

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 6 November 2014.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Graham Burgess; Chris Carter (Chairman); Mark Cooper; Stephen Hastings; Roger Price; David Simpson; Royston Smith and Luke Stubbs;

73 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Geoff Hockley.

74 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.

75 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

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

76 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

77 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

78 FINANCIAL UPDATE PAPER

The Committee received a report from the Chief Finance Officer in relation to the budget setting for 2015/16 and an update on injury pensions (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The Chief Finance Officer took Members through the report and highlighted that a lot of work had been done regarding injury pensions, and the accounts had been signed off by external audit at the Standards & Governance meeting on the 31 October 2014. Re-payments to the DCLG were due to be discussed and costs associated with this had been

incorporated in table 4.3.2 in the report.

In Appendix D to the report it was highlighted that the correct figure was the 36.6, not the 39.4.

Due to a recent tribunal case (not related to HFRS), holiday pay would be required to consider overtime entitlement. Guidance was anticipated on handling this in future, but the effects would be incorporated into the budget planning process as soon as this had been received.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The position relating to injury pensions and the amount which the Authority will be required to return to the DCLG was noted as explained in section 3.
- 2) The measures for meeting the 2015/16 budget deficit and the assumptions from which to begin preparing the 2015/16 budget were agreed, as set out in Section 5;
- 3) The Finance and General Purposes Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Full Authority:
 - A) That the Authority notes the latest financial position for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A.
 - B) That the Authority notes the changes to the profiled spending on the capital programme as set out in Appendix C.
 - C) That the Authority notes the mid year Treasury Management position, and agrees to increase the prudential indicator limit for the exposure of investments variable interest rates to £45m, as set out in Appendix D

79 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

The Committee considered the proposed updates in a report from the Chief Officer in relation to the Financial Regulations (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Director highlighted that the Treasurer would be known as the Chief Finance Officer for consistency across the Authority.

RESOLVED:

The Finance and General Purposes Committee noted the proposed changes to the Financial Regulations as set out in Appendix A.

80 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).

Paragraph 3.9 in the report was highlighted as containing a summary of the main areas of work since the last update to Committee. Hampshire Constabulary was online since the 3 November and any errors previously encountered had been recorded and monitored for solutions to ensure a smooth transition.

RESOLVED:

- 1) The Committee noted the progress to date of the Joint Working in Hampshire programme; and
- 2) The Committee agreed to a final Joint Working in Hampshire report to be brought to the HFRA F&GP Committee meeting in January 2015, which will include an evaluation of the project.

81 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.

83 EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt Minutes from the 4 July meeting were presented to Committee for approval. [SEE EXEMPT MINUTE]

84 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME – PROPOSALS FOR 2015/16 TO 2019/20

The Committee considered an exempt report from the Chief Officer (Item 11 in the Minute Book) in relation to the vehicle replacement programme. [SEE EXEMPT MINUTE].