

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 4 July 2016.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	John Bennison	p	Fiona Mather
p	Graham Burgess (Vice Chairman)	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Roger Price
p	David Fuller	a	David Simpson
p	Geoff Hockley	p	Luke Stubbs (Chairman)

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 recordings for broadcasting purposes.

150 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor David Simpson.

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

There were no declarations of interest received for the meeting.

152 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes from the meeting on the 10 May 2016 were agreed to be correct and signed by the Chairman.

153 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

154 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements.

155 OUTTURN REPORT 2015/16

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer and Chief Finance Officer regarding the Authority's accounts for the financial year 2015/16 (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The capital budget position was presented to Members and a number of variations explained. Following questions regarding requests for funding from the Transformation Reserve, it was confirmed that funding for the IT system FireWatch would form part of a wider project of improvement. Members discussed funding to assist with the relocation of the Heritage Collection, and the Committee heard that ongoing requirements relating to the Collection would be managed through a Charitable Trust.

Questions relating to the vehicle replacement programme were answered and the underspend of £736,000 in relation to the 2014/15 programme was noted. Members also noted the year end report for Treasury Management, and the potential for purchasing investment assets was discussed.

In relation to recommendation 2.4, it was explained that approval was sought for the Service Improvement Reserve to be amalgamated into the Transformation Reserve in 2016/17, which would simplify processes and clarify the point of governance.

It was confirmed that in relation to recommendation 2.7, approval of the four year settlement offer would be required from the Full Authority rather than the Finance and General Purposes Committee as detailed in the report. Members were content with the change to the recommendation.

Members also considered an exempt appendix relating to this item (see minute 158).

156 FUNDING REQUIRED TO ENABLE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND ASSURANCE PROJECT

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Officer regarding the Performance Management and Assurance Project (Item 7 in the Minute Book) which would review, integrate and improve the work carried out by seven individual teams across the Service relating to Performance Management.

The report was introduced to the Committee and the aims and benefits of the Performance Management and Assurance Project were outlined to Members. It was highlighted that the project would enable a culture of performance management to be embedded across the Service, ensuring its visibility and enhancing ownership across the service at a local level. The Committee heard

that this would also build resilience in the Knowledge Management team through understanding and support of the project. The costs for the delivery of the project were set out, which included costs relating to training, hiring of expert skills and software.

The Committee asked questions relating to the project and it was noted that the existing scorecard system would expire in March 2018, and work to replace this would be undertaken. Close working with ICT Transformation was also highlighted.

Members also considered exempt appendices (Item 10 on the agenda) relating to this item (see minute 159).

157 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:

That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, 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 the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of 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 reports.

158 OUTTURN REPORT 2015/16 – EXEMPT APPENDIX

(summary of an exempt minute)

The Committee received an exempt appendix (Item 9 on the agenda) in relation to Item 6 detailing funding in relation to the ICT Transformation. In answer to Member questions, it was confirmed that that the majority of the workstreams would be delivered by the end of 2016.

RESOLVED:

The Finance and General Purposes Committee approved the following proposals:

- a) That the annual treasury outturn report set out in appendix 4 of the report be noted and **RECOMMENDED** to the Full Authority for approval.
- b) That the capital payments for the year be financed as set out in paragraph 4.11 of the report.
- c) That the use of reserves set out in section 7 of the report be approved, including several one-off initiatives that it is proposed to fund from the

underspend in 2015/16.

- d) That the Service Improvement Reserve be amalgamated into the Transformation Reserve in 2016/17, combining the two previously separate reserves for use in the transformation and improvement of future services, as set out in paragraph 1.2 of this report.
- e) That the changes to the capital payments in 2015/16 (Appendix 1) and the impact on the capital spend profile going forward (Appendix 2) are approved.
- f) That the accounts for 2015/16 be approved including the use of reserves set out in paragraph 7.10 and Appendix 3 of the report.
- g) That the four year settlement offer (in paragraph 1.8 and section 8 of the report) be **RECOMMENDED** to the Full Authority for approval, and that the Chief Finance Officer and Chief Fire Officer be directed to prepare and submit the Efficiency Plan alongside an update of the Medium Term Financial Plan to a special F&GP Committee and the Authority in September).
- h) That funding of up to £850,000 in 2016/17 and £117,000 in 2017/18 be approved for ICT Transformation.

159 FUNDING REQUIRED TO ENABLE SERVICE IMPROVEMENT THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND ASSURANCE PROJECT – EXEMPT APPENDICES

(summary of an exempt minute)

The Committee received exempt appendices (Item 10 on the agenda) in relation to Item 7, which detailed costs relating to the Performance Management and Assurance Project. Members were content with the information, and no questions were raised.

RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee approved a spend of up to £315,000 which would be met by the Transformational Fund, to enable the Performance Management and Assurance Project to progress.