

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 4 July 2014.

PRESENT:

Councillors: G. Burgess; C. Carter (Chairman); M. Cooper; G. Hockley; A. Pope; R. Price; D. Simpson; R. Smith and L. Stubbs;

61 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Roz Chadd.

62 DISCLOSURES 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.

There were no declarations of interest received for the meeting.

63 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

64 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

65 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

66 FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/14

The Committee received a report from the Head of Finance and the Chief Officer in relation to the final accounts of the Service for 2013/14 (HFRS) (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The Head of Finance summarised the report highlighting the underspend detailed in paragraph 1.2 and the overspend in paragraph 3.3, which was due to community safety printing costs as a result of recent industrial action.

The provision for pensionable allowances in paragraph 6.1 was highlighted and it was confirmed that employees would have to pay pension

contributions, of which further guidance was being released in due course.

RESOLVED:

- a) Capital payments for the year would be financed as set out in paragraph 4.15 of the report;
- b) The carry forward of specific underspendings set out in paragraph 7.2 of the report were noted;
- c) The accounts for 2013/14 were approved including the use of reserves set out in paragraph 7.8 of the report;
- d) The increase in the 2014/15 capital programme under delegated authority as set out in paragraph 8.4 were noted;
- e) The funding for the Risk Review and Professional Services Directorate redesign projects totaling £453,000 as set out in paragraph 8.4 were approved to be met from the Service Improvement budget held in the I&S Reserve; and
- f) The Committee noted the changes to the 2014/15 capital programme set out in paragraph 8.5.

The following recommendations were agreed by the Committee to be **RECOMMENDED** to the Full Authority:

- g) That the annual treasury outturn report set out in Appendix 2 of the report be approved; and
- h) The change in the Chief Financial Officer, as set out in paragraph 9.5, be approved.

67 CODE OF PRACTICE RELATING TO CONTRACTS

The Committee considered the report from the Chief Officer in relation to goods and services contracts of the Service (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Director highlighted paragraph 1.3 and confirmed that the report would be the last of its type before becoming part of joint working and the shared services arrangement.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee noted the annual report

68 JOINT WORKING IN HAMPSHIRE – PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee considered the report from the Chief Officer providing an update on the Joint Working programme (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The officer provided an update on Joint Working and highlighted paragraph 3.8, which confirmed that there were twelve people involved in user acceptance testing within the IBC for four-six weeks to ensure a smooth transition ahead of HFRS going live on the 26 August 2014.

It was explained that there was an internal and external website, and that updates would be provided as and when necessary to keep staff fully informed on the Joint Working initiative. A newsletter was also produced every four-six weeks.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee noted the progress to date of the Joint Working in Hampshire programme.

69 PROPERTY RELATED MATTERS

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer in relation to asset related matters (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The officer summarised the report, highlighting decisions taken under delegated powers in paragraphs 4 and 5 (Winchester Fire Station and the Service Headquarters respectively). Members enquired about service charges and it was confirmed that these were generally higher than the rent due to incorporating running costs.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee noted the actions taken under delegated powers (paragraphs 4 and 5)
- b) The Committee noted the planning permission granted on the site of the former Winchester Fire Station.

70 ETHICAL PROCUREMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer in relation actions relating to the introduction of an ethical procurement policy. (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The officer introduced the item and summarised the Ethical Procurement Policy, noting the policy that was currently in place for all three H3 partners. It was confirmed that reasonable amounts of evidence was requested from candidates to ensure the aims of the policy are met, and contracts could be terminated if it was found that there had been a breach.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee noted progress with the actions to introduce ethical

sourcing.

71 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

The 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the appendix.

72 ESTATE TRANSFORMATION (EXEMPT)

The Committee considered an exempt report from the Treasurer (Item 12 in the Minute Book) in relation to transforming the HFRS estate as part of a wider strategic alignment. [SEE EXEMPT MINUTE].