

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
held at the Borough Council Offices, Eastleigh on 15 September, 2010

PRESENT:

Councillors: R. Smith (Chairman); I. Beagley; C. Carter; K. Chapman; Sam Darragh; A. Evans; L. Fairhurst; J. Frankum; A. Fraser; D. Harrison; F. Jonas; R.J. Kimber; P. Marsh-Jenks; R. McIntosh; E. Neal; F. Pearce; R.H. Price; D. Simpson; M. Tucker; A. Weeks; J. West.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Authority received a briefing by the Chief Officer about the draft HFRS Plan 2011 to 2014 and the proposed corporate objectives and consultation strategy.

108 DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER DAVID KIRK

The Chairman invited Members of the Authority to stand for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to the memory of David Kirk who tragically had passed away in his sleep on 15 August 2010. The Chairman paid tribute to the former Member who would be sadly missed.

109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A.S. Carew; D. Fuller and J. Moulton

110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should, normally at the time of the debate, declare their interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the Fire Authority's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

111 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Authority held on 9 June 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

112 DEPUTATION BY MR E. BURROWS, CHAIRMAN OF HAMPSHIRE FIRE BRIGADES UNION

Mr E. Burrows made a deputation to the Authority about the context of some of the information contained within the draft HFRS Plan 2011 to 2014. The FBU's comments on this had been passed to Fire Service Management. He paid tribute to former Member David Kirk and made reference to the FBU's own tributes which appeared on their website. The Authority were advised that it would be Mr Burrow's final meeting

as Chairman of Hampshire FBU following his recent appointment with Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service.

113 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Whilst there were no Members questions, Councillor R.H. Price gave a resumé of several meetings and events which he had recently attended on behalf of the Authority. Included among these was a meeting of the Fire Services Management Committee on 10 September 2010. It had included a report on the Fire Futures project about how the Fire and Rescue Service may need to evolve over the coming years. The Fire Futures Item, copies of which were available for Members, was to be considered by SMT at their next meeting.

Councillor Price reported on his visit to the Fire Service College at Moreton-on-Marsh. The issues raised there had been both interesting and informative with presentations made on various topical issues. In response to the Member's comments, the Chief Officer undertook to arrange a one-day visit to the Fire Service College in the New Year to which all HFRA Members would be invited.

Councillor Sam Darragh advised the meeting about progress made by the Elected Member Steering Group on Member Development.

Councillor C. Carter and R. Price reported on their individual experiences in observing Exercise Orion (Minute 114 refers).

114 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Eric Neal as a new Member of Authority in place of Councillor Pat West.

The Chairman reported on Exercise Orion, an international exercise funded by the European Union and involving firefighter crews from Sweden, Norway, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Emirates and the United Kingdom. Around 80 officers from Hampshire Constabulary had also taken part over the three days of training. The main purpose of the exercise was to seek to ensure a fast, efficient and flexible response from participating European Countries and agencies in the event of a major emergency on UK soil. A written report would be provided for Members at their next meeting.

The Chairman reported on the Blue Lamp Trust, a joint initiative between the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, Hampshire Constabulary, local business and the Community of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Having been registered with the Charities' Commission, the Trust was officially launched on 9 September 2010. Its primary aims were to reduce crime and the fear of crime within homes and businesses, promote improved driving standards and road safety and provide education on all aspects of fire safety and fire prevention.

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from the Chairman of the

National Fire Sprinklers Network thanking HFRS for its continued support of those efforts being made to seek to persuade decision makers to recognise the value of fire sprinklers in saving lives.

Finally, the Chairman reported that John Bonney would shortly be stepping down as President of the Chief Officers' Association. On behalf of the Authority he wished to place on record his thanks to the Chief Officer for the valuable contributions he had made during his term as President.

115 **VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Chairman reported the following changes/new Conservative Party Member appointments to Committees with effect from 15 September 2010:

Finance and General Purposes Governance	-	Cllr. J. Moulton in place of Cllr. L. Fairhurst Conservative vacancy for former Cllr. D. A. Kirk to be held for time being
Human Resources	-	Cllr. L. Fairhurst in place of Cllr. P. West Cllr. E. Neal in place of Cllr. J. Moulton Cllr. A. Evans (Chairman) and Cllr. K. Chapman (Vice-Chairman)
Performance Review and Scrutiny	-	Cllr. E. Neal in place of Cllr. P. West Conservative Vacancy for former Cllr. D. A. Kirk to be held for time being Cllr. K. Chapman (Chairman) and Cllr. A. Evans (Vice-Chairman)
Standards	-	No changes

116 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority received and noted the report of Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) highlighting prevention, protection and response activities in each of the group areas.

117 **FIRELINK AND FIRE CONTROL PROJECTS UPDATE**

The Authority acknowledged the projects' update report of the Chief Officer (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

118 **DRAFT 'HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PLAN 2011 TO 2014' – PROPOSED CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND CONSULTATION STRATEGY**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 12 in the Minute Book) about proposed new corporate objectives for the draft 'Hampshire Fire Rescue Service Plan 2011 to 2014'.

In introducing the item, the Chief Officer reported that it was his intention to withdraw proposed Objective 6 as referred to in the report so as to enable further research as to its impact on wider retained resources and call from over the border. However, it did not preclude the matter coming back to the Authority at a later date.

Members supported this and the proposed other seven objectives for consultation. However, whilst agreeing to the proposed programme for

or otherwise of combining a General Public Open Meeting with one of the planned Focus Group Public Meetings.

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That subject to Objective 6 “we will change the way we respond from Rushmoor Fire Station” being withdrawn at this time, the other seven proposed corporate objectives, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be approved as a basis for consultation with Stakeholders;
- (b) That, subject to possible combining a General Public Open Meeting with a Focus Group Public Meetings, the proposed consultation strategy and programme, as set out as Appendices B and C to the report, be approved.

119 **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON THE FORMULA GRANT DISTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY**

The Authority considered the report of the Treasurer (Item 13 in the Minute Book) seeking approval to the draft response to the Governments’ Consultation on Formula Grant Distribution.

RESOLVED:

That the draft response to the Government’s Consultation on Formula Grant Distribution, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

120 **CHARITY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 14 in the Minute Book) outlining a range of ways that Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service proposes to build productive and powerful charity partnerships that are more focused on agreed outcomes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That a two-year charity partnership be delivered from November 2010 and staff be encouraged to focus their fundraising activities and support for the chosen charity as well as for the Fire Fighters Charity. A programme of commitment shall be agreed with the charity to manage expectations and workloads.
- (b) That Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service make an annual donation to the agreed charity partner up to the sum of £500 as determined by the Chief Officer under Section 5(1) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.
- (c) That a longer term plan for wider charity partnership working be

delivered and agreed incorporating such areas as an employee volunteering programme, donations of gifts in kind and professional help.

- (d) That support be given to the proposal to trial a Volunteer Services Scheme by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

121 SOUTH EAST FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD – UPDATE FOLLOWING MEETING ON 14 JULY 2010

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 15 in the Minute Book) highlighting some of the key issues discussed at the South East Fire and Rescue Services Regional Management Board meeting held on 14 July 2010.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted and, in particular, the principles agreed by its Members regarding the future of the South East Regional Management Board.
- (b) That future reports on this item be made to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

122 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE AND 30 JULY 2010

The Authority received the non-exempt Minutes of the meetings of the Finance and General Purposes held on 24 June and 30 July 2010 (Item 16(a) and 16(b) in the Minute Book and adopted the recommendation to the Authority in relation to budget monitoring 1st quarter 2010/11. The exempt recommendation to the Authority in relation to the Workforce Strategy Management Information Project was considered in confidential session (Minutes 128 refers).

123 MINUTES OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 18 JUNE 2010

The Authority received the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee meeting held on 18th June 2010 (Item 17 in the Minute Book) .

124 MINUTES OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 29 JUNE 2010

The Authority received the Minutes of the Governance Committee meeting held on 29 June 2010 (Item 18 in the Minute Book)

125 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 1 JULY 2010

The Authority received the Minutes of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 1 July 2010 (Item 19 in the Minute Book).

126 **MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 13 JULY 2010**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 13 July, 2010 (Item 20 in the Minute Book).

127 **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL FIRE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION AND EMERGENCY PLANNING CONFERENCE – 8 AND 9 MARCH 2011 IN GATESHEAD**

The Authority considered the appointment of Members to attend this Fire Conference and Exhibition.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Councillor Sam Darragh be appointed as the Liberal Democrat Member to attend the Local Government Association Annual Fire Conference and Exhibition and Emergency Planning Conference on 8 and 9 March 2011 in Gateshead.
- (b) That the Chief Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority, agree the other places to the above Conference and Exhibition.

128 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for 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 be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 A 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 report.

129 **MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 30 JULY 2010 – EXEMPT RECOMMENDATION ON WORKFORCE STRATEGY MANAGEMENT INFORMATION PROJECT**

The Authority considered the exempt Minute and recommendation about the Workforce Strategy Management Information Project.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, instead of continuing to develop Bespoke Solutions within SAP, approval be given to implement an off-the-shelf application to meet the needs of the Services' Workforce Strategy Management Information Project.
- (b) That the Chief Officer be given delegated authority to negotiate and let contracts with Specialist Computer Centres (SCC) and Infographics UK Limited for the supply of 'Firewatch' and 'Flosuite' using the SPRINT procurement fragmenting

4gM158910 agreement.