

# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

3 November 2010

## Present:-

Bown, Boyd, Cann, Dyke, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gordon, Healey, Horsfall, Hughes OBE, Leaves, Mills, Mrs. Nicholson, Radford, Viney, Way, Woodman and Yeomans  
Councillors Healy (Chairman), Bown, Boyd, Cann, Dyke, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gordon, Horsfall, Hughes OBE, Leaves, Mills, Mrs. Nicholson, Radford, Viney, Way, Woodman and Yeomans

## Apologies:-

Received from Burridge-Clayton, Gribble, Manning, Randall Johnson, Smith and Turner  
Cllrs. Burridge-Clayton, Gribble, Manning, Randall Johnson, Smith and Turner

### \*DSFRA/33. Minutes

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 16 September 2010 be signed as a correct record.

### \*DSFRA/34. 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.

At this time Councillors Woodman and Eastman declared **personal but non-prejudicial** interests in items relating to South West Regional Fire Control Ltd, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre, by virtue of their being an Authority appointed Director and an alternate Director respectively with the Company.

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

### \*DSFRA/35. **RESOLVED** Minutes of Committees

**RESOLVED**

#### (a) Human Resources Management and Development Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Cann, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 September 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on absence management for the Service;
- a report on a government consultation on restriction of pensions tax relief;
- a quality safety audit undertaken using the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) methodology; and
- an update into the recently undertaken Staff Survey.

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

**(b) Audit and Performance Review Committee**

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Dyke, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 September 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on Service performance and progress for the first quarter of the year (April to June 2010) as measured against those goals, activities and targets contained in the approved Corporate Plan;
- a progress report on activities undertaken by the Audit Commission to September 2010; and
- the annual governance statement 2009/10 including the draft opinion on the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts.

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

**(c) Resources Committee**

(Councillors Woodman and Eastman each declared a **personal but non-prejudicial** interest, by virtue of their being respectively an Authority appointed Director and alternate Director, in this item in so far as it related to the South West Regional Fire Control Ltd, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre).

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Gordon, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 October 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on the financial performance and indicative spending for the Authority compared to the 2010/11 revenue budget;
- an update report on Treasury Management performance during 2010/11; and
- information on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2010 announcement and its implications for the Authority.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the recommendations at Minute RC/12 (a)(i) and (ii) (Financial Performance Report 2010/11), in relation to virements in excess of £150,000 and a revised Capital Programme as set out in Appendices A and B respectively to these minutes, be approved;
- (ii) that, subject to (i) above, the Minutes be adopted in accordance with Standing Orders.

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

\*DSFRA/36.

**Dissolution of the South West Regional Management Board and Proposals for Ongoing Regional Collaboration**

(Councillors Woodman and Eastman each declared a **personal but non-prejudicial** interest, by virtue of their being respectively an Authority appointed Director and alternate Director, in this item in so far as it related to the South West Regional Fire Control Ltd, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) with overall governance responsibility for the South West Regional Control Centre).

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority and Treasurer to the Authority (DSFRA/10/23) on proposals for the dissolution of the South West Regional Management Board (RMB).

Representations to the former government to secure dissolution had not proved fruitful but the current Fire Minister, Bob Neill MP, had responded to the most recent representations of the Board indicating that participation in RMBs would henceforth be voluntary with fire and rescue authorities free to collaborate in ways and forums best suited to local circumstances.

The report referred to the provisions contained in the Board's establishing Agreement for securing dissolution and also detailed proposals in relation to former regional collaborative working under the Board and in respect of future regional collaboration.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) That the following be approved:
  - (i) formal dissolution of the South West Regional Management Board with effect from 31 March 2011;
  - (ii) the entering into, from 1 April 2011, of a Co-operation Agreement in relation to regional collaboration on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk in consultation with the Chairman;
  - (iii) the indemnification of each relevant lead authority against any liabilities arising from the former programme of collaboration under the South West Regional Management Boards and which may subsequently come to light following its dissolution, subject to all authorities agreeing to the indemnification and to any such liability being apportioned equally between each authority (including the relevant lead authority);
  - (iv) that the current arrangements for the 'pooling' of any FireControl "New Burdens" grant continues post April 2011;
- (b) that the Chief Fire Officer be delegated appropriate powers to participate on behalf of the Authority in the programme of regional collaboration (or parts of the programme as appropriate) subject to decisions on levels of funding to be committed being reserved by the Authority itself;
- (c) that the establishment of a South West Forum of Fire and Rescue Authorities on the basis as outlined in Section 2 and Appendix A of report DSFRA/10/23 be noted;
- (d) that the intended structure for officer oversight of the programme of regional collaboration, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be noted.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/ ABOVE AND DSFRA/ BELOW)***

\*DSFRA/37. **Authority Petition Scheme**

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/10/24) on a proposed amendment to Standing Orders to introduce a petition scheme for the Authority consistent with that required of principal authorities by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed revision to Standing Order 12, as appended to report DSFRA/10/24 and intended to give effect to a petition scheme consistent with the requirements of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, be approved.

\*DSFRA/38. **South West Regional Management Board**

(Councillors Woodman and Eastman each declared a **personal but non-prejudicial** interest, by virtue of their being respectively an Authority appointed Director and alternate Director, in this item in so far as it related to the South West Regional Fire Control Ltd, the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) 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 28 September 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a workstreams highlight report on progress with regional collaborative initiatives;
- the Audit Commission Annual Governance Report and Annual Audit Letter in relation to the Board's 2009/10 accounts; and
- a report on dissolution of the Board.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/ AND ABOVE)***

\*DSFRA/39. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported on events attended on behalf of the Authority since its last meeting. He also reminded Members of the forthcoming Training Day to be held at Taunton fire station on 18 November 2010.

\*DSFRA/40. **Chief Fire Officer's Announcements**

The Chief Fire Officer reported on:-

- a fatal fire stemming from a road traffic collision on the Southbound carriageway of the M5 on 24 September 2010; and
- the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010 and its implications for the Authority. While a headline grant reduction of 25% over four years, to be backloaded to the latter years, had been announced it would not be possible to determine the full impact on the Authority and options for addressing any reductions until the Authority received its individual grant settlement, which was anticipated for late November/early December.

The meeting started at 14.00hours and finished at 14.40hours.

**APPENDIX A TO THE MINUTES OF THE DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY  
MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 2010**

**VIREMENTS IN EXCESS OF £150,000 REQUIRING AUTHORITY APPROVAL**

**(a) Establishment of CSR 2010 Budget Strategy Reserve**

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>From £</b>	<b>To £</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Training Costs	(36,700)		
Wholetime uniform (Removal Expenses)	(10,000)		
Retained Firefighters (recruitment costs)	(10,000)		
Premises - Repair and Maintenance (Grounds Mtce)	(7,000)		
Energy Costs	(22,400)		
Cleaning Costs	(11,900)		
Rent and Rates	(140,500)		
Transport – Repair and Mtce	(23,800)		
Transport – Running Costs	(106,800)		
Travel and Subsistence (including Members expenses)	(20,200)		
Equipment and Furniture	(48,300)		
Communications	(50,700)		
Linen Hire	(900)		
Catering	(5,100)		
External Fees and charges	(2,800)		
Establishment Costs	(37,500)		
Advertising	(27,400)		
Insurances	(17,000)		
Support Service Contracts	(37,300)		
Capital Charges	(110,000)		
Earmarked Reserve		726,300	To make provision for a new Earmarked Reserve “CSR 2010 Budget Strategy Reserve”
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(726,300)</b>	<b>726,300</b>	

**(b) Initial Staffing Pool for Regional Control Centre**

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>From £</b>	<b>To £</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Control Room staff	(280,000)		Transfer of ISP staff to the LACC.
Grants and Reimbursements		280,000	Transfer of New Burdens grant to the LACC
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(280,000)</b>	<b>280,000</b>	

**APPENDIX B TO THE MINUTES OF THE DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY  
MEETING 3 NOVEMBER 2010**

**Revised Capital Programme 2010/11 to 2012/13**

<b>Capital Programme (2010/11 to 2012/13)</b>				
<b>Item PROJECT</b>	<b>2010/11 (£000)</b>	<b>2011/12 (£000)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£000)</b>	<b>Total 2010- 2013 (£000)</b>
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b><u>Estate Development</u></b>				
1 Exeter Middlemoor	44			44
2 Exeter Danes Castle	169			169
3 SHQ major building/New Dimensions (USAR) major project	135			135
4 Major building works	0	1,000	1,000	2,000
5 Minor improvements & structural maintenance	2,761	650	750	4,161 *
6 Welfare facilities 2009/10	127			127
7 Diversity & equality	34			34 *
8 New Dimensions (USAR) works	150	420		570 *
9 Other building works	5			5
<b>Estates Sub Total</b>	<b>3,425</b>	<b>2,070</b>	<b>1,750</b>	<b>7,245</b>
<b><u>Fleet &amp; Equipment</u></b>				
10 Appliance replacement	2,061	2,119	2,119	6,299
11 Specialist Operational Vehicles	1,163			1,163
12 Vehicles -funded from revenue (new)	41			41 *
13 Equipment	634	200	200	1,034
14 Asset Management Plan (Miquest) software	152			152
<b>Fleet &amp; Equipment Sub Total</b>	<b>4,051</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>2,319</b>	<b>8,689</b>
<b>Overall Capital Totals</b>	<b>7,476</b>	<b>4,389</b>	<b>4,069</b>	<b>15,934</b>
<b><u>Programme funding</u></b>				
Main programme	5,926	4,069	4,069	14,064
Revenue funds	41	0	0	41 *
Grants	1,377	320	0	1,697 *
Earmarked Reserves	132	0	0	132
	<b>7,476</b>	<b>4,389</b>	<b>4,069</b>	<b>15,934</b>

*\* reflects revision from previously agreed programme*