

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 9 September, 2015

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	John Bennison	p	Geoff Hockley
p	Ann Briggs	p	Chris Lagdon
p	Graham Burgess	p	Robin McIntosh
p	Adam Carew	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Frank Pearce
a	Roz Chadd	p	Sally Spicer
p	Keith Chapman	p	Roger Price
a	Mark Cooper	p	David Simpson
a	Liz Fairhurst	p	Phil Smith
p	Jane Frankum	p	Mark Staplehurst
p	David Fuller	p	Luke Stubbs
p	David Harrison	p	John Wall
p	Hannah Hockaday		

152 BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the meeting was being recorded for broadcast on the 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.

153 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Chadd, Cooper and Fairhurst.

154 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 personal interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

155 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 11 June 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

With regard to Minute 145, it was proposed and agreed that Councillors Burgess and Chadd be appointed to the vacant positions on the Eastleigh and

Winchester Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) respectively. It was agreed that confirmation of all CDRP appointments would be confirmed with the appropriate administrating Authorities.

156 **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to this meeting.

157 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT**

There were no questions, or updates on Member development to the meeting.

158 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman announced that HFRA had recently achieved accreditation under the Charter for Elected Member Development. He thanked all Members and officers for their input to this, in particular Councillor Chadd.

A review of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority was announced. To be led by Councillors Fairhurst and Fuller, as part of a project overseen by Chairman, it was anticipated that the results would be reported to the February meeting of the Authority.

Members were informed that Geoff Howsego, the Director of Professional Services, had recently been elected to be the Chief Fire Officers Association Director for Corporate Services and Service Improvement. This followed a long history of Hampshire officers being part of CFOAs national board.

The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Fire Minister setting out the Authority's view on any potential change of governance between the Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner. This made the point that the current governance within Hampshire had led to successful and close collaboration between blue light services and therefore there was no need at this time to alter the current arrangements.

It was noted that building works at Headquarters were on track and both Iain Hardcastle and the contractors were thanked for their efforts to adhere to the timeframes for the project.

It was announced that on 31 July and 1 August the Hampshire team had competed in the UKRO national competition hosted at the Fire Service College. The extrication team were placed first, adding the UK title to the world championship that they already hold. In addition the Hampshire team also took the title of Best Medic at the competition. On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman congratulated the team on their success. It was confirmed that Hampshire would be hosting the 2016 UKRO event at Service Headquarters.

Members were reminded about the Stakeholder event, for the Risk Review project on 18 September and encouraged to attend.

159 HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY – SERVICE PLAN 2015-2020

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, Item 7 in the Minute Book, regarding the refreshed Service Plan.

It was explained that the refresh of the Service Plan would give clarity in how the Service will be developed over the next five years and aligned strategy with financial planning. This was achieved through three safer and six stronger objectives that went alongside key priorities. It was explained that going forward the Plan would only be available electronically and published through the website, to enable greater flexibility for updates.

With reference to the Minutes of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee on 30 July 2015, it was noted that the Committee would receive an annual update report on the Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority approve the proposed revised Service Plan content and the suggested new style web pages.

160 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Financial Officer, Item 8 in the Minute Book, regarding the medium term financial plan.

The context of the financial position and the savings that needed to be made were set out to Members. It was noted that the Authority's early action in implementing its efficiency programmes in preparation for significant grant reductions over the coming years had placed it in a strong position. Significant efficiencies have been achieved since 2010, when the first grant reductions were made, however a further £16m is expected to be required over the years 2016/17 to 2019/20. It was confirmed that an increase in Council Tax in combination with the other savings set out in the report would meet this gap. Not increasing the Council Tax precept would result in a need to realise a further £5 million in savings.

It was questioned whether projected population increases had been taken into account and it was confirmed that this was built in to the Risk Review calculations. It was also noted that new housing was much safer in terms of fire risk.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority recognises the changes to the financial forecasts.

Recognising that this does not fetter the discretion of the Authority in formally setting the council tax level each year, the Authority instructs Officers to work on a planning assumption of an increase in council tax of 1.99% per annum over the

next four financial years as part of the strategy for closing the predicted budget deficit.

That the Authority agrees to consult on options for council tax and spending as part of the planned public consultation process.

161 **RISK REVIEW PROPOSALS**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, Item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding the Risk Review proposals.

The report was introduced and it was noted that support was being requested to initiate a public consultation on the proposals to change front line emergency response, to inform a final decision which was expected to be taken in February 2016.

It was highlighted that the proposals did not include the closure of any stations and no compulsory redundancies were anticipated. The service revisions being suggested were based on changed circumstances and need and a number of the proposals were discussed in detail. It was noted that the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee had contributed to the development of the proposals and considered them in depth. Furthermore it was confirmed that a re-organisation of this nature had been under consideration for some time as the right direction for the Service.

Changes to front line capability were discussed and in particular the proposals for activity based crewing set out. It was explained that this was designed to meet the needs of each respective area and that the options in the consultation document effectively related to the balance between response time and cost of provision. All of the proposals were designed to meet recommended response times.

With regards the development of Community Safety capability and of medical response capability, it was confirmed that an Innovation grant had been secured to implement this. Furthermore it was confirmed that there was already regular, high level communication with health partners and that the Fire Service's level of access to vulnerable people and rapid response capability had the potential to be of benefit to communities.

A number of concerns were raised, including: Hampshire's ability to respond to national incidents with a reduced capacity, the pressures on fire officers crewing smaller units, the accuracy of projected response times, the flexibility of new arrangements and the availability of co-responding capacity. These points were noted and it was confirmed they would be considered through the consultation process.

RESOLVED:

That the Fire Authority supports the development of Community Safety capability to include prevention activities that support the priorities within health.

That the Fire Authority supports the development of further medical response capability.

That the Fire Authority agrees to consult on options to change frontline capability based on risk, with all of the findings of the consultation to be reported to the Full Authority in February 2016.

That the Fire Authority agrees to consult on options for council tax and spending as part of the planned public consultation process (details set out in Medium Term Financial Plan Update Report).

162 **DEVOLUTION IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, Item 10 in the Minute Book, regarding proposals for devolution in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The report and proposed position statement was received and it was confirmed that a letter had been sent from the Chairman to the Leader of Hampshire County Council setting out the Fire Authority's position of support for devolution and a willingness to work closely with all partners. It was agreed that this position could not change, in particular the level of involvement of the Fire Authority in the proposed combined Authority could not increase, without consideration by and the agreement of the Fire Authority.

Concern was raised that either an elected Mayor, or the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) could take over the responsibilities of the Fire Authority. It was noted that the PCC was not seeking to do so and that enthusiasm for an elected Mayor in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight was low.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority agree the position statement on the Wider Hampshire and Isle of Wight Combined Authority Model in Appendix A of the report.

163 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, Item 11 in the Minute Book, regarding activity in the period 1 April 2015 to 30 June 2015.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note the report.

164 **MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 18 JUNE 2015**

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 18 June 2015.

165 MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 1 JULY 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 1 July 2015.

166 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 8 JULY 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes held on 8 July 2015.

The recommendation to the Authority at Minute 109 was agreed.

167 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 30 JULY 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Performance Review & Scrutiny Committee held on 30 July 2015.

168 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

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.

169 EXEMPT MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 1 JULY 2015

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 1 July 2015.

170 EXEMPT MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 8 JULY 2015

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes held on 8 July 2015.