

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 20 February, 2015

PRESENT:

Councillors:

a	Ann Briggs	p	Chris Lagdon
p	Graham Burgess	p	Robin McIntosh
p	Adam Carew	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Frank Pearce
p	Roz Chadd	p	Sally Spicer
p	Keith Chapman	p	Roger Price
p	Mark Cooper	p	David Simpson
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Phil Smith
p	Jane Frankum	p	Royston Smith (Chairman)
p	Jonathan Glen	p	Mark Staplehurst
p	David Harrison	p	Luke Stubbs
p	Stephen Hastings	p	John Wall
p	Geoff Hockley		

117 BROADCASTING OF MEETING

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast on the Fire Authority's website and would be available for repeated viewing. The press and members of the public were also permitted to film and broadcast this 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.

118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Ann Briggs.

119 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.

120 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 3 December 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to Minute 109, the Chief Officer confirmed that no meeting had yet been held, but this would be looked into in the near future.

121 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to this meeting.

122 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Fire Authority were presented with a certificate for strong commitment to Member Development, following reassessment.

Councillor Pearce updated the Authority regarding energy efficiency across the County and confirmed that a report would follow in due course.

Concerns were raised regarding the negative press around the success of H3 and problems in its establishment. It was confirmed that information would be sent to Members regarding progress and a report would be taken to the next Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

123 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Chief Officer Steve Apter and Councillor Phil Jordan from Isle of Wight, who had attended the meeting to observe. Representatives from Surrey Fire and Rescue Advisory Group were also welcomed to the meeting as observers.

Members were informed that former Chief Officer John Bonney had been awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List, with former Assistant Chief Officer Bob Ratcliffe being awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal for services to the fire and rescue service. Cllr Keith Chapman, Chairman of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee and Vice Chairman of the Authority had also been awarded an MBE.

The Chairman also reported that the Authority had received a bronze award as part of the Ministry of Defence's employer recognition scheme for their support of the armed forces.

124 ACTIVITY REPORT

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding activity in the period 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2014.

Member queries relating to individual incidents and to the report in general were responded to.

RESOLVED:

The Authority noted the report.

125 BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT 2015-16

The Authority considered a report (Item 8 in the Minute Book) from the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Officer regarding the budget.

It was highlighted that a £600,000 contribution had gone towards capital, with a one-off contribution going to the capital payments reserve. It was noted that Council Tax had also been frozen for the fifth year running.

Members agreed that they had been fully consulted throughout the budget setting process and therefore had no further questions.

RESOLVED:

- a) That if any subsequent changes were required to the budget, the Chief Financial Officer in consultation with the Chief Officer and the Chairman of the Authority or Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is given delegated authority to reflect the actual position in the budget;
- b) The revenue budget for 2015/16 as set out as Appendix A was approved;
- c) The capital programme for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix E and the funding of it as set out in Appendix F be approved; and
- d) The recommendations set out in Appendix G covering the Treasury Management strategy, which incorporates the Prudential Indicators and the policy on the minimum revenue provision was approved.

126 **PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY (HFRA) AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY (WFRA)**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding a partnership between HFRA and WFRA.

The Chief Officer confirmed that the partnership was about sharing services and not a merge of Authorities, with individual controls remaining. Once established, the partnership would bring in £500,000 annually to HFRS by making best use of resources and assets already established. Steve Apter would become the Assistant Chief Fire Officer at HFRS, with Dave Curry being Chief Officer at WFRA from the 1 April. Regular reports would be submitted to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee to monitor arrangements, and then onto Full Authority if necessary.

The Chairman thanked Dean Hayward and Jason Avery for their work on the project and Steve Apter and Cllr Phil Jordan were also thanked for their support and attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority formally agreed to enter into a partnership with Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority on the terms set out in the Partnership Agreement at Appendix B.

127 CREATION OF AN HFRA PENSION BOARD

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding the creation of an HFRA Pension Board.

The purpose of a Pension Board and the need to establish one by April 2015 was explained and it was discussed whether scheme representatives should be directly appointed by a panel or be selected through an election process, to ensure the most suitable people were on the Board. It was confirmed that training would be provided to all Members who were on the Board and scheme members would need to be active Members of the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme, as stated in paragraph 3.6 in the Appendix 1 to the report. It was agreed that various options around appointing scheme members would be looked at and reported to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee and then the Full Authority meeting in June.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that:

- a) A Pension Board is created for the Hampshire Fire Fighters Pension Scheme with Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, which included a separate Code of Conduct for board members;
- b) Authority be delegated for "Scheme Management" of the Fire Fighters Pension Scheme to Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee;
- c) Delegated Authority be given to F&GP Committee to make changes to the Terms of Reference if required following publication of the final regulations;
- d) That more research is done regarding the options around the appointment process for scheme members to the Pension Board; with information going to the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 15 April 2015, and any final recommendations being reported back to the Full Authority meeting on the 11 June 2015;
- e) Delegated authority to the Head of Legal Services to amend the Terms of Reference of the F&GP Committee to enable it to act as Scheme Manager and deal with alleged breaches of the Pension Board's Code of Conduct;
- f) Members of the Pension Board shall be entitled to payment of travelling allowances on the terms set out in the relevant policies for members of HFRA and employees of HFRS; and
- g) Costs associated with the Pension Board for administration, allowances and training are assessed during 2015/16 and included in future budget updates.

128 HFRA MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk (Item 11 in the Minute Book) regarding the HFRA Members' Allowance Scheme from April 2015.

Members were happy with the report and had no questions.

RESOLVED:

a) With regard to the recommendations of the relevant IRPs, the Authority agreed to implement a Members' Allowance Scheme from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, on the same terms as the 2014/15 scheme; and

b) The Authority agreed to task the Human Resources Committee to undertake a review of the Authority's Scheme during 2015/16 and to make recommendations on any proposed amendments to the Authority during 2015/16

129 MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2014 AND 28 JANUARY 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Human resources Committee meetings held on 18 December 2014 and 28 January 2015.

130 MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 11 DECEMBER 2014

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee meetings held on 11 December 2014.

131 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the 28 January 2015.

The recommendations to the Authority in Minute 90 were agreed as part of Item 8 on the agenda.

132 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10 FEBRUARY 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee held on 10 February 2015.

133 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.

134 **EXEMPT MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2015**

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 28 January 2015.

135 **EXEMPT MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2015**

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 28 January 2015.