

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
(Extraordinary Meeting)

18 January 2013

Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chair), Bown, Brooksbank, Burridge-Clayton, Foggin, Gordon, Gribble, Hughes OBE, Knight, Leaves, Mills, Radford, Randall Johnson, D Smith , J Smith and Woodman

Apologies:-

Councillors Bakewell MBE, Mrs. Chugg, Dyke, Eastman, Fry, Way and Yeomans

DSFRA/47 Addresses by the Fire Brigades Union

In accordance with Standing Order 12, the Authority received an address from the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) in relation to the draft Corporate Plan to be considered later in the meeting. In summary, the address:

- expressed the FBU view on the local government finance settlement for the forthcoming financial year;
- advocated an increase in Council Tax to address indicative spending pressures; and
- indicated that the FBU would respond in full to the individual Corporate Plan proposals and asked Service that performance against its emergency response standards be published in full.

DSFRA/48 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority Draft Corporate Plan 2013/14 to 2014/15

The Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/13/01) to which was appended a draft Corporate Plan incorporating a public Integrated Risk Management Plan (as required by statute) and setting out the Service's aspirations to move towards organisational excellence at a time of financial constraint.

The backdrop to the draft Plan and the proposals contained therein was one of needing to secure efficiencies in response to reducing central government funding while at the same time modernising the Service to better address changing societal needs which had seen a reduction in fires by almost 50% over the last ten years. Central to the proposals was a new, long-term way of working referred to as an "integrated approach" and which it was felt would balance the need to make significant savings while at the same time maintaining or improving both firefighter and public safety. Specifically, the proposals related to:

- replacing traditional appliances with Light Rescue Pumps;
- changes in responding to false calls from automatic fire alarm (AFA) systems;
- co-responder mobilisation changes;
- a reduction in the number of middle/senior managers;
- additional financial investment in prevention activities;
- changes to the crewing arrangements for three appliances at the Plymouth fire stations of Plymstock, Plympton and Crownhill;

- a change in the crewing of the aerial ladder platform (ALP) at Crownhill fire station to “on call” thereby harmonising crewing arrangements with those for other aerial ladder platforms;
- changing the current crewing arrangements at Yeovil fire station to standardise it with that of other similar fire stations;
- changing the crewing arrangements for the second fire appliances at Taunton and Torquay fire stations; and
- changing the crewing arrangements for fire appliances at the Ilfracombe fire station.

Additionally, the Chief Fire Officer drew attention to the letter sent by the Treasurer on behalf of the Authority and expressing concerns to the Department for Communities and Central Government on the finance settlement proposed for this Authority over the next two years.

The report also set out the proposed consultation strategy for the proposals contained in the draft Corporate Plan, with a consultation period to run for a twelve week period commencing on Monday 28 January 2013 and finishing on Sunday 22 April 2013. It was intended that the results of the consultation should be reported back to a full Authority meeting to be scheduled for after the local authority elections in May.

Following debate, Councillor Gribble **MOVED**, with Councillor Bown seconding:

“that the proposals as set out in the draft Corporate Plan 2013-14 to 2014-15, as appended to report DSFRA/13/01, be approved for consultation purposes and that recommendations (b) and (c) as set out in report DSFRA/13/01 be approved.”

The motion was put to the vote and declared **CARRIED** by 12 votes for, no votes against and 4 abstentions whereupon it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Draft Corporate Plan 2013-14 to 2014-15, as enclosed with the agenda for this meeting, and the proposals set out therein be approved for consultation purposes;
- (b) that the associated engagement plan for consultation be approved including a 12 week consultation period to commence on Monday, 28 January 2013 and close on Sunday 22 April 2013;
- (c) that the outcome of the consultation period, together with appropriate recommendations be submitted to a full Authority meeting to be scheduled for after its Annual Meeting in 2013.

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 10.53hours.