

COUNCIL MEETING, 15 JULY, 2010

REPORT OF THE

HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

IMPLICATIONS ARISING FROM THE SHIRLEY TOWERS INCIDENT ON 6 APRIL 2010

1. The tragic incident on 6 April 2010 at Shirley Towers, in which two firefighters died, had a profound impact on the Service. Everyone who works for the Service, in every part of the organisation, will have been affected in some way. For many the incident has also significantly impacted on their workloads. The Authority was made aware that there would inevitably be cost implications and the following were highlighted in the report:

Human resources:

Secondments of staff to form Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service own investigation team; Overtime and additional travel for staff involved in additional work and duties; Cost of engaging the services of London Fire Brigade to assist police in fire investigation; Cost of engaging the services of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service to assist police in the investigation of the deaths of the firefighters; additional legal costs.

Physical Resources:

Relatively minor additional costs in rearranging office accommodation, providing office equipment and office consumables for investigation team.

Information and communications technology resources:

Relatively minor additional costs in setting –up additional ICT workstations/ telephony for accident investigation team.

Financial implications:

Insurance excesses; Any uninsured liabilities; Potential increase in insurance premiums from 2011/12; Cost of payments to the families of the two firefighters who died.

2. Any lessons which may be learnt from the aftermath of this tragic incident will be carefully assessed to see whether there are any actions which may be taken to improve services both for the benefit of the public and staff .If so, these will be implemented.
3. The report arises from consideration of the report of the Chief Officer to the Authority on 9 June and is on Hantsweb (see below) and provides further information on this item.
http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/meetingssummary.htm?date_ID=493

REVIEW OF CURRENT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING ARRANGEMENTS

1. The Governance Committee was asked to review and make recommendations to the Authority, on the Authority's current committee and decision making arrangements, to ensure that these remain efficient and fit for purpose.
2. The approach taken was to invite each of the Authority committees to consider its particular terms of reference and report back to the Governance Committee on any changes recommended.
3. The review has been a useful and timely exercise with all members engaging in discussion about the role that they play in the Authority's overall governance practices. As a result of this, a number of suggested improvements have been made, including greater provision for effective member involvement in strategic planning and scrutiny of performance, in relation to Service Plan priorities and the securing of better outcomes for local people. A number of changes to Committees' terms of reference were proposed.
4. The Governance Committee's recommendations were approved for implementation by the Authority at its Annual Meeting on 9 June ,2010.

HAMPSHIRE BLUE LAMP TRUST

1. The proposed Hampshire Blue Lamp Trust is a joint initiative between Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and Hampshire Constabulary. The Trust's aim would be to work with Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams and HFRS local officers to support vulnerable people and victims of crime with an emphasis on such things as, violence, anti-social behaviour and fire safety; provide community grants that meet the Trust's charitable objectives and deliver a driving training school so commercial partners are able to train their staff on road safety. It would be funded by business grants from established bodies and income generated for services provided.
2. The Authority supports the proposal to establish the Blue Lamp Trust in principle and, if and when established, to fund one administrative post for one year whilst area based funding is secured for future years. The Chairman of the Authority and Chief Officer would be appointed as Members of the Board of Trustees. However, if the initiative should go ahead, the Authority have asked for a report back to the Governance Committee on its first year of operation and funding arrangements.
3. The report arises from consideration of the report of the Chief Officer to the Authority on 9 June, 2010 and is on Hantsweb at http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/meetingssummary.htm?date_ID=493 . It provides further information and details on this item.

ROYSTON SMITH (SOUTHAMPTON)
Chairman