

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 31 October 2014.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Robin McIntosh (Chairman); David Harrison; Chris Lagdon and Sharon Mintoff

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

69 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Carter, Liz Fairhurst (due to other County Council business), Geoff Hockley, Phil Smith and Royston Smith.

70 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.

71 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes from 25 September 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

72 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements at this meeting.

73 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

74 EXTERNAL AUDIT RESULTS REPORT 2013/14

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chief Finance Officer in relation to the External Auditor's Audit results report for the year ended 31

March 2014 (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Kate Handy from External Audit also provided a verbal update following the report that went to the 25 September Committee meeting. It was confirmed that following an additional audit in light of the injury pension coding error, fourteen historic miscoding's had been found. These had been rectified and every step had been taken to ensure that such error would not happen again in the future.

External Audit informed the Committee of the extra work undertaken to check the corrections made, and were happy with the accounting arrangements in place and the sample testing done.

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the issue affected several Fire Authorities but the miscoding error did not affect staff or dependents. The one-off cost associated with the miscoding would be covered by reserves.

RESOLVED:

a) The Standards and Governance Committee accepted the Annual Audit results and Annual Audit Letter presented by External Audit.

75 DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2013/14

The Committee received a report from the Chief Finance Officer regarding the Statement of Accounts for 2013/14 (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Chief Finance Officer took the Committee through the report, highlighting the capital spend of £2.6 million and successful grant bids, which had equalled over £4 million. It was confirmed that the £1.4 million established as a result of the injury pensions would not show in the Statement of Accounts as it was a historic error.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to receive training on the accounts and how they are put together.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Draft Statement of Accounts 2013/14 were approved
- b) The Chief Finance Officer was given delegated authority to approval any minor amendments to the Statement of Accounts if required.