

COUNCIL MEETING, 20 MAY, 2010  
REPORT OF THE  
HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

TRAGIC DEATHS OF FIREFIGHTERS ALAN BANNON AND JAMES SHEARS  
OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

1. Since the last meeting of the Authority, it is with great sadness to report that Firefighter Alan Bannon, aged 38 and Firefighter James Shears, aged 35 tragically lost their lives whilst tackling a fire at Shirley Towers, Shirley, Southampton on Tuesday, 6 April 2010.
2. Alan and James were whole time fire-fighters from Red Watch at St Mary's Fire Station, Southampton. Alan had been in the Service for eight and a half years and James for just under seven years. Both funerals were "family funerals" but were, nevertheless, supported by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.
3. The Chief Officer will provide a briefing to Members of the Authority on the Shirley Towers incident at the next meeting on 9 June 2010.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVES FOR HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
PLAN 2010-2013

1. The Authority's Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan covers a three year period which is reviewed, consulted on and updated annually. The process for preparing the Plan, is well established and ensures the corporate objectives in the Plan remain relevant in the changing context in which the Service operates and is responsive to its various stakeholders.
2. The Authority has approved six corporate objectives for inclusion in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2010-2013. They are as follows:
  - New risk based response standards
  - Making best use of firefighters
  - Tackling small fires in a better way
  - Increasing contact with the public
  - Creating a dedicated fire investigation service
  - Reviewing staff numbers.
3. In response to valuable feedback from consultation with staff, stakeholders and other interested parties, one of the original seven proposed corporate objectives "Getting to incidents in rural areas faster" was removed and the wording of others was either clarified or improved upon. The reason for removing the 'rural incidents' objective was due mainly to logistical and safety issues. However, the need to get to such incidents faster is still a concern, so further research and development will be carried out with the

intention of bringing this back for consideration at a future date.

4. Other key points that emerged from consultation included:
  - Staff said they would appreciate being better engaged prior to the corporate objectives being developed. As a result the planning cycle for the Plan is to be changed from 2011/12 to enable this to happen. Also a major new staff consultation exercise called 'Project Engage' had been launched which aims to address this request.
  - During consultation members of the public commented that, when dealing with emergency calls, the caller should be advised where Fire Service resources are coming from, and be given an indication of how long it was likely to take to get to the incident. This suggestion is also being taken forward by the Service.
5. This report arises from consideration of the report of the Chief Officer to the Authority on 10 February, 2010 and is on Hantsweb at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/meetingssummary.htm?dateID=488>. It provides further details on this item.

## RETIREMENT OF ALAN HOUSE, DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER

1. The Authority has paid tribute to Deputy Chief Officer Alan House who is to retire on 7 May, 2010 after forty-two years service. As well as a distinguished career, he is the longest serving uniformed principal officer in any fire and rescue service across the Country. He is currently in the process of researching and developing a charitable trust for Hampshire's Heritage Collection and is shortly due to unveil a firefighter memorial at Service Headquarters, Eastleigh. On behalf of the Authority, Alan House and his wife were wished a very long, healthy and happy retirement.

ROYSTON SMITH (SOUTHAMPTON)  
Chairman

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