

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Borough Council Offices, Eastleigh on 21 September, 2011.

PRESENT:

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

188 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Evans; D. Fuller and R. Kimber.

189 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 opportunities for joint working arrangements between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary (Minute 195 refers).

190 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Authority held on 15 June, 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

191 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to this meeting.

192 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

There were no Members' questions.

Councillor Sam Darragh reminded the Authority of their planned visit to the new Winchester Fire Station on the rising of the meeting. The visit was to include a Members' Awareness Session, a demonstration of the new Volvo fire appliance and the Compressed Air Foam System and a tour of the station itself. Councillor F. Jonas reported on his recent attendance, in the company of Councillor D. Fuller, to a building fire incident in Southsea. Councillor Jonas wished to commend the professionalism of the fire crews and other emergency services involved.

Councillor J. Frankum reported on her attendance at a building fire incident at Lasham . It had proved most informative.

At this point in the meeting, the Chief Officer took the opportunity to explain to the Authority the Service's protocol for inviting Members to fires or other significant incidents .

Councillor R. Price reported on a seminar he had attended on 19 September, 2011. He outlined the topics covered. He also spoke in favour of some future Member training being provided, reciprocally, by other fire and rescue services. The Chief Officer agreed to consider this further.

193 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman reported with much sadness on the death of Watch Manager Marty Coles on 9 August 2011. Mr. Coles was the officer in charge of Wickham Fire Station and had also served at Botley Fire Station. Having served as a retained firefighter for twenty-seven years, his untimely death was a huge loss to the Service. He would be greatly missed by his family and all those who knew him.

The Chairman reported on the proposed high-rise 'Blade' building in Portsmouth which is to be used as student accommodation. The developers had suggested it be built without sprinklers. However, as a result of intensive lobbying, the developers had reconsidered and now sprinklers are to be fitted. He commended the work of the officers involved and the efforts of the Authority Members in bringing about this successful outcome. It was noted that further details about this were provided in the Activity Report (Minute 194 refers.).

The Authority also learnt that this was to be Sarah Pook's last meeting. Sarah represented the Treasurer at meetings of the Authority and the Service. She was leaving Hampshire County Council to take up with the appointment of Director of Finance at Southampton University. Members wished her every success in her new appointment and in the future.

194 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 30 April until 12 August, 2011.

Members raised a number of points and comments on the report. The matters raised included information about the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's proposal to withdraw central funding for maritime incident response. Members registered their concerns about this and noted that they would be kept informed of developments and their implications for the Service.

There followed a lengthy discussion about the fitting of sprinklers (water-based fire suppression systems) in Hampshire County Council properties. The present role of the Service involved assistance in risk assessment process applied by the County Council in determining the fitting or otherwise of sprinkler systems.

Members felt it was timely for the Authority to determine its own policy on this important matter. Accordingly, the Chief Officer agreed to arrange a Members' briefing on sprinklers, prior to an item on the matter being included on the agenda for the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

195 JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) providing an update on opportunities for joint working arrangements between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Constabulary. This was to seek to deliver support services across the three organisations in a more effective and efficient manner. Members agreed the way forward set out in the report and supported the potential to deliver cost savings. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Authority endorse the 'Statement of Commitment' between Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- (b) That the Authority agree to support further work to develop a full business case for joint working in Hampshire.

196 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS CONFERENCE – ATTENDANCE BY THE CHIEF OFFICER

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) about his attendance at the International Association of Fire Chiefs Annual Conference held between 24 to 28 August, 2011 in Atlanta, America.

RESOLVED:

That the opportunity taken – in partnership with a UK-based fire sector business – to both promote the work of the Authority and learn from other fire and rescue services at the International Association of Fire Chiefs be noted.

197 MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 16 JUNE, 2011

The Authority received the Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 16 June, 2011 (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

198 MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 30 JUNE, 2011

The Authority received the Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting held on 30 June, 2011 (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

199 MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 12 JULY, 2011

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 12 July, 2011 (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

200 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 29 JULY, 2011

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 July, 2011 and approved the recommendation on “final accounts annual treasury outturn report”(item 13 in the Minute Book).

201 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCES AND EXHIBITIONS AT HIGHCLIFF, BOURNEMOUTH AND THE ICC, BIRMINGHAM ON 20-21 MARCH AND 26-28 JUNE, 2012 RESPECTIVELY

The Authority considered the appointment of Members to attend the Local Government Group Conferences and Exhibitions at Highcliff, near Bournemouth and at the ICC in Birmingham .

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor R. Price be appointed as the Liberal Democrat Member to attend the Local Government Group Conference and Exhibition on 20-21 March, 2012 in Bournemouth.
- (b) That Councillor D. Harrison be appointed as the Liberal Democrat Member to attend the Local Government Group Conference and Exhibition on 26-28 June, 2012 in Birmingham.
- (c) That the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority, agree to the other places to the above two Conferences and Exhibitions.

202 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during this item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local government Act 1972, and further that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

203 JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE – EXEMPT APPENDIX

To consider the exempt Appendix of the Chief officer as part of the report about Joint Working in Hampshire (Minute 195 refers).