

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 19 February, 2014

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	Graham Burgess	p	Robin McIntosh
a	Adam Carew	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Frank Pearce
p	Roz Chadd	p	Andrew Pope
p	Keith Chapman	p	Roger Price
p	Mark Cooper	p	David Simpson
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Phil Smith
p	Jason Fazackarley	p	Royston Smith
p	Jane Frankum	p	Mark Staplehurst
a	Jonathan Glen	p	Luke Stubbs
p	David Harrison	p	John Wall
p	Geoff Hockley		
p	Chris Lagdon		

50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carew and Glen.

51 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.

52 MINUTES

It was noted that the Activity Report (Minute 41) received at the meeting was for the period 1 July to 30 September 2013. With this correction, the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 3 December 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to this meeting.

54 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Chadd drew Members' attention to the Member Awareness session, scheduled to take place after the meeting.

55 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman highlighted the impending retirement of ACO Bob Ratcliffe and in noting the regard he was held in by Service colleagues and Authority Members and the contribution he had made to leading the fire and rescue service in Hampshire, wished him all the best for the future on behalf of the Authority. Other Authority Members joined the Chairman in paying tribute.

The installation of a sprinkler system as part of the re-fit of Park Community School in Havant was brought to the attention of Members. It was explained that the system had been developed in partnership with the Hampshire County Council. As part of CFOA's National Sprinkler week, HFRS had been promoting the installation of the new Asset Protection Sprinkler System, designed to reduce both installation and maintenance costs, but still provide effective protection from the spread of fire.

The Chairman expressed his thanks for all the efforts of the Fire Service for the action taken during recent flooding. A number of Members added their praise for the response provided in specific incidents. The Chief Officer was asked to relay the Authority's appreciation to officers.

56 ACTIVITY REPORT

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding activity in the period 1 October 2013 to 31 December 2013.

Specific Member queries relating to individual incidents and to the report in general were responded to and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note the report.

57 BUDGET 2014-15

The Authority considered the report of the Treasurer and the Chief Officer, item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding the 2014-15 Budget.

The budget report was introduced and attention was drawn in particular to changes from the draft budget presented in December 2013, as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report. Points relating to business rates and Section 31 grant raised by Members were clarified.

An amendment to the recommendations was proposed by Councillor R. Smith and seconded by Councillor C. Carter. It was explained that this minor amendment was for technical reasons, to facilitate a rounding adjustment. The Authority agreed the amendment and furthermore agreed that this should become the recommendation.

The recommendations of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of 29 January 2014 (Minute 40, resolutions b and c) were considered and agreed.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1. That if any subsequent changes are required to the budget, the Chairman, Chief Officer and Treasurer are given delegated authority to reflect the actual position in the budget.
- 1.2. That the council tax freeze grant for not increasing council tax in 2014/15 should be accepted.
- 1.3. That the revenue budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A be approved.
- 1.4. That the Capital Programme for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix E be approved.
- 1.5. That the recommendations set out in Appendix G covering the Treasury Management strategy which incorporates the Prudential Indicators and the policy on the minimum revenue provision be approved.
- 1.6. That the budget requirement for the general expenses of the Authority for the year beginning 1st April 2014 be £66,248,736.
- 1.7. That the Council Tax requirement for the Authority for the year beginning 1 April 2014 be £36,059,114.84
- 1.8. That the Authority's council tax for the year beginning 1st April 2014 for the 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

- 1.9. That the precepts totalling £36,059,114.84 are issued 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 is set out below:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	60,797.30
East Hampshire District Council	46,802.77
Eastleigh Borough Council	41,934.45
Fareham Borough Council	40,974.40
Gosport Borough Council	24,794.10
Hart District Council	37,544.47
Havant Borough Council	38,002.43
New Forest District Council	68,581.20
Portsmouth City Council	51,532.10

Rushmoor Borough Council	29,540.17
Southampton City Council	57,044.00
Test Valley Borough Council	44,164.00
Winchester City Council	45,761.97
Total	<u>587,473.36</u>

1.10. 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 2014/15 is not excessive.

58 **HFRA MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 10 in the Minute Book, setting out the requirement and process for the approval of a Members' Allowances Scheme for HFRA Members from April 2014.

The Authority noted the report and the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel Members who were thanked for their input.

It was proposed by Councillor R. Smith and seconded by Councillor K. Chapman that Members' Allowances be frozen at the 2013-14 rate for 2014-15 and that a review be carried out during 2014-15 to give consideration to linking increases in the allowances to the Local Government pay award in future years. The amendment to the recommendation was agreed.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Basic Members' Allowance and defined Special Responsibility Allowances for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Members remain at the 2013-14 rates for 2014-15.
- 1.2 That a review of Members' Allowances and Special Responsibility Allowances be carried out prior to the setting of the 2015-16 rates, to give consideration to linking increases in Members' Allowances with the Local Government pay award.

59 **UPDATE ON EMERGING ISSUES**

The Authority received a presentation by the Chief Officer on the developing work in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Chief Officer set out the position for the Authority in the context of the economic crisis and noted that thus far, it remained secure thanks to prudent financial management. The future challenge was to provide the best possible service whilst continuing to make savings. It was explained that this would be facilitated by a risk review, likely to take around 18 months, that would generate evidence to re-shape the Service and draw in input from the public, members of

staff and elected Members. Alongside this, the Service's support directorates would be combined to form a Professional Services Directorate. This project, including the Joint Working in Hampshire partnership, would interlink with the outcomes of the risk review.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority notes the strategic direction of the Fire and Rescue Service going forward.

60 **MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE –
11 DECEMBER 2013**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee meeting held on 11 December 2013.

61 **MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2014**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 16 January 2014.

62 **MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE –
29 JANUARY 2014**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 January 2014.

The recommendations to the Authority at Minute 41, 45, 46 and 47 were agreed.

63 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following item the press and public were excluded from the meeting as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the public were present during that item there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 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 exempt information outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

64 **EXEMPT MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
– 29 JANUARY 2014**

The Authority received the exempt Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 January 2014.