

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

5 November 2012

Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chairman), Bakewell MBE, Bown, Brooksbank, BurrIDGE-Clayton, Mrs. Chugg, Dyke, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Gordon, Gribble, Horsfall, Hughes OBE, Leaves, Mills, Radford, Randall Johnson, D Smith , J Smith, Woodman and Yeomans.

DSFRA/31. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2012 be signed as a correct record.

DSFRA/32. Minutes of Committees, Working Parties etc.

(a) Commercial Services Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Healey, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 31 July and 12 September 2012 which had considered, amongst other things:

31 July 2012 meeting

- a commercial services budget monitoring report for Quarter 1, 2012/13;
- information on commercial services governance arrangements;
- a commercial services outline business plan for 2013 – 17;
- a detailed commercial services business plan for 2013/14; and
- updates on commercial matters and Training Academy courses and initiatives.

12 September 2012 meeting

- business cases in relation to commercial consultancy, fleet services, firefighter recruitment/agency bank, out-of-hours call handling and product sales; and
- an update on commercial matters.

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

(b) Human Resources Management and Development Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Brooksbank, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 September 2012 which had considered, amongst other things:

- establishment of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme Internal Disputes Resolution Panel for the 2012/13 municipal year; and
- a presentation on the Human Resources Improvement Project aimed at refining processes to enhance service delivery in that department.

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

(c) Audit and Performance Review Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Radford, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 September 2012 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a progress report on issues being addressed by the Audit Commission;
- the Audit Commission Annual Governance Report 2011/12, which included a draft (subsequently confirmed) unqualified opinion on the Authority's Statement of Accounts for 2011/12;
- the Authority's Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12;
- a report on progress against the Authority's approved internal audit plan, particularly in relation to assurance work on procurement, purchase cards and the provision and use of work equipment; and
- a report on performance by the Service during April to June 2012 against those measures contained in the approved Corporate Plan.

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

(d) Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Leaves, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5 October 2012 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on a proposal for the Service to establish a charitable arm (**NOTE:** a copy of the report as considered by the Committee was circulated with the agenda for this meeting); and
- a report on the Service position in relation to the National Fire Kills Campaign Annual Report 2011/12.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the recommendation at Minute CSCP/14 (Establishment of a Charitable Arm) be approved;
- (ii) that, subject to (i) above and in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(e) Resources Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Woodman, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held 19 October 2012 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on performance as at Quarter 2, 2012/13, against agreed financial targets; and
- a report on performance as at Quarter 2, 2012/13, against the Authority's approved Treasury Management Strategy for that financial year (**NOTE:** a copy of the report as considered by the Committee was circulated with the agenda for this meeting).

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

DSFRA/33. Networked Fire Control Solution Project (NFCSP) - Update and Partnership Agreement

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/12/25) on progress with the National Fire Control Solution Project (NFCSP) – a partnership arrangement between the Devon & Somerset, Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services to secure a new command and mobilising system. Under the arrangement, which had received funding of £1.8m from the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), each service would retain its own Control Room but would benefit from a state-of-the-art interoperable and highly resilient system.

The report identified that a formal Partnership Agreement, endorsed by the legal advisers to each Service, had been drafted. The report also identified the indicative procurement process for the new system and provided an update on developments in relation to establishment of new Control Room facilities for the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service.

RESOLVED

- (a) that this Authority enter into the formal Partnership Agreement with those of the Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services to provide an interlinked resilient fire command and mobilising system;
- (b) that, subject to (a) above, the remainder of report DSFRA/12/25 updating on progress with the project be noted.

DSFRA/34. Proposed Changes to Authority Approved Calendar of Meetings 2012/13

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/12/26) on proposed changes to the approved Calendar of Meetings 2012/13 designed to facilitate a special meeting to consider approval of the next iteration of the Corporate Plan in draft form for consultation purposes. The special meeting would allow the draft Plan to reflect any considerations that may be required as a result of the 2013/14 local government finance settlement which was now not anticipated until late December 2012.

RESOLVED

- (a) that a special Authority meeting, to approve draft Corporate Plan for consultation purposes, be held at 10.00hours on Friday 18 January 2013, to be followed by a Members' Forum already scheduled for that date;
- (b) that the Clerk be authorised, following consultation with the Chair and Members of the Human Resources Management & Development Committee, to re-arrange the meeting of the Committee initially scheduled for Friday 18 January 2013.

DSFRA/35. Community Right to Challenge (Localism Act 2011)

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/12/27) to which was appended a proposed policy and procedure for the administration of any expressions of interest submitted by relevant bodies under the Community Right to Challenge introduced by the Localism Act 2011.

The policy and procedure reflected both legislative requirements and statutory guidance. In line with the latter, it was proposed that a defined period – namely the month of August – be determined for receipt of any expressions of interest which, if approved, would need to be published as a minimum on the Authority's website.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Policy and Procedure as appended to report DSFRA/12/27 for determining Expressions of Interest submitted under the Community Right to Challenge introduced by the Localism Act 2011 be approved;
- (b) the wording for publicising the window for submission of Expressions of Interest as set out at paragraph 4.5 of the report, be approved for publication on the Authority's website, in accordance with the requirements of the Act;
- (c) that the policy and procedure be reviewed after twelve months and revised as necessary in light of actual experience in determining expressions of interest.

DSFRA/36. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman circulated a list of events attended and activities undertaken on behalf of the Authority since its last meeting and drew particular attention to:

- attendance in support of the Service at the Bridgwater Carnival on 3 November during which some £3,000 was raised for those affected by the M5 tragedy; and
- attendance at the M5 memorial event on 4 November.

DSFRA/37. Chief Fire Officer's Announcements

The Chief Fire Officer reported on three fire fatalities which had occurred since the last Authority meeting. The Chief reminded the Authority of the introduction by the Service of the fatal fire review process aimed at capturing lessons learned from all fatal fires and promoting enhanced inter-agency co-operation with a view to driving down numbers of fire deaths.

Additionally, the Chief Fire Officer promoted the Service Christmas Carol Concert which would this year be held at Exeter Cathedral on Tuesday 18 December commencing at 19.30hours.

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 10.41hours.