

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 2 December, 2015

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	John Bennison	p	Geoff Hockley
p	Ann Briggs	a	Chris Lagdon
p	Graham Burgess	a	Robin McIntosh
a	Adam Carew	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Frank Pearce
p	Roz Chadd	p	Sally Spicer
p	Keith Chapman	p	Roger Price
p	Mark Cooper	a	David Simpson
p	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		

171 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.

172 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN PARIS

On behalf of the Fire Authority, the Chairman expressed sympathy to the victims of the terrorist attacks in Paris on 13 November 2015. He also paid tribute to members of the emergency services who had responded to the situation.

The Fire Authority observed a minute of silence as a mark of respect.

173 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Lagdon and Simpson.

174 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.

175 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 9 September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

176 **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to this meeting.

177 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Wall reported on an insightful cross-service exercise that he had recently attended. It was proposed and agreed that lessons from such future exercises be reported to the Authority.

Councillor Fuller updated the Authority on an LGA Fire and Rescue Leadership course that he had attended, highlighting the wide range of elements that had been covered. He had also recently attended the Joint Fire Conference and provided feedback to Members on matters that had been discussed.

Councillor Pearce asked officers a question about the provision of Fire and Rescue services to a military base in West Sussex.

178 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman updated the Authority on the latest position of a Government consultation "Enabling Closer Working with the Emergency Services", which appeared to propose a new duty to collaborate. The HFRA response was outlined and it was noted that latest indications from Government were in favour of stronger local accountability, but with no mandatory transfer of responsibilities.

The Authority received an update on the latest position of the bid for devolved powers and a combined Authority for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Progress of the Risk Review consultation was highlighted and the Chairman expressed his appreciation to the Risk Review team for their professional management of the process, as well as Dale Horton for his diplomatic chairmanship of the public meetings.

The Chairman reported on recent meetings he had held with South Central Ambulance and also with the Blue Lamp Trust. He noted that the Police were now co-located in the HFRS HQ and that progress continued on the development of the building, including additional parking.

Finally, the Chairman was pleased to inform Members that the letter he had sent on behalf of the Authority to the Queen, to congratulate her on becoming Britain's longest reigning monarch had received a reply from Buckingham Palace, thanking the Authority and sending the Queen's best wishes.

179 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, Item 7 in the Minute Book, regarding activity in the period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015.

Member queries relating to individual incidents and to the report in general were responded to. It was noted that a serious road traffic incident had occurred on the M271 near Southampton the evening before the meeting, resulting in two fatalities.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority thank officers for a comprehensive report and note its contents.

179 **CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER FOR HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, Item 8 in the Minute Book, highlighting the change of position holder of Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority, following the appointment of John Coughlan as the new Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council.

It was confirmed that Mr Coughlan did not receive any remuneration from the Fire Authority with regard to this position.

RESOLVED:

That, following appointment as the new Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council John Coughlan be formally confirmed as Clerk and Monitoring Officer to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

180 **PROPOSED HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, Item 9 in the Minute Book, setting out proposals for a review of Governance arrangements for the Authority.

The report was introduced and it was highlighted that the proposals were for an informal cross-Party Working Group of six Members to be established, and that any recommendations would be made to the Full Authority for decision.

It was questioned whether this was the right time for such a review and proposed that the item be deferred until the full outcomes of the recent peer review of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service were available. It was confirmed that the outcomes of the peer review would be taken into account and would likely be available early in the governance review process, with initial findings already available.

For reference, the Chairman summarised details from the peer review, setting out the process, the make-up of the review team and the areas covered. He noted that initial findings had been positive and that the final report was expected early in 2016.

RESOLVED:

- That a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Fire Authority's governance arrangements and structures is carried out and the draft terms of reference in Appendix A are agreed.
- That Members be appointed to the Working Group on the basis set out in the report and in the Terms of Reference as follows:
Councillor Fairhurst, (Conservative) Chairman
Councillor Fuller, (Conservative)
Councillor Stubbs (Conservative)
Councillor Price (Liberal Democrat)
Councillor Mintoff (Labour)
Councillor Staplehurst (UKIP)

181 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME

The Authority considered and, taking into account the resolution at Minute 180 to establish a review of governance, approved the report of the Clerk, Item 10 in the Minute Book, proposing a Members' Allowances Scheme for 2016/17.

RESOLVED:

- That, with regard to the recommendations of the relevant IRPs and to the Human Resources Committee, the Authority agrees to implement a Members' Allowances Scheme from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, on the same terms as the 2015/16 Scheme.
- That the Human Resources Committee be tasked with a full review of Members' Allowances, on conclusion of any governance review, to take into account any governance changes agreed by the Authority and make appropriate recommendations to the Authority for revisions to the Scheme.

182 PRESENTATION – FIREFIGHTERS TRAVEL TO OREGON FOR TRAINING IN WILDFIRES

The Authority received a presentation of the Chief Officer, regarding recent training undertaken in Oregon, USA.

The presentation detailed a two week operational visit to Oregon, USA by a small team from HFRS, including a firefighter from the Isle of Wight Fire Service through the strategic partnership with Hampshire. Members were given details of the training and induction programme that was followed, the amount of information gathering that had been possible and the benefits of experiencing a Fire and Rescue Service working in substantially different circumstances. The Authority heard how the team had undertaken active service, tackling major wildfires on the front line alongside local firefighters and not only gaining the experience of doing so, but also positively contributing to the operation.

On behalf of HFRA, the Chairman received a framed print that had been gifted to Hampshire by the Oregon Fire and Rescue Service.

It was noted that in striving to be one of the foremost Fire and Rescue Services in the UK, it was necessary to gather experience beyond that available locally. A similar visit had also taken place to Sweden and it was agreed that feedback from that visit would be provided to Members.

The Authority welcomed the presentation and were supportive of the opportunity to improve the capability of HFRS through international experience sharing. It was noted that colleagues from Oregon would visit Hampshire in the summer of 2016 and Members were committed to fully reciprocating the welcome, hospitality and experiences that had been offered to the Hampshire team.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note the presentation.

183 MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 22 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 22 September 2015.

184 MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27 OCTOBER 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Performance Review & Scrutiny Committee held on the 27 October 2015.

185 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 4 NOVEMBER 2015

The Authority received and noted the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes held on 4 November 2015.

The recommendation to the Authority at Minute 117 was agreed

186 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.

187 EXEMPT MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 4 NOVEMBER 2015

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes held on 4 November 2015.

