

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire
and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh
on 10 February 2015

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.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Keith Chapman (Chairman); Ann Briggs, Adam Carew; Jane Frankum; Frank Pearce (Vice Chairman); David Simpson; Mark Staplehurst and John Wall

40 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Cooper.

41 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.

No interests were declared under this item.

42 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the previous Committee held on 14 October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman confirmed that the exempt item on the agenda (Item 10) was in fact an open report, with only the appendix remaining exempt. This was therefore taken in open session, after Item 8 on the report.

44 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for this meeting.

45 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer, which provided

an update on how the Authority performed against its key performance indicators in the financial year ending 31 March 2014 and from the start of the year (April 2014) to the end of quarter three (December 2014) (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The officer summarised the report and took Members through Appendix A to the report. On page 2 it was highlighted that there had been a slight increase in fires due to a hot summer, but this was on track to reduce this year. Advice was given to the public regarding the avoidance of chimney fires, particularly ahead of the colder months.

On page 6 of the Appendix, it was noted that the Co-responding trial at Portchester had finished, and the unit had moved to Waterlooville. It was decided that the new ambulance station in Portsmouth meant that there was less of a need for the Co-responder service in the Portchester area and was better utilised elsewhere.

On page 9 it was confirmed that a rare incident resulting in eight casualties had caused the increase in Fire Casualties for 2013/14. It was also noted that a lot of community work was being done to continue to reduce the number of Accidental Dwelling Fires, reported on page 10.

Members raised concern over empty Ministry of Defence premises being a target for Deliberate Secondary Fires, but were reassured that the properties were secured very well and at very low risk.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee endorsed the performance report and the strategies to meet the targets.

46 UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE RISK REVIEW PROJECT – ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer in relation to the risk review project (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Area Manager confirmed that discussions had been going well and that various staff had volunteered for facilitator roles. A further report was due to follow in May, with the proposals being put forward in July 2015.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee supported the proactive approach to engage stakeholders at an early stage to shape draft proposals from the Risk Review that will be taken forward for consideration and approval by the Service and Fire Authority.

47 COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK FOR BUSINESS FIRE SAFETY REGULATORS

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer, regarding the competency framework and working towards a national standard (Item 8 in the Minute Book). Members were happy with the approach.

RESOLVED:

- a) The Committee supported the adoption of the competency framework as the standard for fire safety regulators within Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

48 PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME – FUTURE STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer regarding the Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) (Item 10 in the Minute Book), which followed on from a report presented at the HFRA Full Authority meeting in September 2014.

It was confirmed that the Fire Authority had been a successful member of the PAS since 2013 and continued to strive in looking at ways to bring income into the Service.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the future strategy for the Primary Authority Scheme as set out in section 4 of the report.

49 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following item of business, as it is 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 be 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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

50 PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME – FUTURE STRATEGY EXEMPT APPENDIX

The Committee considered an exempt appendix to Item 10 (in the Minute Book) on the agenda, which was moved to open session to become Item 9.