

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 4 November 2015.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	John Bennison	p	Geoff Hockley
p	Graham Burgess (Vice Chairman)	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Roger Price
p	Roz Chadd	a	David Simpson
p	David Fuller	p	Luke Stubbs (Chairman)

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recordings for broadcasting purposes.

**112 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Simpson.

**113 DISCLOSURES 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.

There were no declarations of interest received for the meeting.

**114 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes from the meeting on the 8 July 2015 were agreed to be correct and signed by the Chairman.

**115 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

**116 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

## **117 ENFORCEMENT OF THE FIRE SAFETY ORDER: CROSS BORDER WORKING WITHIN THE NETWORK FIRE CONTROL PARTNERSHIP BOUNDARIES**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Fire Officer regarding Cross Border Working (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The Network Fire Control Partnership with neighbouring fire services was outlined to Members and it was explained that it contributed to a better service delivery as it allowed the nearest resource to be mobilised. The formal need to have a system of authorisation in place to exercise powers in relation to cross-border fire safety was set out and it was confirmed this would be supported with co-ordinated training of officers. The Committee heard that Dorset and Wiltshire were currently in the process of merging and for practical reasons the proposed agreement would come into force at the same time as the completion of the merger. Members supported the proposals and it was:

RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee RECOMMEND to the Full Authority that:

- a) It should, under Section 101 LGA, proceed with a formal agreement, within the Network Fire Control Partnership (NFCSP) allowing for its powers to enforce the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (the Order) to be delegated/exercised jointly with other partners in the NFCSP.
- b) Authority should be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer to finalise the terms of the formal agreement.
- c) The current authority delegated to the Chief Fire Officer to appoint inspectors and be empowered to inspect under the Order is extended to include the authority to appoint as inspectors individuals employed as inspectors by other authorities within NFSCP and for them to be empowered to inspect.
- d) Authority should be delegated to the Clerk to the Authority to make the necessary changes to the Scheme of Delegation.
- e) The training and procedures operated by the NFSCP should be such that the cross border fire safety warrants are only:
  - to be issued if all authorities in the NFCSP agree to delegating/jointly exercising these powers pursuant to a suitable agreement;
  - issued to individuals who would carry out the same role in their own Authority's boundaries, and that there is a confirmation of competence from the home Authority;
  - to be used by officers when they are tasked by the NFCSP and the officer is provided with an incident number.

## **118 PROPERTY AND PHYSICAL ASSET RELATED MATTERS**

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer and Chief Finance

Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding asset related matters where action has already been taken under delegated powers, or where approval is sought for more significant actions. These are reported in accordance with the Authority's Scheme of Delegation.

The actions taken at Winchester Fire Station, Eastleigh Fire Station and in relation to the fleet management system were detailed. With regards to the lease at Eastleigh Fire Station, it was confirmed that the rental of space to the H3 Partnership occupational health team would be at nil value. The extent of the undervalue was confirmed and Members were referred to the requirements of the Secretary of State's general disposal consent. The occupational health team supported the provision of a high quality service to the public by the Fire and Rescue Service through the H3 Partnership. Members also noted that the Service received considerable benefit in other shared, back office areas from the Partnership, for which no charging of office space was levied. Following discussion with the officers, the Committee was satisfied that the proposal helped to secure the improvement of the economic well-being of its area. Members supported the collaboration with partners in the actions that had been taken.

RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

- a) Note the actions taken under delegated powers (see paragraph 3.2).
- b) Approve the grant of a lease to Hampshire County Council of the former training annexe at Eastleigh Fire Station, on the proposed terms set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

## **119 PENSION BOARD – FORMAL DOCUMENTATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Finance (Item 8 in the Minute Book), which confirmed additional information regarding the Breaches Policy and Conflicts of Interest Policy, following its presentation to the Board on the 27 July 2015.

The need to update the Terms of Reference of the Pension Board with regards to actions to be taken in the event of a conflict of interest not being declared by a Member, or in the event of a potential breach in pension regulations being reported was explained. The proposed updates to the Terms of Reference were considered by the Committee and it was confirmed that no further preparatory action to invoke these was required. With regard to the proposed actions, it was also noted that the Monitoring Officer was the Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Finance & General Purposes Committee:

- a) Approve the Terms of Reference and associated documents contained in Appendix 1. 2; and

- b) Note the early work of the Pension Board in carrying out its function.

## **120 ESTATES TRANSFORMATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding the progress of Estates Transformation projects, including the work at Headquarters and the Station Partnerships that are developing across the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) Estate.

The key areas of progress on the transformation of Headquarters were detailed to the Committee and it was confirmed that the first phase of works was complete and had moved into a fitting out stage. The slippage that had occurred to the schedule was questioned and Members heard that this resulted from unforeseen structural requirements, but had been managed within the contingency and so far as possible, it was not anticipated that similar delays would arise in the remaining works.

The station partnerships were based on a successful bid for funding to the Department of Communities and Local Government. Members discussed the level of co-operation between fire and police officers on the ground and it was confirmed that a full partnership approach was in place and that common aims and strong personal relationships helped to ensure that this worked well.

The Committee heard that the delegation to the Director of Professional Services being requested was to ensure delays did not occur during periods in which no Fire Authority or Committee meetings were to be convened.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

- a) Note the progress towards delivery of a shared Fire and Police Headquarters with Hampshire Constabulary
- b) Note the progress towards delivery of Station Partnerships at six other HFRS sites; and
- c) Delegate authority to the Director of Professional Services to enter lease or licence agreements in respect of the Station Partnerships in this paper where authority is not already granted under the scheme of delegation.

## **121 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved:

That in relation to the following item the public be excluded from the meeting, 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 the item 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 report.

**122 EXEMPT MINUTE**

The committee confirmed the Exempt Minute from the 8 July 2015 meeting and the Chairman signed it as a correct record.

**123 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME: PROPOSALS FOR 2016/17 TO 2020/21**

The Committee received an exempt report from the Chief Officer (Item 12 in the Minute Book) regarding vehicle replacement proposals for 2016/17.

RESOLVED:

That the Finance and General Purposes Committee:

Approve the vehicle replacement programme for the years 2016/17 to 2017/18 as set out in appendix 2 to the report, subject to the approval of the Capital Programme by the Fire Authority at its meeting on 24 February 2016.

(Summary of an exempt minute)