

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

16 September 2010

Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chairman), Boyd, Burrige-Clayton, Cann, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gordon, Hughes OBE, Leaves, Manning, Mills, Mrs. Nicholson, Radford, Viney, Way and Woodman.

Attending in accordance with Standing Order 4(2):

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

Apologies:-

Councillors from Bown, Dyke, Gribble, Horsfall, Randall Johnson, Smith, Turner and Yeomans.

DSFRA/27. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 30 July 2010 be signed as a correct record.

DSFRA/28. Emergency Response Standards (Non-Domestic Fires and Entrapments (Non-Road Collisions)) - Outcome of the Pilot

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Service Delivery Support (DSFRA/10/20) on the outcome to date of the six-month pilot into new emergency response standards proposed for non-domestic fires and entrapments (non-road traffic collisions), as agreed by the Authority as part of its approved Corporate Plan 2010/11 to 2012/13 (Minute DSFRA/46 (d) and (e) refers).

The outcome of the pilot had highlighted a number of areas where further, minor, refinements to the proposed standards could result in overall improvements in performance and consequently it was proposed to extend the pilot by a further three months to enable the proposed refinements to be properly validated.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the outcome of the initial pilot to date into proposed Emergency Response Standards (ERS) for non-domestic fires and non-road traffic collision entrapments, as set out in Section 3 of report DSFRA/10/20, be noted and the pilot extended for a further three month period to provide opportunity to review and validate the following minor changes proposed in light of the initial pilot outcome:
 - (i) that the Emergency Response Standard (ERS) be amended to discount false alarms and state that they are recorded for confirmed fires only;

- (ii) that the measures for non-domestic premises be calculated for personnel originally mobilised to the incident by Fire Control, although the standard should remain the same;
 - (iii) that the measures for entrapments be amended to read “person(s) trapped” and not “1 person trapped”;
 - (iv) that the ERS for entrapments be split into major and minor based on the definitions and experience currently used by Control Room Operators;
 - (v) that Guidance be developed to ensure to enable an appropriate differentiation to be made between a major and minor entrapment.
- (b) that a report on the outcome of the extended pilot, with appropriate recommendations, be submitted to the Authority meeting in February 2011.

DSFRA/29. Corporate Planning Timescale

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services (DSFRA/10/21) on proposals for consultation on the Authority Corporate Plan. The report highlighted best practice guidance for a minimum twelve week consultation period but also indicated a lesser consultation period could be appropriate depending on the magnitude of any proposed changes.

The Authority at present faced a difficult situation in light of the current economic situation, savings anticipated for the public sector and associated uncertainty over the level of government grant for the next financial year, which would only be announced at the end of November at the earliest. These issues could impact significantly on the content of the Corporate Plan.

Consequently, it was proposed to submit a draft Corporate Plan to the Authority meeting in December, once details of the government grant settlement had been received, together with details of a consultation strategy and period proportionate to the level of change being proposed.

RESOLVED that the Draft Corporate Plan be submitted to the Authority meeting scheduled for 16 December 2010 for approval for consultation purposes, with the associated consultation period being proportionate to the level of change.

DSFRA/30. Formula Grant Review Consultation

The Treasurer reported that, prior to the 2011/12 Local Government Finance Settlement which would inform government grant allocations, the government had issued a substantial consultation document which included a number of options for changes to the formula grant distribution methodology. This consultation document was not fire specific but related to all areas of local authority services.

Responses to the consultation had been invited by 6 October 2010 and to this end a draft response was included with the agenda for the current meeting for consideration by the Authority.

RESOLVED that the draft response to the government Formula Grant Review Consultation, as included with the papers for this meeting, be approved and the Treasurer authorised to submit it on behalf of the Authority.

***DSFRA/31. 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 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act, namely information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Authority.

***DSFRA/32. Service Charging and Trading**

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

The Authority considered a report of the Director of People and Organisational Development (DSFRA/10/22) on progress to date in exploring options for charging or trading by the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority.

RESOLVED that the measures set out in the outline plan at Sections 7, 8 and 9 of report DSFRA/10/22 be approved as the method for implementing, developing and maximising charging and trading opportunities for the Authority.

(NOTE: in accordance with Standing Order 25(3), Councillor Way asked that his abstention from voting on this matter be recorded).

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.52hours.