

AT A MEETING of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 28 October, 2010.

**PRESENT:**

Councillors : I. F. E Beagley (Chairman); A.S. Carew; C. Carter; F. Jonas; J. Moulton; F. Pearce; R.H. Price; R. Smith; A. Weeks.

**37 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Simpson.

**38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed that 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.

**39 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July, 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**40 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to the meeting.

**41 BUDGET MONITORING : 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2010/11**

The Committee considered the report of the Treasurer and Chief Officer (Item 5 in the Minute Book) setting out the latest budget position with a forecast underspend of £299,000. The Treasurer highlighted the underspendings identified in relation to the unallocated inflation contingency (-£125,000) and the pensions contingency (-£148,000) and explained the new requirement to report the mid-year review of treasury management activity. Members discussed the report and a number of points were clarified by the Chief Officer and Treasurer.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the financial position for 2010/11 be accepted.

(b) That it be a RECOMMENDATION to the Authority:

That the mid-year Treasury Management report, set out in Appendix B to the submitted report, be approved.

**42 PROVISIONAL BUDGET STRATEGY 20011/12 – 2014/15**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer and Treasurer (Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding various budget issues for the next four years together with possible parameters for setting the 2011/12 budget and council tax. The Treasurer and Director of Corporate Services gave presentations at the meeting on the likely implications of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review announced on 20 October, 2010. A copy of the Treasurer's presentation tabled at the meeting appears as Item 6(a) in the Minute Book).

Members discussed the item in detail and explored various alternative future budget planning scenarios for 2011/12 to 2014/15. They supported the key financial policy aims identified in the report and way forward being proposed. They agreed that the Chief Officer and the Chairman should give consideration to putting back by a week the date of the Authority meeting on 8 December, 2010 if this would give greater clarity in what was able to be reported to members on the medium-term financial strategy and draft budget for 2011/12 for the public consultation in January.

RESOLVED:

That the assessment of funding pressures and planning assumptions set out in the report and as updated by the Treasurer and Chief Officer at the meeting, be endorsed as a basis for preparing the Authority's medium-term financial strategy (2011/12-2014/15) and draft budget for 2011/12.

**43 CODE OF PRACTICE RELATING TO CONTRACTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on the Code of Practice Relating to Contracts which requires the Chief Officer to submit an annual report to the Authority giving details of proposed contracts for goods and services where each contract value is likely to exceed £50,000.

RESOLVED:

That the annual report on Contracts be noted.

**44 "FIREWATCH" MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on the progress being made with the procurement of the new "FireWatch" system and the intention for its speedy and successful implementation within the original total cost estimate for the project.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That progress in developing a robust project management system for "Fire Watch" be noted.
- (b) That approval be given for the establishment of a temporary, dedicated "Fire Watch" Implementation Team subject to the cost being contained within the total budget estimate agreed by the Authority at its meeting on 15

September, 2010.

45 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:**

That, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during those items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A 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 reports.

46 **VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME : PROGRESS ON CURRENT PROGRAMME AND PROPOSALS FOR THE THREE YEARS' 2011/12 TO 2014/15**

The Committee considered and approved the exempt report of the Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) concerning progress on the Authority's current vehicle replacement programme and on proposals for the next four years' 2011/12 to 2014/15.

[SUMMARY OF EXEMPT MINUTE]

47 **DISPOSAL OF COPNOR FIRE STATION**

The Committee considered and approved the exempt report of the Chief Officer (Item 11 in the Minute Book) on the disposal of Copnor Fire Station, Portsmouth.

[SUMMARY OF EXEMPT MINUTE]

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