

COMMERCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

2 February 2012

Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chair), Boyd, Gribble, Mills and Randall Johnson

Apologies:-

Councillors Dyke and Smith

***CSC/28. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2012 be signed as a correct record.

***CSC/29. Governance Issues**

(An item of urgent business taken in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972).

The Chairman determined that this should be considered as a matter of urgency to enable consideration of the options available to the Committee in respect of the governance issues surrounding trading prior to the meeting of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority on 17 February 2012.

The Chief Fire Officer outlined a number of issues associated with the governance of commercial trading activities which it was intended to submit to the Authority at its meeting on 17 February 2012. Amongst other issues, it was proposed that the Terms and Reference for this Committee might be amended to increase its delegated power to act. This would allow a more responsive decision making process for commercial matters which required Member approval and ensure the timely entering into of contracts for the provision of goods and services.

The Committee enquired as to whether the Terms of Reference could be extended to include the power to approve the establishment of companies in partnership with other bodies to progress joint trading ventures. The Clerk advised that this may be possible but would perhaps require legal advice for clarification purposes.

RESOLVED that, in line with the discussion at the meeting, legal advice be sought to clarify the potential for further delegation to the Committee.

***CSC/30. 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.

No interests were declared.

***CSC/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 items of business on the grounds that they involved 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 and other companies.

***CSC/32. Update on Current Commercial Leads**

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

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of People and Organisational Development in respect of commercial leads that were being pursued currently and opportunities that had been taken in terms of the Authority's commercial trading activities.

***CSC/33. Update on the Falck Partnership**

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

The Committee received for information an update given by the Chief Fire Officer in conjunction with the Chair on the progress made to date in respect of the development of the joint venture with Falck DS.

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

The meeting started at 10.05hours and finished at 11.50hours