

REPORT OF THE
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority
PART II

168. SERVICE PLAN 2015-2020

1. The Fire Authority at its meeting on 9 September 2015 approved a refreshed Service Plan for the period 2015-2020. These revisions set out three safer and six stronger objectives, which gave greater clarity in how the Service will be developed over the next five years and brought the Plan into line with financial planning.

2. It was also agreed that going forward the Service Plan would be published electronically through the HFRS website, giving greater flexibility for updates to be made in the future. The Plan will be reviewed annually by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

169. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE

1. The Authority received a report of the Chief Finance Officer, providing an update to the Authority on the budget development process for 2016/17 and the medium term prospects for the Fire Authority's finance to 2019/20. The Authority's early action in implementing its efficiency programmes in preparation for significant grant reductions over the coming years has 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.

2. Alongside the Authority's robust savings programme, the opportunity to mitigate savings requirements through the Council Tax precept was acknowledged. The Authority resolved:

- To recognise 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.
- To agree to consult on options for council tax and spending as part of the planned public consultation process.

170. RISK REVIEW PROPOSALS

1. A Risk Review Project was established to identify opportunities for improvements in Service delivery and to support budget savings of £5m by 2019. The Authority received a report setting out draft proposals for delivering fire and rescue services fit for the future and proposing a public consultation on future service delivery. In addition, the report presented opportunities to support the ongoing development of capability in medical response and further enhancement to the Community Safety prevention role with activities that support priorities within health.

2. The Authority considered the proposals set out in the report and resolved:
 - To support the development of Community Safety capability to include prevention activities that support the priorities within health.
 - To support the development of further medical response capability.
 - To agree 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.
 - To agree 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).

171. DEVOLUTION IN HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

1. The Fire Authority considered and agreed a position statement, setting out the Fire Authority's position of support for devolution and a willingness to work closely with all partners, with regards to the ongoing bid for devolved powers and the establishment of a combined Authority in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

COUNCILLOR CHRIS CARTER
Chairman of
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority