

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 28 January 2015.

PRESENT:

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.

Councillors: Chris Carter (Chairman); Roz Chadd; Stephen Hastings; Sharyn Mintoff; Roger Price; David Simpson and Royston Smith ;

85 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Graham Burgess, Geoff Hockley and Luke Stubbs.

86 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.

87 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman confirmed that a Joint Working in Hampshire update would follow at the next F&GP meeting, once the project had been finalised. The Minutes from the meeting on the 6 November 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

88 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's announcements.

89 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

90 REVISED 2014/15 BUDGET AND DRAFT BUDGET 2015/16

The Committee received a report from the Chief Finance Officer in relation to the revised budget and budget setting for 2015/16 (Item 6 in the Minute

Book).

Under the Financial Strategy on page 3, a savings target of £12m had been set up, which was based on pay award and inflation assumptions. It was confirmed that negotiations regarding injury pension payments were still ongoing with the DCLG.

RESOLVED:

The Finance and General Purposes Committee:

- 1) Noted the latest 2014/15 budget position (Appendix A) and the changes to the capital programme (Appendix D)
- 2) Approved the extension of the Risk Review project team resource throughout 2015/16 at an estimated cost of £416,000 to be met from the Service Improvement budget;
- 3) Approved the virements over £100,000 as set out in paragraph 2 of Appendix A
- 4) Noted the achieved to date and proposed efficiencies programme (Appendix B)
- 5) Note the proposed use of reserves (Appendix C)
- 6) Agreed the principles for managing the budget over the short term as outlined in section 4 of the report.
- 7) Delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chief Fire Officer to make amendments to the final budget to be presented to the Authority to take account of the late changes in the figures, in particular those notified by Government and local Councils.
- 8) The Finance and General Purposes Committee agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Authority:
 - A) That council tax is frozen and the council tax freeze grant should be accepted for 2015/16;
 - B) That the draft budget for 2015/16 (summarised at Appendix F) is approved.
 - C) That the updated to the capital programme and the proposed financing (Appendix G & H) are supported; and
 - D) The Treasury Management Strategy (Appendix I) is approved, which includes approval for the following:
 - Treasury Management Strategy and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16, (and for the rest of 2014/15) including Prudential Indicators for 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 – Annex C; and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement – Annex D
 - That authority is delegated to the Treasurer to manage the Authority's investments according to the risk assessment process in the Investment Strategy as appropriate to most effectively manage the Authority's investments.

91 UPDATE ON THE AUTHORITY'S INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered the proposed updates in a report from the Chief Officer, which provided an update on the Authority's arrangements for insurance cover (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

This was an annual report brought to Committee, which covered the full risks and impacts of insurance claims for full transparency.

It was noted that there was reference to Employers Liability Cover within the report, which covered employees *and* Members, but that specific reference should also be made to Members of the Fire Authority to make this clear.

The total number of vehicle incidents displayed in the table on Page 13 showed a high figure of 93 for 2010/11, which dropped dramatically to 63 in 2011/2012. It was confirmed this was due to a specific incident at the time and the high number was comparative to the years beforehand, which were not included in the table.

RESOLVED:

The Finance and General Purposes Committee noted the contents of the report.

92 BASINGSTOKE FIRE STATION

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer providing an update on the Basingstoke rebuild project (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that tenders returned had been higher than anticipated and that exclusions had been looked at in order to keep costs down. An additional exempt report had been submitted under Item 11 on the agenda.

RESOLVED:

The Finance and General Purposes Committee supported the progress made and the plan to progress the project

93 SAFER PORTSMOUTH PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY SAFETY COMPANY

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer regarding a potential Safer Portsmouth Partnership (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

It was confirmed that if a partnership was formed, it would be with the Fire Authority, rather than the Service.

Members agreed that further information was needed once the business case had been finalised, and this would follow at a future meeting

RESOLVED:

The Finance and General Purposes Committee noted the contents of the report and agreed to receive a further report in April providing details of the business case for consideration.

94 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.

BASINGSTOKE FIRE STATION: EXEMPT SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

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The Committee considered an exempt supplementary report from the Chief Officer regarding an update to the Basingstoke Fire Station rebuild project (Item 11 in the Minute Book) [SEE EXEMPT MINUTE]

96 EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt Minutes from the 6 November 2014 were approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.