

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

(Ordinary Meeting)

14 July 2009

Present:-

Councillors Hughes OBE (Chairman), Boyd, Burridge-Clayton, Cann, Dyke, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gordon, Gribble, Healey, Horsfall, Leaves, Manning, Mrs. Nicholson, Radford, Smith, Turner, Viney, Wallace, Way, Woodman and Yeomans

Apologies:-

Councillors Mills and Randall Johnson

DSFRA/9. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2009 be signed as a correct record.

DSFRA/10. Declarations of Interest

Members of the Authority 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.

Councillor Healey declared a **personal but non-prejudicial interest** in the Minutes of the meeting of the Regional Management Board held on 23 June 2009 – in so far as these related to the FiReControl Project – by virtue of his appointment by this Authority as a Director on South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/13 BELOW)

DSFRA/11. International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer (DSFRA/09/21) on the requirement for the Authority to adopt the International Finance Reporting Standards (IFRS) in place of the current UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP). The Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) had announced a new governance framework for the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting to reflect this change and the new Code was currently being developed by the Financial Reporting Advisory Body.

Although the Authority would not be required to produce fully compliant IFRS accounts until 2010/11, it would be necessary to produce an IFRS-compliant opening balance sheet as at 1 April 2009 because of the need to provide full comparative data.

The report indicated that the move to IFRS, which would involve additional disclosures to be included in the Statement of Accounts, would be complex and as such a three phase approach to implementation – as outlined in the report – would be undertaken by a small officer steering group with reports submitted to the Audit and Performance Review Committee at key stages of the project to monitor progress and make recommendations as required.

At this stage it was not possible to quantify the full financial implications of the change as the Chartered Institute for Public Finance Accountancy were still working with the Treasury and other agencies on the implications of the new Code. It was anticipated that for the current year the changes could be made from within existing resources although this would be kept under review and it would be necessary to assess the potential costs from the changes as part of the medium term financial planning process.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the accounting changes required and the timetable for implementation of IFRS as detailed in report DSFRA/09/21 and indicated above be noted;
- (b) that the role of the Audit and Performance Review Committee in relation to the transition, as detailed in the report and indicated above, be noted;
- (c) that the need to assess the financial implications from the change as part of the review of the Medium Term Financial Plan be noted.

DSFRA/12. Carbon Management Programme

The Authority considered a report of the Head of Physical Assets (as Service Carbon Management Programme Sponsor) (DSFRA/09/22) on:

- the need for the Authority to report its performance, as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment process, against national indicators dealing with reductions in carbon emissions and adaptation/response to climate change;
- the work of the Carbon Management Trust in assisting local authorities to develop and deliver appropriate Carbon Management Programmes to assist in meeting such targets and in delivering other benefits such as reductions in energy bills; and
- the success of the south west fire and rescue services, working collaboratively, in the application to join the Trust's 2009 Management Programme

RESOLVED that the success of the Service in its application to join the Carbon Trust's 2009 Management Programme be noted.

DSFRA/13. South West Regional Management Board

(Councillor Healey declared a **personal but non-prejudicial interest** in this item – in so far as it related to the FiReControl Project – by virtue of his appointment by this Authority as a Director on South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre.

The Authority received for information the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23 June 2009 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on the FiReControl Business Case 2009;
- a report on the Board's financial outturn 2008/09 including a Statement of Accounts;
- a report on the Board's Annual Governance Statement 2008/09 (required to accompany the Statement of Accounts);
- a report on benefits realised in 2008/09 from the programme of regional collaboration together with indicative forecast benefits for 2009/10 and 2010/11;
- a Highlight report on those projects being undertaken on a regional basis and those supported by the South West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.

DSFRA/14. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported on attendance, on behalf of the Authority, at:

- on 28 June 2009, the Fire Engine Rally at which circa £3,000 had been raised for the Firefighters Charity;
- on 30 June 2009, an informal meeting with Mr. John Barton, General Secretary of the Retained Firefighters Union;
- on 5 July 2009, the Yeovil Town Council Civic Service; and
- on 9 July 2009, the Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal Awards Ceremony at Taunton School.

DSFRA/15. Chief Fire Officer's Announcements

The Chief Fire Officer reminded Members of the forthcoming Passing Out Parade to be held at the Service Training Centre, Plympton, from 11.30hours on Thursday 23 July 2009.

The meeting started at 11.49am and finished at 12.29pm.