

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and
Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 30 November, 2012

PRESENT:

Councillors: R. McIntosh (Chair), J. Frankum, P. Smith, R. Smith and M. Tucker.

23 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C. Carter, S. Darragh, L. Fairhurst, D. Harrison, T. Knight and C. McEwing

24 DECLARATIONS 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.

25 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 September 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed all Members to the meeting.

28 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for this meeting.

29 LOCALISM ACT – GRANTING OF DISPENSATION

The Committee considered a report from the Clerk to the Authority (Item 6 in the Minute Book), regarding a granting of dispensation for all Members of the Fire Authority.

The new Localism Act does not include an automatic dispensation to Members of the Authority to participate and vote at meetings of the Authority and its committees concerning the setting of the precept. It was agreed this was necessary.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee:

- a) agreed that without the granting of a dispensation for all Members, the number of Members who would otherwise be prohibited by Section 31(4) Localism Act from participating in business of the Authority, namely discussions and voting regarding the setting of the precept, would be so great a proportion of the Authority as to impede the transaction of business, and
- b) agreed that a dispensation should be granted under S.33 Localism Act to enable all Members and co-opted Members of the Authority to participate in discussions and vote at meetings of the Authority, or any committee of the Authority, concerning the setting of the precept, during the period 1 December 2012 to March 2016.

30 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2012/13

The Committee considered the report of the Treasurer (Item 7 in the Minute Book), which provided an overview on internal audit work completed and the status of 'live' reports.

It was noted that there were no overdue actions and good progress was being made. Officers were thanked for their hard work in producing such a clear and succinct report.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee noted the progress of internal audit work for the period ending 31 October 2012.

31 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book), which summarised the action plans for the Risk Management, Procurement and Budgetary Control audit reports.

Members were taken through the appendices to the report. It was highlighted that the financial challenge item on Page 1 of Appendix 1 had been completed since the last report, along with objectives on Pages 8, 9 and 11.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee approved the audit actions report and the progress made in implementing the recommendations.

32 CORPORATE RISK POLICY AND REGISTER

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the

Minute Book), regarding the Corporate Risk Policy and Register.

The Corporate risk register had been renamed from “Strategic risk register” to prevent confusion with the Strategic Assessment, but was the same document.

It was highlighted in Appendix 2 that risk management was about managing threats and opportunities, and implementing controls whilst controlling costs. “Risk Appetite” was a common term to determine how much risk an organisation was prepared to accept. There would be a Member session on this early in 2013.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee:

- a) Approved the refreshed version of the Corporate risk policy;
- b) Approved the current version of the Corporate risk register;
- c) Agreed that the following risks be removed from the ‘active’ register:
 1. Failure to response effectively following an extensive disruption to normal methods of working (ref 01)
 2. Failure to adequately fund and deal with the increasing burden and cost of repairing, maintaining and improving the Authority’s properties (ref 12)
 3. Failure to develop, implement, and maintain information communications technology systems that:
 - Are resilient and support the achievement of the service objectives, and
 - Capitalise on the benefits in terms of efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of our systems (ref 15)

33 **JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE – INTERIM GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book), regarding Joint Working arrangements.

It was confirmed that interim arrangements would be in place from April 2013 for finance, estates and procurement, and a lot of work was still being done around finance and HR. Whilst there was a risk if one of the three Chief Officers were to leave their post during the transition, this was not thought to be a high risk and one the project could withstand.

It was noted that the new Police and Crime Commissioner had been briefed on this project and there was not considered to be any reason to revise the risk arising from the new governance arrangements at this time.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Standards and Governance Committee noted the proposed interim governance arrangements for the Joint Working in Hampshire programme.

34. **HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT: 2011/12**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer (Item 11) , which provided an overview of the progress made to improve health and safety arrangements.

It was confirmed that departments were leading in being more proactive in their working methods, rather than reactive. It was also noted that a national framework for health and safety has been sent out for consultation.

A recent H&S inspection had revealed no critical areas, with the Authority being used as an example of best practice. Nine areas had been highlighted, including 'risk information', but the inspectors were happy with the direction in which the Authority was going.

RESOLVED

The Standards and Governance Committee approved the Health and Safety Annual Report for the year 2011/12.