

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at Hampshire County Council, Winchester on 7 September, 2016

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	John Bennison	p	Frank Jonas
p	Ann Briggs	a	Fiona Mather
p	Graham Burgess	a	Robin McIntosh
p	Chris Carter	p	Andy Moore
p	Roz Chadd	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Hannah Coombs	a	Frank Pearce
a	Mark Cooper	a	Roger Price
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	David Simpson
p	Jane Frankum	p	Mark Staplehurst
p	David Fuller	p	Luke Stubbs
p	Jonathan Glen	p	John Wall
p	David Harrison	p	Matthew Winnington
p	Geoff Hockley		

Also present:

Michael Lane, Police and Crime Commissioner

219 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.

220 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Cooper, Pearce, Price, Mather and McIntosh

221 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.

222 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 9 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

223 DEPUTATIONS

No deputations requests were received for the meeting.

224 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The Chairman thanked those Members who had attended the service conference at Havant Plaza for their input. He furthermore detailed his own participation in Service Management Visits (SMVs) to individual fire stations and encouraged other Members to also attend where possible.

225 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Andy Moore to the meeting as a new Fire Authority Member. On behalf of the Authority, he offered best wishes to Councillor Frank Pearce, who was poorly. The Chairman also congratulated Councillor David Fuller on being commissioned as a Second Lieutenant at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

It was announced that the Service had been awarded a best practice award from the Consultation Institute for the risk review consultation work, receiving acknowledgements that the work had been a "model of best practice". It was noted that this was one of only three such awards made during the year.

It was drawn to Member's attention that Brandon Lewis had been appointed as the new Police and Fire Minister. Brandon was a previous Fire Minister and therefore knowledgeable of the issues and challenges facing the fire service. The Chairman confirmed that the Minister had been to visit Hampshire to see the innovative work being progressed and the collaborative developments achieved with local partners.

The Chairman noted that this was be fire officer Mark Raynor's final Full Authority meeting before retirement and on behalf of the Authority, wished him all the best for the future.

226 ACTIVITY REPORT

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, Item 7 in the Minute Book, regarding activity in the period 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016.

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

RESOLVED:

The Authority noted the report.

227 APPOINTMENTS REPORT

The Authority received and considered the report of the Clerk regarding appointments to a number of positions, item 8 in the Minute Book.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Authority appoints Councillor Andy Moore to the vacant positions on the Human Resources Committee and the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee until the Annual meeting of the Authority in 2017.
- b. That the Authority appoints Richard North to fill the vacant “Scheme Member” position on the Firefighters Pension Board.
- c. That the Authority authorises the Standards and Governance Committee to undertake all necessary processes for the recruitment of an Independent Person(s), including the establishment of a Member selection panel as required, and in so doing to explore the option of sharing Independent Person provision with other local Authorities. To make a recommendation for appointment and any allowance to the Authority to take effect from June 2017.

228 **AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS**

The Authority received the report of the Clerk regarding amendments to Standing Orders, item 9 in the Minute Book.

The report was introduced and the proposed updates to Standing Orders acknowledged. It was questioned why the procedural changes in Standing Order 26 had not previously been considered by the Standards and Governance Committee and proposed that these be deferred subject to the view of that Committee.

RESOLVED:

- a. That the Authority approves the proposed variation to Standing Order 1 (addition of paragraph 7)
- b. That the proposed variation of Standing Order 26 be deferred subject to consideration by the Standards and Governance Committee.

229 **REVIEW OF THE SIZE AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY – OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS**

The Authority received the report of the Clerk outlining the outcomes of consultation with stakeholders, item 10 in the Minute Book.

The background to the report was set out and it was confirmed that a decision was required with regards to the inclusion of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as a Member of the Fire Authority and with regards to the future size and indicative structure of the Authority.

The Authority considered the outcomes of the consultation exercise and the lack of a response to the consultation from Southampton City Council was questioned. It was confirmed that the consultation had been received and followed up and although acknowledged, a formal response had not been submitted. The nature of the response from Portsmouth City Council and the extent of public consultation were discussed and it was questioned whether the

latter had been sufficiently thorough. It was confirmed that the consultation had been publically available on the Fire Authority website and that further public engagement had been possible through the process of the formulation of the response of each local authority. It was questioned whether the PCC should have expressed a view on the matter as it directly related to his role and it was noted that his view was relevant as a stakeholder and furthermore that the Fire Authority had agreed on that basis that he should be a consultee.

With reference to the development of the governance proposals that were consulted upon, there was discussion about the views of the Working Group. It was confirmed that the Working Group was not a formal Committee with decision making powers and therefore although it had indicated a preference for a model of 18 Members plus the PCC, this was not a binding view. Furthermore both of the options that had been developed by the Working Group, along with the retention of the status quo, had been consulted upon.

The recommendations in the report were considered in turn:

With regards to recommendation 2.1, a vote was held with the outcome
11 for
9 against
0 abstain

With regards to recommendation 2.2(a), a vote was held as to the intention to make an application to the Secretary of State for an amendment to the current Combination Order, to add the Police and Crime Commissioner as a full member of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority, with the outcome
16 for
0 against
4 abstain

With regards to recommendation 2.2(b), Councillor Harrison, noted that the set up and role of the Fire Authority was complex and difficult to understand by those outside of it, but that high performance demonstrated it was working well and therefore there was no case for change. He also suggested that a smaller Authority would not be successful as it would lack necessary capacity, nor would it save money as he anticipated the remaining Members receiving increased allowances. Seconded by Councillor Simpson he proposed an amendment to the recommendation that 2.2(b) read:

“This Authority supports the recommendation of the HFRA Working Group, that we reduce the size of the Authority to 18 Members plus the Police and Crime Commissioner.”

Councillor Simpson, in support of the amendment, felt that the view of Working Group should have been proposed to the Authority. He supported the points made by Councillor Harrison in introducing the amendment and urged Members to vote in the interests of the Authority.

Debate of the proposed amendment ensued, in particular with regard to: the role of the Working Group, the capacity and sustainability of an 11 Member Fire Authority, the likely loss of the smaller minority political Groups and of minority Group representation from the City Councils in a smaller Authority model as well

as the thoroughness of the consultation and the impact of as yet unknown factors such as devolution in Hampshire.

A vote was held on the proposed amendment with the outcome:

9 for

11 against

0 abstain

- Amendment lost

Councillor Carter, seconded by Councillor Fairhurst proposed a new amendment to the original recommendation at 2.2(b), that it read (additional text underlined):

“2.2 In the light of the outcomes from the consultation and taking all relevant information into consideration, that the Authority:

b) agrees the governance size and related structure model for the Authority to be option C, 10 Councillors plus PCC (as detailed in annex 1) ~~that it considers to be~~ being the most appropriate to lead the Service into the future. The agreed governance size and structure shall take effect from the annual meeting of the Authority in 2017 regardless of whether the Combination Order has been amended by that date to include the membership of the PCC.”

Councillor Carter confirmed that the process of reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Authority would have taken place regardless of other devolution issues in Hampshire. He was confident that an 11 Member Authority would be able to govern efficiently and effectively in the style of a compact and responsive Board.

Debate of the amendment ensued, with the likely improvement of effectiveness of a smaller Authority being highlighted and it being noted that in other areas the entire Fire Service is successfully led by a single Executive Member, therefore an 11 Member Authority would be workable. Some Members noted that the amendment was opposed to the view of the Working Group and raised concerns about the quorum arrangements in a smaller Authority.

It was proposed by the Chairman and, with the support of five Members, agreed that a recorded vote* on the proposed amendment be held, with the outcome:

11 for

9 against

0 abstain

* a copy of the recorded voting sheet is attached to these minutes as appendix 1

- Amendment carried

With regards to the above, a vote was held on the new substantive recommendation at 2.2(b) with the outcome:

11 for

9 against

0 abstain

With regards to the recommendations at 2.3, a vote was held with the outcome

11 for

8 against

1 abstain

RESOLVED:

1. That the Authority considered the outcomes from the consultation on the proposed governance models of the Authority as detailed in Annex 1 of this report and acknowledged the input of stakeholders.
2. In the light of the outcomes from the consultation and taking all relevant information into consideration, the Authority:
 - a) intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for an amendment to the current combination order, to add the Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner as a full member of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority, from the annual meeting of the Authority in 2017 or as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter, and
 - b) agrees the governance size and related structure model for the Authority to be option C, 10 Councillors plus PCC (as detailed in annex 1) being the most appropriate to lead the Service into the future. The agreed governance size and structure shall take effect from the annual meeting of the Authority in 2017 regardless of whether the Combination Order has been amended by that date to include the membership of the PCC.
3. Taking into account the decisions at 2, to delegate authority as required to the Clerk to:
 - a) Prepare and submit an application for appropriate revisions to the Combination Order, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority, as set out in section 4 of the report
 - b) In advance of the 2017 Annual meeting of the Authority, to seek appropriate appointments to the Authority from its constituent bodies as set out in the relevant Combination Order.
 - c) Prepare appropriate draft revisions to the Authority's Standing Orders and Committee Terms of Reference and any other relevant governance documentation for consideration at the annual meeting of the Authority in 2017.
 - d) Prepare appropriate draft revisions to the Authority's Scheme of Delegation for consideration at the annual meeting of the Authority in 2017.

Initiate a review of the Members' Allowances Scheme in accordance with statutory requirements with input from a Working Group of Members drawn from the Human Resources Committee, for consideration at a future meeting of the Authority.

230 **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN TO 2020/21**

The Authority received the report of the Chief Financial Officer providing an update to the Authority on the budget development process for 2017/18 and the

medium term position for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority's finances to 2020/21, item 11 in the Minute Book.

The report was introduced, with the Authority's attention being drawn in particular to the overall financial position, to the response to the business rate consultation and to the submission of the efficiency plan.

RESOLVED:

1. The Authority notes the update to the Medium Term Financial Plan and the changes to the financial forecasts to 2020/21.
2. The Authority agrees the assumption that for financial planning purposes council tax will increase by 1.99% year on year to 2020/21, accepting that this does not fetter the discretion of the Authority in setting the council tax level in future years.
3. The Authority agrees to submit an Efficiency Plan to guarantee the level of RSG funding for the current and next 3 years, and agrees to submit and publish the plan set out in Appendix 1, subject to any comments and amendments from HFRA.
4. Delegated Authority be given to the Chief Officer in consultation with the Chairman to make any final amendments to the Efficiency Plan before submission if required.
5. The Authority notes the current Business Rates consultation and Fair Funding review, and the potential for Fire to be removed from the existing business rates funding system, and delegates authority to the Chief Financial Officer, in consultation with the Chief Officer and the Chairman, to respond to the consultation in accordance with paragraphs 4.27 to 4.35.
6. Additional funding of £155,000 be granted towards the Basingstoke Fire Station project for asbestos removal, to be funded from the Capital Payments Reserve.

231 MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 14 JUNE 2016

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 14 June 2016.

The recommendations to the Authority at Minute 143 and 146 were agreed.

232 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 4 JULY 2016 AND 1 SEPTEMBER 2016

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes held on 4 July 2016 and 1 September 2016.

The recommendations to the Authority at Minute 158 were agreed.

233 MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 JULY 2016

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 8 July 2016.

234 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 26 JULY 2016

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Performance Review & Scrutiny Committee held on 26 July 2016.

HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY: FULL AUTHORITY MEETING

- DATE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2016
- RECORDED VOTING SHEET (SEE MINUTE 229)

NAME	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
John Bennison		X	
Ann Briggs	X		
Graham Burgess	X		
Chris Carter	X		
Roz Chadd	X		
Hannah Coombs		X	
Mark Cooper	ABSENT		
Liz Fairhurst	X		
Jane Frankum		X	
David Fuller	X		
Jonathan Glen	X		
David Harrison		X	
Geoff Hockley	X		
Frank Jonas	X		
Fiona Mather	ABSENT		
Robin McIntosh	ABSENT		
Sharon Mintoff		X	
Andy Moore		X	
Frank Pearce	ABSENT		
Roger Price	ABSENT		
David Simpson		X	
Mark Staplehurst		X	
Luke Stubbs	X		
John Wall	X		
Matthew Winnington		X	