

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

5 November 2014

Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chair), Ball, Bown, Mrs. Bowyer, Brooksbank, Burrige-Clayton, Chugg, Colthorpe, Eastman, Edmunds, Ellery, Greenslade, Horsfall, Knight, Leaves, Owen, Prior-Sankey, Radford, Randall Johnson, Singh, Smith, Way, Woodman and Yeomans.

Apologies:-

Councillor Dyke

DSFRA/21. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2014 be signed as a correct record.

DSFRA/22. Minutes of Committees

(a) Resources Committee

In the absence of the Committee Chair (Councillor Dyke), the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Yeomans, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2014 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on Treasury Management performance for the first quarter of the current (2014-15) financial year;
- a report on performance for the first quarter of the current financial year against those targets set in relation to the approved revenue budget;
- a report setting out a proposed revision to the approved capital programme 2014-15 to 2016-17; and
- a report on the charitable donation to Dartmoor Rescue Groups of six "end of operational life" Service Land Rover vehicles.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the recommendation at Minute RC/6 (Revision to Capital Programme 2014-15 to 2016-17) be approved; and
- (ii) that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(b) Commercial Services Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Healey, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2014 which had considered, amongst other things:

- an update on the financial performance of commercial activities for the first quarter of the current (2014-15) financial year;
- an update report on commercial leads and opportunities currently being progressed; and
- update reports and a presentation on brand management; resourcing for Red One Ltd. and the marketing and commercial development of the Training Academy Schools.

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

(c) Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Eastman, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a presentation on the framework being used to underpin development of the next iteration of the Corporate Plan;
- a presentation on establishment of the Blue Light Innovation Group to consider collaborative approaches between the fire, police and ambulance;
- a presentation on a pilot study of Rapid Intervention Units (RIUs) aimed at enhancing both firefighter and community safety by the utilisation of modern firefighting concepts and innovations; and
- a presentation on the Community Capacity Building Project – a collaborative venture with the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and the South West Ambulance Services Trust (SWAST) aimed at supporting communities to become more resilient, cohesive and better prepared to respond to emergencies.

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

(d) Human Resources Management & Development Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Bown, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2014 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on requests for retirement and re-employment made pursuant to the Authority's approved Pay Policy Statement for the current (2014-15) financial year;
- a further report on proposed arrangements for working with trade unions; and
- a draft response to the Government review on the terms and conditions of service for operational staff.

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

(e) Audit & Performance Review Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Radford, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2014 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a document prepared by Grant Thornton (the Authority's external auditor) on its findings and opinion on the Authority's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014;
- the final 2013-14 Annual Statement of Assurance setting out issues of financial, governance and operational assurance and drafted to comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations and the Fire and Rescue Authority National Framework;
- a report on progress as at the second quarter of the current (2014-15) financial year in relation to the programme of internal audit and review work for the year; and
- a report on the Service's performance between April to June 2014 against those measures contained in the Corporate Plan 2013-14 to 2014-15.

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

DSFRA/23. Appointments to Firefighters Pensions Scheme Internal Dispute Resolution Panel Membership

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/14/15) on a requirement to appoint, for the current (2014-15) municipal year, Members to serve on a small Panel established to determine appeals under Stage 2 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

RESOLVED that Councillors Bown, Brooksbank and Smith be appointed to serve on the Firefighters Pension Scheme Independent Disputes Resolution Panel for the current (2014-15) municipal year, the term of office to be until the first meeting of the Human Resources Management & Development Committee following the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2015.

DSFRA/24. Chairman's Announcements

The Authority received, for information, a schedule of events attended by the Chairman on its behalf since the last meeting.

DSFRA/25. Chief Fire Officer's Announcements

The Chief Fire Officer reported:

- that the latest, four-day, period of industrial action arising from the dispute between the central government and the Fire Brigades Union over proposed reforms to the Firefighters' Pension Scheme. There had been some 207 incidents during the period of industrial action, the majority of which were co-responder. There had been some 44 fires, of which only 1 – in Ilfracombe – had been significant, involving 6 appliances;
- that, going forward, Authority Members would be notified of fatalities at the time these occurred rather than at the next relevant Authority meeting;
- that he had given notice to the Welsh Assembly not to extend his current contract as Fire and Rescue Adviser and Inspector for Wales, which would run until the end of July 2015;
- on the appointment of Area Manager Phil Martin as Assistant Chief Fire Officer with Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service.

Members asked to have placed on record their appreciation of the Service in swiftly responding to the incident at Ilfracombe, thereby preventing the spread of fire, and in supporting the Bridgwater Carnival, both of which events had occurred during the period of industrial action.

Members also asked to have placed on record their congratulations to Area Manager Phil Martin on securing his promotion to Assistant Chief Fire Officer with Cornwall and wished Phil every success in his future career.

DSFRA/26. 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves 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.

DSFRA/27. Asset Opportunities

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

The Authority considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services (DSFRA/14/16) identifying an asset acquisition opportunity which, if pursued, could assist the Service in the effective and efficient management of its property portfolio.

To progress this initiative would require an increase to the approved Capital Programme but this could be achieved by a revenue contribution from underspend identified in the revenue budget for the current year.

Following a debate on this matter, Councillor Yeomans **MOVED** (with Councillor Radford seconding) that the recommendation as set out in report DSFRA/14/16 be approved.

Councillor Randall Johnson then proposed the following **AMENDMENT**:

“to insert the words “...and the Authority Chair and Vice-Chair of the Resources Committee...” after the words “...following consultation with the Chairman of the Resources Committee...” in the Motion as proposed by Councillor Yeomans”.

Councillors Yeomans and Radford indicated that they were prepared to accept the amendment proposed to the motion. The substantive motion, as duly revised, was then put to the vote whereupon it was

RESOLVED, unanimously, that efforts be made to acquire the site identified in report DSFRA/14/16 on terms and conditions to be agreed, with the Chief Fire Officer delegated authority, following consultation with the Authority Chair and Chair and Vice-Chair of the Resources Committee, to determine the matter.

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.15hours.