AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 26 February, 2010

PRESENT:

Councillors: D.A. Kirk (Chairman); I. Beagley; K. Chapman; A. Evans; Mrs. J. Frankum; Sam Payne; D. Simpson; A. Weeks; P. West.

27 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.

28 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September, 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made under this item.

30 REVISION OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR HFRA USAGE

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) on a proposal to adopt a revised list of performance indicators for HFRS usage. It was noted that a report detailing the proposals for the future collection of such information had been considered by the Senior Management Team in December 2009. That report, together with the SMT's suggested amendments formed the basis of the report before Members.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Authority adopts the revised list of Performance Indicators contained within Appendix A to the report.

(b) That the list of Performance Indicators contained within Appendix B to the report be removed and no longer used.

(c) That the development of the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CROA) indicators be reported to the Authority as appropriate.

(d) That the service develops a logical numbering sequence for the new suite of indicators.

31 **EVALUATION OF THE CHANGE IN DUTY SYSTEM AT HAVANT FIRE STATION FROM DAY-CREWING TO CONTINUOUSLY CREWING**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 6 in the Minute Book), which reported the outcomes of an evaluation of the change of duty system at Havant Fire Station from day-crewing to continuously crewing in October, 2008. Members welcomed the significant improvements in service performance as a result of this change including home fire safety visits increasing by 50% and response times to incidents improving by 59%. They wished to receive further progress reports in due course.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the improvements in service delivery resulting from the change in crewing arrangements at Havant Fire Station since October, 2008 be welcomed.

(b) That the Committee receive further progress reports by the Chief Officer regarding service delivery at this and at the Andover and Winchester Fire Stations which have similarly changed their crewing arrangements.

32 **HIGH RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS – PROGRESS AGAINST ACTION PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on progress against agreed Service Delivery priority for mitigating risks in high rise residential buildings. The report included information about HFRS activities undertaken or proposed in relation to high rise dwellings, the fire safety standards upon which regulatory work was based and some useful guidance for councillors detailing the relationships and responsibility within the local government regulation of fire safety. An updated table was circulated at the meeting giving more recent figures regarding protection activity (Item 7(a) in the Minute Book).

RESOLVED:

That the progress made within the Service Delivery Directorate against the High Rise Action Plan be noted.

33 REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on an invitation for each Committee to review their terms of reference. Responses would be reported back to the Governance Committee on 24 March, 2010, and recommendations about the future governance structure then proposed for adoption by the Authority at its Annual Meeting in June, 2010.

Members recognised that there had been a number of developments in local authority scrutiny in recent years. With regard to such developments, they considered if the Authority's own scrutiny arrangements were sufficiently robust. They supported the principle of shifting the emphasis from pre – and post-implementation scrutiny of the Authority's own decisions and projects, to embrace scrutiny of how effectively it was engaging with neighbouring public services to achieve better outcomes for local people.

The Committee's remit includes a programme of efficiency reviews, to effect continuous improvement in service delivery, having regard to economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This role is likely to take on ever-increasing importance in the harsh financial climate anticipated over the next few years. Members felt it was appropriate to be given oversight to relevant major initiatives contained in the Service Plan, such as the development of risk-based response standards and efficient and flexible crewing. Also, they felt the Committee's terms of reference should be amended to accommodate oversight of the development of regional working with partner authorities to achieve service improvements (another Service Plan objective). At present, it was the full Authority which received reports back from the Regional Management Board. Members wished such reports to come instead to this Committee. However, they agreed that if there were to be something of particular significance which required the matter to be reported to the full Authority, this could easily be arranged. There was a general discussion about particular audit issues and whether they sat more appropriately with either this Committee or with the Governance Committee. The Clerk reported his understanding that, whilst it was the Governance Committee's role to check that audits were being appropriately implemented, it was this Committee's role to investigate what is being achieved to ensure outcomes were in accordance with Authority policy. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

That the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee supports the following other areas of business being the subject of the Committee's attention and a change to the wording of its terms of reference as follows:

Efficiency Reviews

- Oversight of the Service Plan priorities concerning the development of service delivery strategies.

- Oversight of the development of regional working with partner authorities to achieve service improvement, and to draw to the attention of the full Authority such matters of significance as the Committee considers appropriate.

Scrutiny

- To examine the extent to which the practical outcomes achieved in service delivery accord with the policy objectives of the Authority.

- To consider how effectively the Authority is engaging with partners and other public services bodies to achieve better outcomes for local people.

- To make recommendations to the Authority on such matters as it considers appropriate arising from the scrutiny process.

34 **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE CORPORATE OBJECTIVES**

The Deputy Chief Officer reported orally on a “Managers Conference” which was to take place at Winchester Guildhall all-day on 29 March, 2010. The purpose of the Conference was to consider those ideas being presented by the work-force in relation to future challenges facing the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service. An invitation was made for the Committee to appoint a Members’ Working Group to be involved in the development of “Project engage” ideas, with the intention that they become corporate objectives for consultation and possible inclusion in the 2011/2014 Fire and Rescue Plan.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors A. Evans; J. Frankum; Sam Payne and P. West be appointed as Members of the Working Group of the Committee to assist, following the Fire Service Management Conference on 29 March, 2010, with the development of future HFRS corporate objectives.

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