

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Borough Council Offices, Eastleigh on 10 February, 2010

**PRESENT:**

Councillors: R. Smith (Chairman); I. Beagley; A. Carew; C. Carter; K. Chapman; L. Fairhurst; J. Frankum; A. Fraser; D. Fuller; P. Galton; D. Harrison; F. Jonas; R.J. Kimber; D.A. Kirk; P. Marsh-Jenks; R. McIntosh; F. Pearce; R. Price; D. Simpson; M. Tucker; A. Weeks; P. West.

**71 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Evans; Sam Payne; J. West.

**72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a 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.

There were no declarations of interest made by members under this item.

**73 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Authority held on 9 December, 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matter arising:

**Winchester Fire Station – Tenders for Construction of a New Fire Station at Winnall, Winchester**

Pursuant to Minute 60, it was reported that, following the successful resolution of outstanding issues, the contract with Leadbetter Construction had now been let and work on the new Winchester Fire Station was expected to commence later this year.

**74 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to the meeting.

**75 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT**

Whilst there were no Members' questions, the Authority was shown a short DVD on Equality and Diversity about career opportunities for women in the Fire and Rescue Service and about retained firefighters and public perception over their

role in society.

In the absence of Councillor Sam Payne, Councillor D. Harrison gave a short update on Member development in relation to the South-East Charter. Members noted that they would be receiving information shortly about future funding for individual training needs. Any suggestions or comments on member-training should be made to either Councillors K. Chapman, J. Frankum or Sam Payne, as appropriate.

## 76 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman reported that since the last Authority meeting, the Chief Officer had received letters of thanks from Shahid Malik, the Minister of Fire who had visited HFRS Headquarters in November, 2009 and from Will Hancock, Chief Executive of South Central Ambulance Service for the support and assistance provided by HFRS personnel during the recent adverse weather conditions.

The Chairman paid tribute to the role which Hampshire had played, as part of the UK International Search and Rescue Team's rescue operations, in Haiti. The Authority noted that, in recognition of the team's efforts, they had been invited to an afternoon and an evening reception at Downing Street, hosted by Sarah Brown and the Department for International Development respectively.

The Chairman reported on the feedback session from the peer review team following the recent review of Operational Assessment. Their findings were most encouraging and the opportunity was taken to congratulate all staff and Members of the Authority on the significant progress and achievements made in recent years.

Members noted that Jon Pittam, this Authority's and the County Council's Treasurer, was retiring at the beginning of June, 2010. The Chairman wished to place on record his thanks to Mr. Pittam for the help and support he had provided to the Authority over the past thirteen years. It was reported that this was also to be the last meeting attended by Paul Carey-Kent, who normally represented the Treasurer at meetings. Paul was thanked for his much appreciated role in recent years.

Finally, the Chairman paid tribute to Deputy Chief Officer Alan House who would be retiring on 30 April, 2010 after forty-two years service. As well as having had a distinguished career, he was the longest serving Principal Officer in any fire and rescue service across the country. Alan was currently in the process of researching and developing a charitable trust for Hampshire's Heritage collection. In association with this, he was to unveil on his last day of service, a firefighter memorial at Service Headquarters. On behalf of the Authority, Alan and his wife were wished a very long, healthy and happy retirement.

The Deputy Chief Officer thanked the Chairman for his kind words and highlighted particular memories and thoughts about his long career. Councillors R.J. Price and J. Frankum each paid their individual tributes and thanks to Alan House.

## 77 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority received and noted the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) highlighting prevention, protection and response activities in each of the group areas. Members paid tribute to all staff for their dedication in maintaining cover during the recent adverse weather conditions and for the support and assistance they had provided to the Police and Ambulance Service at that time.

## 78 **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PLAN 2010-2013 : PROPOSED CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the outcome of consultation with stakeholders and other interested parties about proposed corporate objectives for inclusion in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2010-2013. Also, the Chief Officer tabled at the meeting a copy of the News Bulletin published in January, 2010 about the consultation outcomes and how some of the proposed objectives had been changed as a result (Item 8(a) in the Minute Book).

The Chief Officer reported the intention to bring forward the start of the consultation period for the next Plan to enable the earlier involvement of staff and to improve the integration of the group, station and departmental plans.

Members supported the revised set of six corporate objectives for inclusion as recommended in the report. They commended the Service in taking steps to introduce the suggestion by the public to say when dealing with emergency calls, where resources were coming from and an indication of how long it would take to get to the incident. The Chief Officer undertook to make the Chief Executive of the South East Regional Control Centre aware of this as well.

### RESOLVED:

- (a) That the feedback from staff and stakeholders on the original seven corporate objectives for 2010 to 2013, as summarised in Appendix A to the report, be noted.
- (b) That the revised set of six proposed corporate objectives, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved for inclusion in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2010-2013.

## 79 **MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 14 JANUARY, 2010**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14 January, 2010 (Item 9 in the Minute Book). They agreed to consider the recommendations in relation to the budget for 2010/11, the Capital Programme and the associated prudential indicators and treasury management system as part of the subsequent item on the budget for 2010/11 (Minute 80 refers).

80 **HFRA BUDGET 2010/11**

The Authority considered the report of the Treasurer and Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) on the budget for 2010/11. The Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer summarised the main issues involved in the construction of the budget and highlighted the feedback from statutory consultation exercise. It was reported that the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 14 January, 2010 had recommended that the budget be set at a level which requires a Council tax increase of 1.8%.

Members were pleased to note that this increase brought the average over the three years to 3.3%, well within their stated aim of keeping within the level of state pension increases, which have averaged 3.8%.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the revenue budget as set out in Appendix 2b of the report be approved.
- (b) That the capital programme and associated prudential indicators, as set out in Appendices 5 and 10 of the report, be approved.
- (c) That the Treasury Management Strategy and recommendations contained within it, as set out in Appendix 9 of the report, be approved.
- (d) That the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision, as set out in Section 26 of the report, be approved.
- (e) That the total budget requirement for the general expenses of the Authority for the year beginning 1 April, 2010 be £68,160,000.
- (f) That the Authority's basic Council tax for the year beginning 1 April, 2010 be £61.38.
- (g) That the Authority's Council tax for the year beginning 1 April, 2010 for properties in each band be:

Band A	£40.92	Band E	£75.02
Band B	£47.74	Band F	£88.66
Band C	£54.56	Band G	£102.30
Band D	£61.38	Band H	£122.76

- (h) That precepts be issued totalling £38,648,757 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment, in such instalments and on such dates set by them and previously notified to the Authority, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authority's area as determined by them which are set out below:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	63,578.00
East Hampshire District Council	48,057.30
Eastleigh Borough Council	44,087.61
Fareham Borough Council	42,650.00

Gosport Borough Council	27,599.90
Hart District Council	37,915.60
Havant Borough Council	42,823.00
New Forest District Council	72,826.00
Portsmouth City Council	59,361.30
Rushmoor Borough Council	31,409.87
Southampton City Council	66,167.00
Test Valley	45,496.00
Winchester City Council	47,692.11

Total 629,663.69

**81 NEW DIMENSION PROJECT**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk and Chief Officer (Item 11 in the Minute Book) about the proposed transfer of ownership of the New Dimension assets of the Authority.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk and Chief Officer be authorised to finalise and complete the transfer of ownership of the New Dimension assets to the Authority.

**82 SOUTH EAST FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD – UPDATE FOLLOWING MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY, 2010**

The Authority received and noted the report of the Chief Officer (Item 12 in the Minute Book) highlighting some of the key issues discussed at the South-East Fire and Rescue Service Regional Management Board meeting held on 27 January, 2010. Councillor K. Chapman reported on the present position in relation to the lobbying of government for the mandatory installation of sprinklers in all new domestic properties.

**83 FIRELINK AND FIRECONTROL PROJECTS – UPDATE**

The Authority received the report of the Chief Officer (Item 13 in the Minute Book) about recent developments regarding the Firelink and FireControl projects. The Chief Officer gave a verbal update about the LACC meeting held on 5 February, 2010. It was his intention to provide Members with a presentation to the next meeting concerning those issues arising from the Select Committee Inquiry about the FireControl project.

**84 MINUTES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER, 2009**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held on 18 December, 2009 (Item 14 in the Minute Book).

**85 MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 20 JANUARY, 2010**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting held on 20 January, 2010. They adopted the recommendation to the Authority in

relation to the Compulsory Retirement Policy.

**86 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 this item, there would be disclosable to them of exempt information within Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A of 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.

**87 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

The Authority considered the exempt report of the Clerk (Item 17 in the Minute Book) seeking approval to the appointment of Independent Members to the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That, subject to satisfactory references being received Mr. R. Farrall, Mr. M. James and Mr. M. Quick be appointed as the three Independent Members to serve on the Authority's Standards Committee for a four year period expiring in February, 2014.
- (b) That Mr. M. James be reappointed as Chairman of the Standards Committee.
- (c) That the Standards Committee be asked to consider at its next meeting which of the two other independent Members mentioned above shall be appointed Vice-Chairman, and make a recommendation on this to the Authority.

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