

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

30 June 2010

Present:-

Councillors Dyke, Gribble, Mills and Viney.

Apologies:-

Councillor Burridge-Clayton.

***APRC/1. Election of Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Dyke be elected Chair of the Committee until the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2011.

***APRC/2. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2010 be signed as a correct record.

***APRC/3. Election of Vice Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Mills be elected Vice Chair of the Committee until the first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2011.

***APRC/4. Declarations of Interest**

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

At this stage no interests were declared.

***APRC/5. "After The Incident" (ATI) Survey Results**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Corporate Services that set out the results of the "After the Incident" Survey, which had been carried out to gauge the views of people that had suffered a fire in both domestic and non-domestic premises in respect of the service provided to them. The surveys had each achieved a 29% response rate. The areas surveyed included:

- The initial contact with the Service;
- The speed of arrival;
- Performance at the scene of the fire;
- Was any general safety advice provided at the scene;
- Was a Home Fire Safety Check offered;
- Was a FRS information booklet offered after the incident;

- Taking everything into account was the person satisfied or dissatisfied with the overall service provided.

The Director of Corporate Services advised the Committee that the survey was included within the subscription to the Fire Services Consultation and one of the main benefits of undertaking this work was that the results could be benchmarked against other fire and rescue services to give an indication of performance.

***APRC/6. Statement of Accounts 2009/2010**

The Committee considered a report of the Treasurer (DSFRA/10/5) together with a presentation, on the Authority's draft Statement of Accounts for 2009/10. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended) required the Authority to approve the draft accounts by 30 June 2010. The Accounts were intended to give stakeholders clear information about the Authority's financial position and the form and content of the Accounts was specified by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy Code of Practice. The Accounts included core statements on:

- the Income and Expenditure Account detailing service expenditure analysis, details of any surplus/deficit as at 31 March 2010 and how the service was funded;
- the Balance Sheet, which recorded the assets and liabilities of the Authority as at 31 March 2010; and
- the Cash Flow Statement providing details of the sources and application of the Authority's funds during the year.

The presentation highlighted the point that the Balance Sheet showed a total liability for the Authority of £468.164million, which included a liability of £526.584million relating to future pension liabilities. This position did not cause the Authority any funding concerns but had to be included in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards (FRS17). Excluding the pension liability, the Net Asset of the Authority would be £58.44million.

RESOLVED that, in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended) the Authority's draft Statement of Accounts for 2009/2010 be approved and the Chairman authorised to sign it on behalf of the Authority.

***APRC/7. Annual Governance Statement 2009/2010**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer to the Authority (APRC/10/6) setting out progress against those significant internal control issues identified in the 2009/10 Annual Governance Statement and outlining the current standing of the Authority's corporate governance processes.

Appended to the report was a draft Annual Governance Statement for 2009/10 prepared in accordance with guidance issued jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives. The Annual Governance Statement replaced the former Statement of Internal Control and was required to be produced to accompany the Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended).

In considering the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2009/10, the Clerk drew

attention to Appendix C of the report circulated which illustrated how all of the Authority's governance arrangements fitted together. It was noted that this had been instigated as a result of the adoption of best practice from Hampshire FRS as recommended within Audit Commission advice.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the current position resulting from addressing the identified areas of required activity in the 2007/08 Annual Governance Statement and successors, as set out in Appendix A to report APRC/10/6, be noted;
- (b) That the Annual Governance Statement required to accompany the 2009/10 final accounts, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be approved and the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer authorised to sign it on behalf of the Authority.

***APRC/8. Audit Progress Report**

The Committee received for information an Audit Progress Summary (to 18 June 2010), as submitted by the Audit Commission. The summary covered the following matters:

- Reports issues to the Authority - the Planned inspection/managing performance work;
- Work that had been completed - the Use of Resources work which, with the abolition of Comprehensive Assessment (CAA) would now form the basis of the Authority's Value for Money assessment; and
- Ongoing work – liaison continued with the Finance Department in terms of the introduction of the new International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

***DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.23hours.