

# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

30 July 2010

## Present:-

Councillors Boyd (Vice-Chairman)(in the Chair), Bown, Burridge-Clayton, Cann, Dyke, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gribble, Horsfall, Hughes OBE, Leaves, Mrs. Nicholson, Radford, Randall Johnson, Smith, Viney, Way, Woodman and Yeomans.

## Attending in accordance with Standing Order 4(2):

Mr. Withers (Independent Member of the Authority's Standards Committee)

## Apologies:-

Councillors Gordon, Healey, Manning, Mills and Turner.

### **DSFRA/19. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Annual and Ordinary Meetings of the Authority held on 28 May 2010 be signed as a correct record.

### **DSFRA/20. 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.

Councillor Woodman declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in the items relating to the South West Fire Control Ltd. Company Constitution and the South West Regional Management Board Minutes (in so far as these related to the FiReControl/Regional Control Centre project) by virtue of his being the Authority-appointed Director on South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established to exercise overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre.

**(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/23 AND 24 BELOW)**

### **DSFRA/21. Minutes of Committees**

#### **(a) Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee**

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Leaves, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- an update on community safety initiatives including partnerships; and
- an update on inquest into the tragic deaths of two children following a fire at Ellacombe Road, Torquay.

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

#### **(b) Human Resources Management and Development Committee**

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Cann, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on absence management;
- an update on the 2010 staff survey and progressing initiatives arising from the previous 2008 survey;
- a report on the Working Time Directive and proposed changes to legislation;
- a report on Goal 2 Corporate Plan Targets;
- a report on the health of the organisation;
- a presentation on self-assessment work undertaken by the Service against the Equality Framework for Fire and Rescue Services;
- a report on a role profile for the Equality and Diversity Member Champion; and
- determination of membership of the Firefighters' Pensions Scheme Internal Dispute Resolution Procedure Stage 2 Panel for the 2010/11 municipal year.

In moving the Minutes, the Committee Chair made particular reference to the success of the Service in securing marked reductions in relation to sickness absence rates which had seen the targets in relation to both short-term and long-term sickness achieved.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) that the recommendation at Minute HRMDC/11 (Member Champion for Equality and Diversity – Role Profile) be considered in conjunction with the item elsewhere on the agenda for the current meeting;
- (ii) that, subject to (a) above, the Minutes be adopted in accordance with Standing Orders.

#### ***(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/22 BELOW)***

#### **(c) Audit and Performance Review Committee**

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Dyke, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a presentation on the outcome of the "After the Incident" survey designed to secure feedback on service provision from people affected by either domestic or non-domestic fires;
- the Authority's draft Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2009/10; and
- a progress report on work undertaken by the Audit Commission to June 2010 in relation to Authority activities.

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

#### **(d) Resources Committee**

The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Yeomans, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- the proposed deletion of Goal 3 Use of Resources targets from the Corporate Plan 2010/11 to 2012/13 arising from the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Framework by the new coalition government;
- a financial performance monitoring report for the first three months (to 1 July 2010) of the 2010/11 financial year;
- a report on Treasury Management Performance for the first three months (to 1 July 2010) of the 2010/11 financial year;

- a proposed Property Asset Management Plan; and
- a proposed role profile for the Climate Change and Sustainability Member Champion.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the recommendations at Minutes RC/5 (Change to Corporate Plan 2010/11 to 2012/13 Targets); RC/6 (a)(i – iii) (Financial Performance Report 2010/11); and RC/8 (Property Asset Management Plan) be approved;
- (ii) that the recommendation at Minute RC/9 (Member Champion for Carbon Management and Sustainability – Role Profile) be considered in conjunction the item elsewhere on the agenda for the current meeting;
- (iii) that, subject to (a) and (b) above, the Minutes be adopted in accordance with Standing Orders.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/22 BELOW)***

**DSFRA/22. Member Champions - Climate Change and Sustainability and Equality and Diversity**

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/10/18) to which was appended draft role profiles for the Climate Change and Sustainability and Equality and Diversity Member Champions. Appointments to these posts had been deferred by the Authority at its Annual Meeting on 28 May 2010 pending production of the role profiles (Minute DSFRA/6(c) refers).

Since that time, the role profiles had been developed, considered and commended for approval at the last meetings of the Human Resources Management and Development Committee (for the Equality and Diversity Member Champion role profile) and the Resources Committee (for the Climate Change and Sustainability Member Champion role profile).

**RESOLVED**

- (a) that the role profiles for the Equality and Diversity Member Champion and the Climate Change and Sustainability Member Champion, as appended to report DSFRA/10/18, be approved;
- (b) that Councillor Leaves be appointed as the Climate Change and Sustainability Member Champion and Councillors Turner and Randall Johnson be appointed as Equality and Diversity Member Champions, the Term of Office to be until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2011.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/21(b)(i) AND 21(d)(ii) ABOVE)***

**DSFRA/23. South West Fire Control Ltd. Company Constitution**

(Councillor Woodman declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item by virtue of his being the Authority-appointed Director on South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established to exercise overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre).

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/10/19) on proposed changes to the constitution of South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established in 2007 to exercise overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre (RCC).

The constitutional changes – which were outlined in a commentary contained in the report and prepared by the Company Secretary - were required to ensure compliance with the Companies Act 2006. Legal advice indicated that the changes were of a purely technical nature which, if implemented, would have neither a detrimental nor advantageous effect on the interests of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority.

Members commented that, whilst the overall thrust of the amendments appeared correct, it was hoped that the syntax and grammar in the revised constitution might be re-examined and – where required – corrected prior to the revised constitution being approved. The Clerk undertook to commission the Authority's legal adviser to carry out a re-examination of the revised constitution.

**RESOLVED** that the Authority representative (Councillor Boyd) appointed to attend, on behalf of the Authority, the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2010 be mandated to vote at that meeting in favour of the proposed changes to the Company constitution as outlined in report DSFRA/10/19 (and as may be amended following re-examination by the Authority's legal adviser) and required to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/20 ABOVE).***

**DSFRA/24. South West Regional Management Board**

(Councillor Woodman declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in this item in so far as it related to the FiReControl/Regional Control Centre project by virtue of his being the Authority-appointed Director on South West Fire Control Ltd., the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) established to exercise 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 22 June 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on Firelink cost apportionment in the event of over-usage of the system;
- feedback from the Chairman of the Board (Councillor Walker – Avon) on a meeting of Regional Management Board chairs and vice-chairs held in London on 17 June 2010;
- a workstreams highlights report;
- a presentation on the regional website;
- the Board's Financial Outturn, Accounts and Annual Governance Statement 2009/10;
- an Annual Benefits report 2009/10;
- a Climate Change annual report 2009/10;
- proposed dates for Board meetings in 2010/11; and

- an update report on revisions to the Regional Communications Strategy.

**(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/20 ABOVE).**

#### **DSFRA/25. Chairman's Announcements**

The Vice-Chairman reported on attendance, together with the Chief Fire Officer, at a briefing session with the new Fire Minister, Bob Neill MP, held in London on Wednesday 28 July 2010. The briefing, attended by other fire and rescue authority representatives, had been arranged to discuss re-defining the relationship between central government and local fire and rescue authorities in favour of more localised control and arrangements. Specific matters discussed included:

- abolition of the requirement for Regional Management Boards – this would now be an issue for determination solely by the individual regions themselves;
- abolition of centrally-set specific equality and diversity targets and a relaxation of assessment arrangements to measure compliance with the national Equality Framework for Fire and Rescue Services;
- relaxation of the requirements to comply with the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework.

The Vice-Chairman also reported on attendance by the Chairman (Councillor Healey) at the following events since the last meeting of the Authority:

- the London Fire Congress Conference;
- the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal Ceremony at Oldway Mansion, Paignton;
- the Glastonbury Festival to visit officers and firefighters on duty and also to escort the Chairman of Somerset County Council on their official tour as guests of the Service;
- the Combined Fire and Police Cadet Passing Out parade at Torquay;
- the Yeovil Mayor's Civic Ceremony;
- the 2010 Fire Conference held in Harrogate;
- together with the Chief Fire Officer, the Local Government Association (LGA) Conference in Bournemouth to attend a fringe meeting and to sit on panel discussing the Devon and Somerset Combination;
- together with the Chief Fire Officer, at Sidmouth Fire Station to present Councillor Stuart Hughes (former Authority Member) with a framed print for his dedication and commitment to the Fire Authority prior to taking up his Cabinet position with Devon County Council.

#### **DSFRA/26. Chief Fire Officer's Announcements**

The Chief Fire Officer reported on two fire-related fatalities which had occurred since the last meeting of the Authority:

- on 1 June 2010, in Yeovil; and
- on 18 July 2010, in Torrington.

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 10.45hours.