

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the
Borough Council Offices, Eastleigh on 6 June, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| p I. Beagley | p T. Knight |
| a S. Barnes-Andrews | a C. McEwing |
| p A.S. Carew | a R. McIntosh |
| p C. Carter | p E. Neal |
| p K. Chapman | p F. Pearce |
| p M. Cooper | p R.H. Price |
| p S. Darragh | p D. Simpson |
| p A. Evans | p P. Smith |
| p L. Fairhurst | p R. Smith |
| p J. Frankum | p L. Stubbs |
| a D. Harrison | p J. West |
| a J. Hancock | p M. Tucker |
| a R.J. Kimber | |

239 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Barnes-Andrews, Harrison, Hancock, Kimber, McEwing, and McIntosh.

240 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Authority considered the appointment of a Chairman for 2012/13. Councillor R. Smith was nominated and seconded and subsequently elected unopposed.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor R. Smith be appointed Chairman of the Authority until the annual meeting in 2013.

241 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 3 in the Minute Book and it was proposed and agreed that Standing Order 1.1 be amended to require that one Vice-Chairman be appointed.

Accordingly Councillors I. Beagley and R. Price were nominated for the position of Vice-Chairman and Councillor Beagley was elected.

RESOLVED:

That Standing Order 1.1 be amended to reflect the requirement to appoint one Vice-Chairman.

That Councillor I. Beagley be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Authority until the annual meeting in 2013.

242 **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.

243 **MINUTES**

With regard to Minute 236, it was noted that there were only four main areas, not five as stated. Subject to this correction, the Minutes of the Authority held on 9 February, 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

244 **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to this meeting.

245 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT**

There were no Members' questions or development reports.

246 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Councillors P. Smith and L. Stubbs, who were attending their first Authority meeting and paid tribute to the Councillors who were no longer Members of the Authority.

The Chairman reported that Wendy Lambert had retired from the Service and thanked her for all her hard work.

The Chairman also drew Members' attention to the recent acquittal of Fire Service officers from Warwickshire in a criminal case.

247 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority considered the report of Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) highlighting prevention, protection and response activities in each of the group areas covering the period 23 December 2011 until 28 April 2012.

Over the course of discussion various comments were raised by Members and answered at the meeting. As a result the Chief Officer agreed to give further consideration to the use of thermal imaging technology to detect hot spots arising from faulty electrical installations.

RESOLVED:

That the Activity Report be noted.

That the Members' thanks and best wishes be relayed to Officers involved in the incidents detailed.

248 **LOCALISM ACT 2011 – CHANGES TO THE STANDARDS REGIME**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding the new requirements as a result of the Localism Act 2011.

The requirements and proposed actions set out in the report were outlined to Members, including the merger of the Standards and Governance committees, to form a Standards and Governance Committee, and the principles of the disclosure of pecuniary interests.

Members questioned the requirement to disclose partners' interests and it was agreed to add "which they are aware of" to paragraph 4.3 of the report.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted with effect from 1 July 2012 or (if different) the date when Section 27 of the Localism Act is brought into force.
- b. That the adoption of the Code be publicised via the Authority's website.
- c. That the Standards Committee and the Governance Committee be replaced by a new Standards and Governance Committee, with terms of reference as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
- d. That Standing Orders be amended to require a Member who has a discloseable pecuniary interest in an item of business being considered at a meeting of the Authority, a committee or sub-committee, to withdraw from the room during the discussion of and vote on that item.
- e. That the Standards and Governance Committee review arrangements for handling allegations of failure to comply with the Code, and recommend relevant procedures to the Authority for approval. Pending such approval, in the event that an allegation of failure to comply is received, the Clerk be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman of Standards and Governance Committee to modify and apply existing procedures as necessary for the handling of that allegation.
- f. That authority be delegated to the Standards and Governance Committee to oversee the process of recruitment of an independent person, including the ability to establish a selection panel from amongst its members to interview candidates and make a recommendation to the Authority for appointment. This includes flexibility to recommend jointly recruiting to a pool of two or three independent persons to be shared with other authorities, should the current Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Authorities (HIOWLA) level discussions lead to collaboration.

- g. That the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman, be authorised to make any further minor or consequential amendments to these arrangements, where necessary to ensure compliance with regulations and guidance when published by Government.
- h. That scope for co-operation and collaboration with other authorities continue to be explored, and the position on this be reviewed in September 2012.

249 **APPOINTMENTS OF COMMITTEES, CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMENSIPS, DEPUTIES AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 11 in the Minute Book, regarding the appointment of Committees, Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and other appointments. This was considered with regards to the resolution regarding the Standards and Governance Committee (Minute 248 refers).

RESOLVED:

- a. That, for the purposes of Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the allocation of seats on the Finance and General Purposes, Standards and Governance, Human Resources, and Performance Review and Scrutiny Committees of the Authority be as set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report.
- b. That the Authority re-appoint members of the Finance and General Purposes, Standards and Governance, Human Resources, and Performance Review and Scrutiny Committees and their respective Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as follows:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

S. Barnes Andrews (Southampton)
I. Beagley (Chairman)
A.S. Carew
C. Carter (Vice Chairman)
M. Cooper
L. Fairhurst
F. Pearce
R. Price
D. Simpson
R. Smith (Southampton)
L. Stubbs (Portsmouth)

Standards and Governance Committee

C. Carter
Sam Darragh
L. Fairhurst (Vice-Chairman)
J. Frankum
D. Harrison
T. Knight

C. McEwing (Southampton)
R. McIntosh (Chairman)
P. Smith (Portsmouth)
R. Smith (Southampton)
Mrs M Tucker

Jacqui Hancock appointed as standing depute for P. Smith (in accordance with Standing Order 2.3)

Human Resources Committee

A.S. Carew
K. Chapman
Sam Darragh
A. Evans (Chairman)
Jacqui Hancock (Portsmouth)
R. Kimber
C. McEwing (Southampton)
E. Neal
P. Smith (Portsmouth)
Mrs M.Tucker (Vice-Chairman)
J.K. West

Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee

I. Beagley
K. Chapman (Chairman)
M. Cooper
Sam Darragh
A. Evans
J. Frankum
R. Kimber
T. Knight (Vice-Chairman)
E. Neal
D. Simpson

- c. That the Authority appoint members to each of the 13 Crime and Disorder Reduction/Community Safety Partnerships as follows:

Gosport - C. Carter
Basingstoke - K. Chapman
Portsmouth - J.Hancock and P. Smith
Eastleigh – C. Carter
Havant - F. Pearce
Rushmoor - R. Kimber
Hart - D. Simpson
Fareham - R. Price
Southampton - R. Smith
East Hampshire - J. West
New Forest – D. Harrison
Test Valley – M. Cooper
Winchester – Vacancy

- d. That the Corporate Management Team continues as before and includes Members as follows:

S. Barnes Andrews (Labour Member)
I. Beagley (Vice-Chairman of Authority and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee)
K. Chapman (Chairman of Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee)
A. Evans (Chairman of Human Resources Committee)
R. Price (Liberal Democrat Member)
D. Simpson (Liberal Democrat Member)
R. Smith (Chairman of Authority)

250 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Authority received the report of the Chief Officer and the Treasurer, item 12 in the Minute Book, updating Members on the medium term financial strategy.

The Treasurer outlined the report, in particular the impact of a reduction in Council Tax revenue and of the ongoing deficit reduction plan. It was noted that further consideration was required later in the year when grant figures were known.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Authority note the changes in respect of localising council tax benefits and business rates retention outlined in sections 4 and 5 of the report.
- b. That the Authority note the changes to the financial forecast for 2015/16 and 2016/17 as set out in section 6 of the report.

251 **BIDS FOR CAPITAL FUNDING 2013-2015**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 13 in the Minute Book, regarding bids against the efficiency fund for capital projects. The reasons for the two specific bids being proposed were detailed for Members and accepted.

RESOLVED:

That the two bids for capital grand funding be approved for submission to DCLG

252 **SHIRLEY TOWERS INCIDENT – INVESTIGATION PROCESS**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 14 in the Minute Book, updating Members on the investigation process into the Shirley Towers incident. It was confirmed that the coroner's inquest was expected to begin shortly and Members were assured that they would be regularly kept informed of proceedings.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note and endorse the Service's investigation process in response to the deaths of firefighters James Shears and Alan Bannon.

253 THE IMPACT OF THE 2012 OLYMPICS ON HFRS

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 14 in the Minute Book, informing Members of the potential impact of the Olympics on the Service.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

254 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24 FEBRUARY, 2012

The Authority received the Minutes of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 February 2012, item 16 in the Minute Book.

255 MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 28 MARCH, 2012

The Authority received the Minutes of the Governance Committee held on 28 March 2012, item 17 in the Minute Book

256 MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 26 APRIL, 2012

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 26 April 2012, item 18 in the Minute Book

257 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 27 APRIL, 2012

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 27 April 2012, item 19 in the Minute Book. The recommendations to the Authority at Minutes 89 and 90 were agreed.