

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

(Budget Meeting)

16 February 2009

Present:

Councillors B. Hughes (Chairman), Button, Cann, Clatworthy, Foggin, Ford, Fry, Gordon, Healey, S. Hughes, Leaves, Lewis, Manning, Mochnacz, Mrs. Nicholson, Parker, Mrs. Parsons, Tully, Viney, Wallace, Way and Yeomans

Apologies:

Councillors Dyke, Hannon and Shadrick.

Also in Attendance:

Messrs. Phillips, Watson and Withers (Independent Members of the Standards Committee).

DSFRA/71. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2008 be signed as a correct record.

DSFRA/72. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to consider whether they had any **personal/personal and prejudicial interests** in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and declare any such interests at this time.

Councillors Mochnacz and Tully declared personal but non-prejudicial interests in the item on the proposed Authority response the draft FiReControl Part 2 Business Case by virtue of their being this Authority's appointed Director and alternate Director, respectively, on South West Fire Control Limited, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre (RCC).

DSFRA/73. Minutes of Committees etc.

(a) Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Fry, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee held on 14 January 2009 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on proposed improvements to service delivery in respect of prevention activities;
- a report on a proposed partnership governance framework and toolkit for the Service;
- an update on projects relating to the Retained Duty System (RDS);
- a proposal to develop a new, harmonised Operational Risk Information System (ORIS); and

- a report on targets to be included in the Corporate Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12 under Goal 1 (to proactively reduce risk, to save life, protect property and the environment from fire and other emergencies) and Goal 3 (to provide an efficient, effective and economic service)

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/74 BELOW)

(b) Human Resources Management and Development Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Cann, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Human Resources Management and Development Committee held on 22 January 2009 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on absence management;
- a report on progressing issues arising from the recently-conducted staff survey;
- a presentation on the Corporate Manslaughter Bill and its implications for the Authority;
- a report on proposed measures to enhance service delivery in relation to prevention activities and other community safety initiatives;
- a report on targets to be included in the Authority's Corporate Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12 under Goal 2 (to be an employer of choice);
- an update on projects relating to the Retained Duty System;
- a proposed work programme for the Committee; and
- a report on the job evaluation scheme for non-uniformed staff.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the recommendations at Minute HRMDC/36 (Job Evaluation for Non-Uniformed Staff) be considered in conjunction with this item as featured later on the agenda for this meeting;
- (ii) that, subject to (i) above and in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/74 AND DSFRA/83 BELOW)

(c) Resources Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Gordon, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 4 February 2009 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on the proposed Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12 and associated Prudential Indicators;
- a report on the proposed 2009/10 revenue budget and Council Tax level; and
- a monitoring report on the 2008/09 revenue budget.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the recommendations at Minutes RC/19 (Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12 and Associated Prudential Indicators) and RC/20 (2009/10 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Level) be considered in conjunction with these items later on the agenda for this meeting;

- (ii) that, subject to (i) above and in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/75(a) TO (d) INCLUSIVE BELOW).

(d) Audit and Performance Review Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Wallace **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 5 February 2009 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on the performance of the Service from 1 April to 31 December 2008 against those goals, priorities, activities and targets as identified in the Corporate Plan 2008/09 to 2010/11;
- a presentation on Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and its implications for the Authority;
- a progress report on work completed or being progressed by the Audit Commission;
- final Audit Commission reports (together with Service Action Plans) on reviews undertaken in 2007/08 of Control Environment and Material Systems for the Authority and the Authority's financial statements; and
- the outcome of the recent Use of Resources Assessment for the Authority as undertaken by the Audit Commission.

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/76 BELOW).

DSFRA/74. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority Corporate Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/09/1) to which was appended the proposed final Authority Corporate Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12. The Authority had approved a draft Plan for consultation purposes at its meeting on 23 October 2008 (Minute DSFRA/49 refers).

The report set out the methodology for and results of the consultation and detailed those amendments to the Plan arising from the outcome of the consultation. The final Plan as presented for approval also included those targets considered and approved by the recently held meetings of the Community Safety and Corporate Planning and Human Resources Management and Development Committees.

In debating the report Members commented in particular:-

- on the improvements by the Service during the last twelve months in reducing sickness absences and the need – as reflected by targets contained in the proposed Plan – to maintain the impetus on this;
- on the importance – as reflected in the Plan – of promoting fire prevention and community safety initiatives;
- that future consultation exercises might be further enhanced, particularly in areas such as North Devon, by use of more local media.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the final Corporate Plan 2009/10 to 2011/12, as enclosed with the agenda for the meeting and revised to reflect, where appropriate, the results of stakeholder consultation, be approved;
- (b) that the results of the Corporate Plan consultation and meetings with Community Groups be further used to contribute to the development of corporate equality scheme 'Making the Connections';
- (c) that the final Corporate Plan be used as a basis for further activities to increase awareness of the contribution that the Service can make to its partners in order to improve safety for the public.
- (d) that, subject to (a) to (c) above, the report (including the results of the consultation on the draft Corporate Plan) be noted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/73(a) AND (b) ABOVE).

DSFRA/75. Revenue And Capital Budgets 2009/10

(a) Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12

The Authority considered a joint report of the Head of Physical Assets and the Treasurer (DSFRA/09/2) on the proposed Capital Programme for the Authority for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12. The Programme as set out in the report was the same as that submitted to, and commended for approval by, the Resources Committee at its meeting on 4 February 2009 (Minute RC/19 refers). Elsewhere on the agenda for the meeting was a report addressing the Prudential Indicators (dealing with affordability) associated with the proposed Programme.

In debating the report, Members commented in particular on:

- the methodology used for prioritisation of capital schemes;
- proposed accessibility works to Topsham Fire Station;
- the current position in relation to Brixham Fire Station;
- fleet management processes including those for the acquisition and disposal of appliances.

The Head of Physical Assets informed the Authority that – in accordance with the activities set out in the Corporate Plan - an asset review (to cover, amongst other things, types and distribution of resources) would be undertaken during the next twelve months the results of which would be reported to a future meeting of the Authority. The Chief Fire Officer commented that Service always sought to balance the priority for capital works with available resources and the need to comply with legislative requirements (e.g. accessibility) and that, pending submission of the asset review report, a report would be submitted for consideration by the Authority at its next meeting on capital work prioritisation in general, the position in relation to Topsham and Brixham fire stations in particular and on principles for community/public use of/access to fire stations.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the proposed Capital Programme 2009/10 to 2011/12, as set out in report DSFRA/09/2 and summarised in Appendix A to these Minutes, be approved;

- (ii) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority on capital work prioritisation (with reference to Topsham and Brixham fire stations) and on principles for community/public use of/access to fire stations.

(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/73(c) ABOVE AND DSFRA/75(b) BELOW

(b) Prudential Indicators Report 2009/10 to 2011/12 and Treasury Management Statement

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer (DSFRA/09/3) setting out:

- the Prudential Indicators associated with the 2009/10 to 2011/12 Capital Programme;
- a treasury management and investment strategy for 2009/10 to 2011/12; and
- a Minimum Revenue Provision Statement for 2009/10.

The Local Government Act 2003 and supporting regulations required the Authority to “have regard to” the Prudential Code and to set appropriate indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Authority’s capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. The Act also required the Authority to set out, for the same three year period, its Treasury Strategy for borrowing and an Annual Investment Strategy for managing its investments and for giving security and liquidity to these.

The Authority was also statutorily required, from the current financial year, to determine for each financial year in question the Minimum Revenue Provision that it considered to be prudent in relation to the spread of capital expenditure over a number of years. The Authority was also required to publish, prior to the start of the financial year to which the provision would relate, a statement on its policy for annual Minimum Revenue Provision.

This report was considered in conjunction with report DSFRA/09/2 on the proposed Capital Programme for the Authority for the period 2009/10 to 2011/12.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the Prudential Indicators and limits for the Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy 2009/10 to 2011/12 contained in report DSFRA/09/3 and summarised in Appendix B to these Minutes be approved;
- (ii) that the Treasury Management Strategy including the Annual Investment Strategy as detailed in the report be approved;
- (iii) that the Treasurer be delegated authority to effect movements between the separately agreed limits for borrowing;
- (iv) that the Minimum Revenue Provision statement for 2009/2010 as set out at Appendix C to these Minutes be approved;
- (v) that the statement at Section 7 of this report that borrowing limits and the debt management strategy have been set to ensure that net borrowing remains below the capital financing requirement for 2009/2010 to 2011/2012, in line with the requirements of the CIPFA Prudential Code, be noted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/73(c) AND DSFRA/75(a) ABOVE).

(c) 2009/10 Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levels

The Authority considered a joint report of the Treasurer and the Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/09/4) on a proposed revenue budget and associated Council Tax level for the Authority in 2009/10. The Authority was required to set its level of revenue budget and Council Tax level for the forthcoming financial year before 1 March to enable the Council Tax billing authorities in Devon and Somerset to be notified of the level of precept required by the Authority for 2009/10.

The report detailed the final Local Government Finance Settlement for the Authority in 2009/10 (the second year of a three year settlement) as announced on 21 January 2009:

	£m	%
Formula Grant 2009/10	30.529	
Increase over 2008/09 Grant	0.615	2.1

The government had also indicated that at present there were no proposals to change the indicative figure for 2010/11 (a formula grant of £31.245m, representing a £0.716m [2.3%] increase on the 2009/10 grant).

The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) included the following headline figures for public spending over the next three years:-

- that provision had been made for increases in spending at an average of 1% per year in real terms over the next three years;
- that these increases were underpinned by an ambitious value for money programme for local government to deliver cash-releasing savings of 3% per year; and
- that the settlement would enable local authorities to keep Council Tax rises low with the Government expecting the overall increase to be well under 5% in each of the next three years.

While the capping criteria for Council Tax had not been announced, in announcing the provisional grant settlement for 2009/10 the Government had re-emphasised the statement made in the CSR 2007 that “for 2009/10 the Government expects the overall increase to be significantly below 5%”.

The report set out a draft Commitment Revenue Budget of £73.039m - a 3.9% increase on the approved 2008/09 budget (equating to a Band D Council Tax increase of 4.9%) – summarised as follows:-

	£m	%
Approved Net Revenue Budget Requirement 2008/09	70.302	
PLUS		
- Provision for pay and price increases	1.833	2.6
- Inescapable Commitments	0.992	1.4
- Essential Spending Needs	0.585	0.8
MINUS		
- Efficiency Savings	(0.673)	(0.9)
DRAFT REVENUE COMMITMENT BUDGET 2009/10	73.039	3.9
INCREASE IN BAND D COUNCIL TAX OVER 2008/09		4.9

The report set out the implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2009/10 to 2011/12 of funding the above draft revenue budget proposal. Details of the inescapable commitments, essential spending needs and efficiency savings (which featured reductions in support areas) were appended to the report.

In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 non-domestic ratepayers had been consulted on the Authority's proposals for expenditure. The report outlined the results of this consultation the main findings of which indicated that the majority (68%) of all respondents felt that an increase of 4.9% (to £69.81) in Band D Council Tax represented value for money.

The report also set out details on an appropriate level of financial reserves to be held against any unforeseen expenditure that may arise during 2009/10. At its budget meeting the previous year the Authority had resolved to adopt an "in principle" strategy to maintain the level of reserves at a minimum of 5% of the revenue budget for any given financial year, with this level only being breached in exceptional circumstances as determined by a risk assessment (Minute DSFRA/80 refers). Given the current economic climate, it was advised that the Authority should seek to protect reserves and balances as much as possible and that – even with a reserve balance equivalent to 6.9% - the Authority would still be placed in the lower quartile when compared to all fire and rescue authorities (the average reserve balance being 13.5%).

While a 4.9% increase in Band D Council Tax was unlikely to expose the Authority to risk of capping, comparative information suggested that it would represent the highest percentage increase of all fire and rescue authorities in the country. In light of this it was proposed that the Authority should not consider any increase in Band D Council Tax in excess of 4.5%. Consequently, the report outlined four potential options for budget and Band D Council Tax level in 2009/10 – each of which was accompanied by an associated risk assessment and details of how the necessary reductions might be secured – summarised as follows:-

Option	Initial draft revenue commitment budget 2009/10 £m	Revised draft revenue commitment budget 2009/10 £m	Reduction required on initial draft revenue commitment budget £m	Council Tax Band D Property £ p	Council Tax increase over 2008/09 £ p	Council Tax increase over 2008/09 %
A	73.039	72.899	(0.140)	69.58	3.00	4.5
B	73.039	72.659	(0.380)	69.18	2.60	3.9
C	73.039	72.499	(0.540)	68.92	2.34	3.5
D	73.039	72.299	(0.740)	68.59	2.01	3.0

Each of the above options had been considered by the Resources Committee at its meeting on 4 February 2009 which had resolved, amongst other things, to recommend Option B for approval by the Authority (Minute RC/20 refers).

Councillor Lewis **MOVED** and Councillor Clatworthy **SECONDED**:-

“that the Authority be recommended to approve Option D - providing for a revenue budget in 2009/10 of £72.29m (equating to a Band D Council Tax of £68.59 – an increase of £2.01 [3%] on the figure for 2008/09).”

Councillor Healey **MOVED** and Councillor Mochnacz **SECONDED** that the above Motion be **AMENDED** by the deletion of all words after “approve” and the replacement thereby of the following words:-

“...the recommendation as set out in report DSFRA/09/4 i.e. to ratify the recommendation of the Resources Committee to approve Option B – providing for a revenue budget in 2009/10 of £72.659m (equating to a Band D Council Tax of £69.18 – an increase of £2.60 [3.9%] on the figure for 2008/09).”

Councillor Clatworthy **MOVED** and Councillor S. Hughes **SECONDED** that, in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) the voting on the above detailed Motion and Amendment be by roll call and recorded. Upon a vote, this Motion was **CARRIED**.

In debating the report and proposals Members asked that a report be submitted to a future meeting setting out a risk assessment in relation to the level of reserves for the Authority.

The Amendment was then put to the vote and was carried by 16 votes **FOR** to 6 **AGAINST**.

There being no further amendments, the Amendment (as Moved by Councillor Healey and Seconded by Councillor Mochnacz) was then put to the Authority as the substantive Motion upon which it was

RESOLVED (by 16 votes FOR to 6 AGAINST):

That the recommendation from the meeting of the Resources Committee held on 4 February 2009 that, from the four options (Options A to D) for revenue budget and council tax levels for 2009/2010 considered, Option B be approved and therefore that

- (i) the Net Budget Requirement for the Authority in 2009/10 of £72,659,000 be approved;
- (ii) a level of Council Tax in 2009/10 of £69.18 for a Band D property, representing an increase of 3.90% over the figure for 2008/2009, be approved;
- (iii) the tax base for payment purposes and the precept required from each billing authority for payment of the total precept of £41,900,779, as detailed in Appendix F to report DSFRA/09/4 and set out below, be approved;

Billing Authority	Tax Base Used for Collection £ p	Surplus for 2008/09 £	Precepts due 2009/10 £	Total due 2009/10 £
East Devon	56,771.00	47,000	3,927,501	3,974,501
Exeter	37,700.00	14,394	2,608,141	2,622,535
Mendip	39,743.53	11,210	2,749,516	2,760,726
Mid Devon	27,813.60	72,636	1,924,186	1,996,822
North Devon	34,564.95	(5,779)	2,391,254	2,385,475
Plymouth City	76,750.00	(10,843)	5,309,676	5,298,833
Sedgemoor	39,221.90	81,781	2,713,428	2,795,209
South Hams	37,626.03	0	2,603,024	2,603,024
South Somerset	59,802.02	19,691	4,137,191	4,156,882
Taunton Deane	40,399.85	(38,295)	2,794,921	2,756,626
Teignbridge	48,803.00	(4,599)	3,376,263	3,371,664
Torbay	48,299.22	0	3,341,411	3,341,411
Torrige	23,327.08	37,595	1,613,802	1,651,397
West Devon	20,205.75	3,302	1,397,863	1,401,165
West Somerset	14,636.90	1,100	1,012,602	1,013,702
TOTAL	605,664.83	229,193	41,900,779	42,129,972

- (iv) the council tax for each property bands A to H associated with a total precept of £41,900,779 as detailed in Appendix F to report DSFRA/09/4 and set out overleaf, be approved.

Valuation Band	Government Multiplier		Council Tax £ p
	Ratio	%	
A	6/9	0.667	46.12
B	7/9	0.778	53.81
C	8/9	0.889	61.49
D	1	1.000	69.18
E	11/9	1.222	84.55
F	13/9	1.444	99.93
G	15/9	1.667	115.30
H	18/9	2.000	138.36

NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order 25(2) a role call vote on this matter was requested and agreed by a majority of those Members present and voting at the meeting. The following votes in relation to the above decision were duly recorded:

FOR (16)	AGAINST (6)
Councillor Button	Councillor Clatworthy
Councillor Cann	Councillor Foggin
Councillor Ford	Councillor S. Hughes
Councillor Fry	Councillor Lewis
Councillor Gordon	Councillor Manning
Councillor Healey	Councillor Wallace
Councillor B. Hughes	
Councillor Leaves	
Councillor Mochnacz	
Councillor Mrs. Nicholson	
Councillor Parker	
Councillor Mrs. Parsons	
Councillor Tully	
Councillor Viney	
Councillor Way	
Councillor Yeomans	

(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/73(c) ABOVE DSFRA/75(d) BELOW).

(d) Statement on the Robustness of the Budget Estimates and Adequacy of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority's Levels of Reserves

The Authority received a report of the Treasurer (DSFRA/09/5) on the robustness of the budget estimates for 2009/10 and adequacy of the level of reserves as required by Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003. This report was considered in conjunction with report DSFRA/09/4 which set out four options for levels of revenue budget and Council Tax in 2009/10.

While each of the four budget options presented in report DSFRA/09/4 were considered deliverable, with implementation not increasing the Authority's risk exposure to an unacceptable level for 2009/10, it was advocated that decisions on the level of revenue budget and Council Tax for 2009/10 should be taken in the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and the potential impact on the next two financial years (i.e. 2010/11 and 2011/12).

The report also identified a current General Reserve balance of £4.291m, equating to 6.1% of the current (2008/09) revenue budget. The level of General Reserve for 2009/10 would be dependent on the revenue outturn position for 2008/09. An underspend of £0.665m was indicated against the approved budget for 2008/09 and should this materialise and be transferred to the General Reserve this would result in a balance of approximately £5m, representing approximately 6.9% of the 2009/10 revenue budget. Although this would be the fourth lowest level of General Reserve when compared to other combined fire and rescue authorities in the country (29 out of 33), the judgement of the Treasurer was that an estimated level of General Reserve of £5m would be adequate to meet all reasonable forecasts of future liabilities.

(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/73(c) AND DSFRA/75(c) ABOVE).

DSFRA/76. Direction of Travel and Use of Resources Assessment 2008

The Authority was informed of the publication by the Audit Commission, on 12 February 2009, of the Direction of Travel and Use Resources Assessments 2008. The Authority had been judged to be “improving well”, delivering good results to its communities, and had secured a score of 3 (performing well – consistently above minimum requirements) in its Use of Resources Assessment. The Use of Resources Assessment result had been reported to the meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 5 February 2009 (Minute *APRC/26 refers).

The Chief Fire Officer commented that, while this was a pleasing result, the Service was committed to securing improved ratings from future assessments.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/73(d) ABOVE)

DSFRA/77. Proposals for Closure of 2008/09 Accounts

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/09/6) on proposed additional meeting dates required for the Authority to determine the final outturn position in relation to the 2008/09 revenue budget and to approve the Authority’s Statement of Accounts for that financial year by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2009.

RESOLVED that meetings of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority be held on the following dates to consider the issues outlined:

- 10.00hours, Wednesday 27 May 2009 (determination of final outturn position for the 2008/09 revenue budget);
- 10.00hours, Monday 29 June 2009 (approval of Statement of Accounts 2008/09).

DSFRA/78. Draft Firecontrol Part 2 Business Case Consultation - Proposed Authority Response

The Authority considered a draft response to the draft Part 2 FiReControl Business Case as published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) in November 2008. Stakeholders had been invited to submit comments by 27 February 2009.

The draft response considered by the Authority had been informed by the response to the draft Part 2 Business Case approved by the South West Regional Management Board at its meeting on 28 January 2009; by the earlier response of this Authority to the Part 1 Business Case; and by feedback from a Member Workshop held on 4 February 2009 on the draft Part 2 Business Case.

RESOLVED that the draft response as submitted to and considered by the Authority be approved and the Chairman authorised to submit it on behalf of the Authority to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/79 BELOW).

DSFRA/79. South West Regional Management Board

The Authority received for information the Minutes of the meeting of the South West Regional Management Board held on 28 January 2009 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a Highlight report summarising progress on projects being supported by the South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (SW RIEP) and by workstreams addressing issues on a regional basis;
- the second edition of the Regional newsletter produced to raise awareness of regional collaboration;
- a report on proposals to develop a regional climate change strategy;
- a report on the Board's budget 2008/09 and 2009/10;
- reports on the FiReControl project addressing the implications of the recently-announced delay to the project; consultations on both the draft Part 2 Business Case and Performance Standards; and the response received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) to the representations made by the Board in relation to the requirement for an Incident Recording System.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/78 ABOVE).

DSFRA/80. Chairman's Announcements

The Authority received, for information, a schedule of activities undertaken by the Chairman on behalf of the Authority since its last meeting.

DSFRA/81. Chief Fire Officer's Announcements

The Chief Fire Officer reported on incidents attended by the Service during the recent severe weather conditions experienced in both Devon and Somerset.

Members of the Authority joined with the Chief Fire Officer in placing on record their appreciation and thanks to all those Service staff involved in responding to the incidents.

DSFRA/82. Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act, namely information relating to negotiations in connection with a labour relations matter between the Authority and its staff.

DSFRA/83. Job Evaluation for Non-Uniformed Staff

(An item taken in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 during consideration of which the press and public were excluded from the meeting).

The Authority considered a report of Head of Human Resources Management and Development (HRMDC/9/05) on progress to date in relation to job evaluation for non-uniformed staff. The report detailed a proposed pay and grading structure which the Authority was commended to approve to enable the Service to seek to reach agreement with UNISON. The report had previously been considered by the Human Resources Management and Development Committee at its meeting on 22 January 2009 which had resolved to commend the recommendations in the report for approval by the Authority.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the proposed pay and grading structure as set out in paragraph 4 of report HRMDC/09/5 be adopted;
- (b) that, in relation to pay protection (and given that incremental increases and cost of living increases have been made in the two previous financial years):
 - (i) an incremental increase and cost of living rise be applied for 2009/10 to match the commitment made to staff at the point of combination; and;
 - (ii) a further year of continued protection be made for 2010/11 by way of a cost of living rise only (i.e. without any further incremental increases);
- (c) that, to facilitate (a) and (b) above, additional budget provision as identified in paragraph 5.2 of report HRMDC/09/5 be made.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/73(b) ABOVE).

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 12.55hours.

**APPENDIX A TO THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2009**

Proposed Capital Programme (2009/10 - 2011/12)

PREV YEARS (£000)	2008/09 (£000)	PROJECT	2009/10 (£000)	2010/11 (£000)	2011/12 (£000)	Project Total incl. prev years (£000)
		<u>Estate Development</u>				
661	1,522	Exeter Middlemoor	1,769	150		4,102
61	1,187	Exeter Danes Castle	1,692	103		3,043
	469	Other Projects				
		Funded Capital grant	870	1,193		2,063
		Allocation			1,000	1,000
	483	Maintenance ring fenced	750	750	750	2,733
		2008/09 slippage	231			231
	624	2007/08 slippage				
	4,285	Estates Sub Total	5,312	2,196	1,750	
		<u>Fleet & Equipment</u>	-			
	1,155	Appliance replacement	1,675	880		3,710
	200	Specialist Operational Vehicles	368			568
		Vehicle replacement programme	870	3,140	2,000	6,010
	259	Equipment	319	319	319	1,216
26	55	Asset Management Plan (Miquest) software	144			225
		2008/09 slippage	50			50
	400	2007/08 slippage				
	170	BA cylinder replacement				
	2,239	Fleet & Equipment Sub Total	3,426	4,339	2,319	
	6,524	Overall Capital Totals	8,738	6,535	4,069	

Note that the total of £25,866 for 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 equates directly with the sums presented to Resources Committee on 8 December 2008 in the report: Affordable Capital Investment Plans 2009/10 to 2011/12. The only movement is that the overall slippage for 2008/09 has been updated from £655,000 to £536,000, but the totals remain the same.

**APPENDIX B TO THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2009**

PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR	2009/10 £m estimate	2010/11 £m estimate	2011/12 £m estimate
Capital Expenditure			
Non - HRA	8.738	6.535	4.069
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0	0	0
TOTAL	8.738	6.535	4.069
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream			
Non - HRA	3.42%	4.19%	4.67%
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0%	0%	0%
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March			
Non - HRA	28.673	32.048	33.761
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0	0	0
TOTAL	28.673	32.048	33.761
Annual change in Cap. Financing Requirement			
Non - HRA	2.860	3.375	1.713
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0	0	0
TOTAL	2.860	3.375	1.713
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions	£ p	£ p	£ p
Increase/(decrease) in council tax (band D) per annum	(£0.36)	(£0.47)	£0.12
TREASURY MANAGEMENT PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS			
	£000	£000	£000
Authorised Limit for external debt - borrowing	36.628	38.602	40.205
other long term liabilities	0	0	0
TOTAL	36.628	38.602	40.205
Operational Boundary for external debt - borrowing	33.761	35.397	36.829
other long term liabilities	0	0	0
TOTAL	33.761	35.397	36.829

	upper limit %	lower limit %
Limits on borrowing at fixed interest rates	100%	70%
Limits on borrowing at variable interest rates	30%	0%
Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2009/10		
Under 12 months	10%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	15%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	50%	0%
10 years and above	100%	50%

**APPENDIX C TO THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF THE DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2009**

DEVON AND SOMERSET FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINIMUM REVENUE STATEMENT (MRP) 2009/2010

Supported Borrowing

The MRP will be calculated using the regulatory method (option 1). MRP will therefore be calculated using the formulae in the old regulations, since future entitlement to RSG in support of this borrowing will continue to be calculated on this basis.

Un-Supported Borrowing (including un-supported borrowing prior to 1st April 2008)

The MRP in respect of unsupported borrowing under the prudential system will be calculated using the asset life method (option 3). The MRP will therefore be calculated to repay the borrowing in equal annual instalments over the life of the class of assets which it is funding. The repayment period of all such borrowing will be calculated when it takes place and will be based on the finite life of the class of asset at that time and will not be changed.

MRP will normally commence in the financial year following the one in which the expenditure was incurred. However, when borrowing to construct an asset, the authority may treat the asset life as commencing in the year in which the asset first becomes operational. It may accordingly postpone the beginning to make MRP until that year. Investment properties will be regarded as becoming operational when they begin to generate revenues.