

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 31 July 2012.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors : I. F. E Beagley (Chairman); S. Barnes-Andrews; A. Carew; C. Carter; M. Cooper; R. Price; R. Smith and L Stubbs.

**94 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cooper, Cllr Fairhurst and Cllr Simpson.

**95 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

No interests were declared under this item.

**96 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**97 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations at the meeting.

**98 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2011/12**

The Committee considered a report of the Treasurer and of the Chief Officer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) regarding the final accounts for 2011/12.

The Treasurer highlighted an under spend of £1.9 million, which had been achieved after already reducing the budget. It was confirmed that recommendation 2.3 should refer to paragraph 4.8 of the report, as opposed to 4.6. Further scrutiny of the budgets variations would be undertaken.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed that:

- a) The carry forward of specific underspendings set out in paragraph 7.4 of the report were approved;
- b) The accounts for 2011/12 were approved including the use of reserves set out in paragraph 7.8 of the report;

- c) Capital payments for the year were agreed to be financed as set out in paragraph 4.6 of the report;

The Committee agreed the following RECOMMENDATION to the Authority:

- d) That the annual treasury outturn report set out in appendix 3 of the report is noted.

## **99. ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding progress on energy efficiency and the Carbon Management programme.

It was confirmed that the work planned for the next two to three years would not only reduce the carbon footprint of the Authority, but would also have financial return. The Carbon Trust had advised on the goals set out within the plan and the Authority were confident that they would meet a 30% reduction target over the period of the plan. Officers were thanked for their hard work on the programme.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Approved the HFRS Carbon Management Plan including the target that: "Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service will aim to reduce the carbon emissions from its buildings and business travel by 30%, from a 2012-2011 baseline of 4670 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>, by the end of March 2016."
- b) Agreed to the inclusion of £1,177,661 in the capital and revenue programme for the broad programme of works identified in the Carbon Management Plan to be funded from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) capital grant, with the balance being met from the Improvement and Sustainability Reserve.
- c) Agreed that works to the value of £377,661 should commence in 2012/13 pending confirmation of the outcome of the capital bids;
- d) Noted the progress to date on delivering carbon saving projects; and
- e) Agreed that progress on delivering the Carbon Management Plan should be reported regularly to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

## **100. BUDGET MONITORING 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER 2012/13**

The Committee considered a report of the Treasurer and the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding budget monitoring for the first quarter of 2012/13.

A net saving of £1.2 million was forecast, although that was likely to increase because savings were only removed from the budget when it was certain that they were sustainable. Any monies removed were always available in case an urgent need arose. It was also confirmed that the recruitment freeze was a major factor in the first quarters savings.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Noted the latest financial position for 2012/13 was noted;

b) Approved the virements over £100,000 listed in section 5

The Committee agreed the following RECOMMENDATION to the Authority:

c) That changes to the capital programme set out in section 7 be approved.

#### **101. CODE OF PRACTICE RELATING TO CONTRACTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) in accordance with the code of practice relating to contracts. The report listed contracts that were due to be let in 2012/13 as well as those already let in 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

a) The Committee noted the annual report on contracts

#### **102. BLUE LAMP TRUST – PROGRESS REPORT AND UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding the Blue Lamp Trust.

The officer provided an update on the Trust and the work being undertaken alongside the Police to make homes safer and more secure. It was also confirmed that driver training for people to use their own cars was being done as part of the Trust's activities, which was in addition to what was done for drivers of HFRS vehicles.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Acknowledged the progress made by the Blue Lamp Trust since its establishment.
- b) Endorsed the continued support for the Blue Lamp Trust and its aims and ambitions.

#### **103. JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE – PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding the new joint working arrangements with Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Policy Authority.

It was confirmed that since the last F&GP Committee meeting in April 2012, the Police Authority had agreed to the working arrangements and the strategic business case had been approved by each Authority. It was explained that the programme had been divided into individual projects, all of which had clear milestones and delivery plans. They would be closely monitored in terms of progress, particularly where projects were closely linked.

The Committee discussed the Stakeholder Advisory Group and it was agreed that Councillor Chris Carter would sit on this group as a representative of the F&GP Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Noted the progress to date of the Joint Working in Hampshire project; and
- b) Nominated Councillor Chris Carter to sit on the Joint Working Stakeholder Advisory Group.

**104. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

Public were excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would have been disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part I 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, for the reasons set out in the report.

**105. SALE OF LAND AT CARPENTERS DOWN, BASINGSTOKE**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 12 in the Minute Book), regarding the sale of land at Carpenters Down, Basingstoke. [SUMMARY OF EXEMPT MINUTE]