

# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

16 December 2010

## Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chair), Bown, Burridge-Clayton, Cann, Drean, Dyke, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gordon, Gribble, Horsfall, Hughes OBE, Leaves, Mills, Mrs. Nicholson, Radford, Randall Johnson, Smith, Turner, Woodman and Yeomans

## Apologies:-

Councillors Boyd, Manning and Way

### **DSFRA/41. Death of Councillor David Viney**

Councillor Gordon, at the invitation of the Chairman, paid tribute to the contribution made by Councillor David Viney, both as a Member of the Authority and during its formation, prior to his sudden and tragic death on Saturday 27 November 2010.

The Authority then observed one minutes silence as a mark of respect for Councillor Viney.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/42, 47 AND 49 BELOW)***

### **DSFRA/42. Appointment of Councillor Jonathan Drean to the Authority**

The Chair, on behalf of the Authority, welcomed Councillor Jonathan Drean who had been appointed to the Authority by Plymouth City Council following the death of former appointee, Councillor David Viney.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/41 ABOVE AND DSFRA/47 AND 49 BELOW)***

### **DSFRA/43. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 3 November 2010 be signed as a correct record.

### **DSFRA/44. 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 to declare any such interests at this time.

Councillors Woodman and Eastman each declared a **personal but non-prejudicial** interest 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, respectively, an Authority appointed Director and an alternate Director on the Board of the Company.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/48 BELOW)***

**DSFRA/45. Minutes of Committees**

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

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Cann, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12 November 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on the Equality Act 2010 and progress by the Service in relation to its single equality scheme "Making the Connections"; and
- a report on absence management.

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

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

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Dyke, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 November 2010 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on performance by the Service during April to September 2010 against those goals, activities and targets contained in the approved Corporate Plan;
- a progress report from the Audit Commission;
- an update report on introduction of the International Financial Reporting Standard;
- a Service audit and review six monthly report on completed reports and findings against the internal audit plan for the current financial year; and
- a six-month monitoring report against audits undertaken by the Devon Audit Partnership as part of the agreed internal audit plan for the current financial year.

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

**(c) Resources Committee**

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Gordon, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 November 2010 which had considered, amongst other things, a monitoring report of expenditure against the approved 2010/11 revenue budget.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) that the recommendation at Minute RC/18(a) (Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2010/11) in relation to virements requiring Authority approval, as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes, be approved;
- (ii) that, subject to (i) above, the Minutes be adopted in accordance with Standing Orders.

**DSFRA/46. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority Draft Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14**

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/10/25) on proposals for consultation on both the Draft Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14 and the 2011/12 precept. Although normally undertaken as one exercise, the report proposed separate consultations in light of the exceptional circumstances surrounding the government grant announcement and anticipated public sector spending reductions.

## RESOLVED

- (a) that the separation of the budget and corporate plan approval process for 2011/12, as outlined in report DSFRA/10/25, be approved;
- (b) that the Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee be delegated authority to approve, at its meeting on 13 January 2011, the draft Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14 for consultation and the associated consultation plan, with the outcome of the consultation to be considered at the Authority meeting in May 2011; and
- (c) that the statutory requirement to consult non-domestic rate payers on the level of precept for the forthcoming financial year be discharged by using a sample size of 100 at an approximate cost of £1,600.

### **DSFRA/47. General Issues - Requirement to Change Authority Budget Setting Date 2011 and Vacancies on Committees and Outside Bodies**

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/10/26) on proposals to change the dates of the Resources Committee (budget) and full Authority budget meeting, to avoid a clash with the Somerset County Council budget meeting, and to appoint to vacancies on the Audit and Performance Review Committee and the Local Government Association General Assembly arising from the recent, sudden death of Councillor Viney.

## RESOLVED

- (a) that the Authority budget meeting 2011 be held on Monday 14 February 2011, commencing at 10.00hours in the Conference Rooms at Service Headquarters;
- (b) that the Resources Committee (budget) meeting be held on Friday 28 January 2011, commencing at 10.00hours at Service Headquarters in Meeting Room B, Service Headquarters.
- (c) that Councillor Jonathan Drear be appointed to the Audit and Performance Review Committee and the Local Government Association General Assembly, the term of office to be until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2011.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTES DSFRA/41 AND 42 ABOVE)***

### **DSFRA/48. Indemnity Policy**

(NOTE: Councillors Woodman and Eastman each declared a **personal but non-prejudicial** interest in this item by virtue of their being, respectively, an Authority appointed Director and an alternate Director on the Board of South West Fire Control Ltd, the local authority controlled company (LACC||) with overall governance responsibility for the Regional Control Centre).

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/10/27) on proposals to extend the Authority's approved Indemnity Policy to cover the post of alternate Director on the Board of South West Fire Control Ltd.

**RESOLVED** that approval be given to any Authority Member acting from time to time as an alternate director on the Board of South West Fire Control Limited (SWFC), this constituting approval for the purpose of paragraph 7.2.3 of the Authority's indemnity policy.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/44 ABOVE)***

**DSFRA/49. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported on the following activities undertaken on behalf of the Authority since its last meeting:

- attendance, with the Chief Fire Officer and the Service Ceremonial Unit, at the Armistice Remembrance Service at Ypres on 11 to 13 November;
- a wreath laying at the invitation of the Mayor of Yeovil on 14 November;
- attendance, accompanied by Service Officers, at the House of Commons both to lobby for and to hear the Fire Safety (Protection of Tenants) Bill proposed by Adrian Saunders MP on 18 and 19 November;
- attendance with the Chief Fire Officer at the meeting of the South West Fire Forum at Avon Fire and Rescue Service headquarters on 22 November;
- attendance, accompanied by the Vice-Chair (Cllr. Andy Boyd) and Cllr. John Woodman at the launch of the Service Training Academy at the Emergency Services Show, Coventry, on 25 and 26 November;
- attendance with the Chief Fire Officer at a meeting in Dorset to discuss options for future collaborative working on 6 December;
- attendance, accompanied by Cllr. George Gribble and, at the funeral of Councillor David Viney on 7 December. The Authority was also represented at the funeral by Councillors Ian Gordon and Bernard Hughes OBE;
- attendance at the Local Government Association Fire Commission meeting in London on 10 December.

***(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/41 ABOVE)***

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 10.35hours.

**APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING 16 DECEMBER 2010**

**Minute RC/18(a) – Virements requiring Authority approval in accordance with Financial Regulations**

<b>Budget Line</b>	<b>From £m</b>	<b>To £m</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Grants and Reimbursements  Communications	(0.293)	0.293	<p>Up until June 2010 the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) have paid for the annual Service Fees associated with the usage of the new national radio system (Firelink).</p> <p>From July 2010 the charging arrangements have changed so as individual FRSs will now be charged for their share of the regional Service Fees. For 2010-11 the total charge for DSFRA will be £0.506m. The CLG will fund the difference between this cost and the cost of legacy radio systems, which are already included in the base budget, through New Burdens grant. For DSFRA the amount of New Burdens grant has been announced as £0.293m,</p> <p>This proposed virement is to increase the Communications budget line by £0.293m to fund the cost of Firelink charges over and above existing budget, with a corresponding increase in the Grants and Reimbursements income budget.</p>
Furniture and Equipment  External Fees and Services	(0.258)	0.258	<p>Included in the base budget for this financial year is an allocation of £0.555m to fund the initial costs associated with the business transformation programme.</p> <p>This proposed virement is to move an amount of £0.258m from the ICT Equipment budget line to External Fees and Services to reflect the change in how the original allocation for the business transformation programme is to be spent.</p> <p>The total sum for business transformation allocated by the Fire Authority remains the same.</p>