covering the Treasury Management Strategy which incorporates the Prudential Indicators and the Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision be approved.
- (d) That the Treasury Management Policy Statement set out in Appendix 10 of the report be approved.
- (e) That the Council Tax requirement for the general expenses of the Authority for the year beginning 1 April 2012 be £39,153,057.21.
- (f) That the Authority's council tax for the year beginning 1 April, 2012 for properties in each band be:

Band A	£40.92	Band E	£75.02
Band B	£47.74	Band F	£88.66
Band C	£54.56	Band G	£102.30
Band D	£61.38	Band H	£122.76

- (g) That precepts be issued totalling £39,153,057.21 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment, in such instalments and on such dates set by them and previously notified to the Authority, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authority's area as determined by them which are set out below:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	65,071.00
East Hampshire District Council	48,600.68
Eastleigh Borough Council	44,823.67
Fareham Borough Council	43,465.00
Gosport Borough Council	27,731.00
Hart District Council	38,262.16
Havant Borough Council	43,126.00
New Forest District Council	73,274.30
Portsmouth City Council	59,916.10
Rushmore Borough Council	31,838.98
Southampton City Council	67,144.00
Test Valley Borough Council	46,303.00
Winchester City Council	48,323.83

Total	637,879.72
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- (h) That in accordance with the set of principles set by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the year, it is determined that the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2012/13 is not excessive.
- (i) That the Pay Policy Statement as set out in Appendix 12 of the report be approved.

233 JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE - PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 11 in the Minute Book) giving an interim update on opportunities for joint working between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary. It identified a number of emerging opportunities and the progress on understanding the arrangements necessary to enable effective joint working. The Authority welcomed the report and the approach being taken. Members felt that the more complex issues would be understood better if more simple terminology was used and the Chief Officer agreed to communicate these views.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Authority notes the progress made to date on the Joint Working in Hampshire project and continues to support further work to develop the strategic business case.
- (b) That the Authority delegates decision making in relation to the strategic business case for the Joint Working in Hampshire project to the Finance and General Purposes Committee subject to the power of the Chairman of the HFRA (under Standing Order 1.3) to cause a special meeting of the Authority to be called to consider the business case should he feel this is necessary.

234 SPRINKLER STRATEGY

Following some discussion, and with the agreement of the Authority, the recommendation of the Chief Officer on a proposed position statement in relation to a sprinkler strategy for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority was withdrawn by the Chairman.

235 FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND, CONSULTATION

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 13 in the Minute Book) on the new National Framework document being consulted upon concerning Fire and Rescue Authorities and proposals for Fire and Rescue Services for the coming years.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority agrees that a final response to the draft framework document be produced and submitted by the Chief Officer in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority and the Clerk.

236 UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE 2012 OLYMPICS ON HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 14 in the Minute Book) about the current preparations being made to support response activity

during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It had divided its preparation for the Olympics into five main areas, namely Arrival of International Teams; Torch Relay (including culture events); Olympic Route Network; Local and Specialist Regional Response.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the impact of the 2012 Olympics on Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

237 **MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 16 DECEMBER, 2011**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 16 December, 2011 (Item 15 in the Minute Book). It was noted that, following further information that the Localism Act changes would not be brought into force until July, it was now intended to report on changes to the standards regime to the meeting of the Authority in June 2012.

238 **MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 17 JANUARY, 2012**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 17 January, 2012 (Item 16 in the Minute Book) which included a recommended pay policy statement as one of the appendices to the budget report 2012/13 (Minute 232 refers).