

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

7 October 2015

Present:-

Councillors Healey (Chair), Bown, Burridge-Clayton, Chugg, Colthorpe, Eastman, Edmunds, Ellery, Greenslade, Horsfall, Knight, Leaves, Redman, Singh, Thomas, Wheeler, Woodman and Yeomans

Apologies:-

Councillors Ball, Dyke, Hill, Radford, Randall Johnson and Way

DSFRA/24. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2015 be signed as a correct record.

DSFRA/25. Addresses by Representative Bodies

The Authority received for information a presentation from the FBU setting out its views in relation to the recently-issues consultation document "Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services".

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/29 BELOW)

DSFRA/26. Minutes of Committees

(a) Resources Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Yeomans, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2015 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on Treasury Management performance for the first quarter of the current (2015-16) financial year;
- a report on financial performance for the first quarter of the current financial year against the approved revenue and capital budgets; and
- a report setting out a proposed revision to the capital programme 2015-16 to 2017-18.

RESOLVED

- (i) that, as recommended by the Resources Committee (Minute RC/5 refers) and in accordance with Financial Regulations, the following virements in excess of £50,000 be approved:

AMOUNT	FROM	TO
£110,000	Grants and Reimbursements	Training Expenses
£116,000	Grants and Reimbursements	Earmarked Reserve for NNDR funding

- (ii) that the revised capital programme and associated prudential indicators 2015-16 to 2017-18, as recommended by the Resources Committee (Minute RC/6 refers) and appended to these Minutes, be approved;
- (iii) that, subject to (i) and (ii) above and 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 7 September 2015 which had considered, amongst other things:

- an update report on progressing options for revised governance arrangements for commercial trading;
- a report on the dividend declared by the Board of Red One Ltd. in relation to commercial activities for the 2014-15 financial year; and
- progress reports on a State Aid issue, commercial financial performance to date during the current (2015-16) financial year leads and opportunities currently being pursued.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the recommendations at Minute CSC/10 (Commercial Activities 2014-15 Financial Year - Declaration of Dividend by Red One Ltd.) be considered in conjunction with the item on Commercial Activities 2014-15 Financial Year - Declaration Of Dividend By Red One Ltd. elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting;
- (ii) that, subject to (i) above and in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/34 BELOW).

(c) Human Resources Management & Development Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Bown, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a report on managing absence within the organisation;
- a report on redundancy compensation rates;
- a report on the exercise of discretions afforded by the Firefighters' Pensions Schemes; and
- a request for retirement and re-employment.

RESOLVED

- (i) that, as recommended by the Committee (Minute HRMDC/11 refers), the Authority operates with immediate effect a multiplier of x1, using an actual week's pay, in cases of voluntary and compulsory redundancy for all staff (both non-uniformed and uniformed), with redundancy compensation rates being further reviewed by the Committee on an annual basis and any proposed revisions being recommended to the full Authority and subject to consultation with representative bodies;
- (ii) that, as recommended by the Committee (Minute HRMDC/12 refers), the proposed approach to discharging discretions provided by the Firefighters' Pensions Schemes, as identified in report HRMDC/15/7 as submitted to the Committee, be approved;
- (iii) that, subject to (i) above and in accordance with Standing Orders, the Minutes be adopted.

(d) Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor Eastman, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 which had considered, amongst other things:

- a presentation on community safety initiatives in the Plymouth area;
- an update report on progress to date in developing the latest iteration of the Authority's Strategic Plan – "Our Plan 2016 – 2021);
- a report on a revised approach, following a successful pilot, to secure reductions in unwanted calls for lift releases;
- an update on community safety campaigns and key messages generally;
- a road safety presentation featuring the "Biker Down" initiative.

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

(e) Audit & Performance Review Committee

The Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillor Edmunds, **MOVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015 which had considered, amongst other things:

- an external auditor report on audit findings for the Authority for the 2014-15 financial year;
- the final 2014/15 Annual Statement of Assurance;
- a review on progress against the approved annual internal audit plan for 2015-16; and
- a report on Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service performance against priorities as identified in the current iteration of the Authority's Strategic Plan.

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

DSFRA/27. Proposed Revisions to Calendar of Meetings 2015-16 Municipal Year - Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee and Members' Forums

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/15/20) on proposed revisions to the approved Calendar of Meetings for the 2016-17 municipal year by including an additional meeting of the Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee and proposing alternative dates for forthcoming Members' Forums meetings.

RESOLVED

- (a) that an additional meeting of the Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee be held at 10.00hours on Tuesday 12 January 2016;
- (b) that the Clerk be asked to identify appropriate alternative dates for the December 2015 and February 2016 Members' Forum meetings.

DSFRA/28. Transfer of Grant Funding from the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service to SAFE South West

The Authority considered a report of the Treasurer to the Authority (DSFRA/15/21) on the proposed transfer of residual Local Area Agreement reward grant from the Service to SAFE South West who would then assume responsibility for administering the funding in accordance with the purposes for which it was initially granted (i.e. community resilience use in the Somerset area only).

The transfer would be in essence a grant thereby requiring full Authority approval in accordance with Financial Regulations.

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the the transfer by way of grant of Local Area Agreement funding of £105,676 from the earmarked reserve currently held by the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service to SAFE South West be approved.

DSFRA/29. Consultation - "Enabling Closer Working Between the Emergency Services"

The Authority considered a report of the Clerk to the Authority (DSFRA/15/22) on a recently-published consultation document "Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services", responses to which were invited by 23 October 2015.

RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to respond on behalf of the Authority to this consultation document following detailed consideration at the forthcoming Members' Forum on 12 October 2015.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/25 ABOVE)

DSFRA/30. Chairman's Announcements

RESOLVED that the Chairman circulate via e-mail a list of activities undertaken on behalf of the Authority since its last formal meeting.

DSFRA/31. Chief Fire Officer's Announcements

The Chief Fire Officer reported for information on:

- activities seeking to secure a fairer funding settlement for the Authority, including meetings with local MPs and the Chief Fire Adviser;
- activities to promote strategic partnership and collaborative opportunities, including meetings with other Chief Fire Officers in the region, senior officers for South West Ambulance Service National Health Service Foundation Trust (SWASFT), the Chief Constable of the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and hosting a multi-agency counter-terrorism event at Service Headquarters in preparation for the Rugby World Cup; and
- activities undertaken to raise the local and national profile of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, including the publication of articles in local newspapers and the Guardian.

DSFRA/32. 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined:

- in respect of Minute DSFRA/ below, in Paragraphs 1 (information relating to an individual), 2 (information which would reveal the identity of an individual) and 3 (information relating to the financial and business affairs of a particular person) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act;
- in respect of Minutes DSFRA/ and DSFRA/ below, in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Authority and third parties).

DSFRA/33. Commercial Services - Revised Governance Arrangements - Update

(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 Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/15/23) on progress to date in implementing revised governance arrangements for commercial trading activities and specifically the appointment of non-executive director, to serve as the Chair of the Board of Red One Ltd., as recommended by the Member Working Group established by the Authority for this purpose (Minute DSFRA/19(c) refers).

RESOLVED

- (a) that, as recommended by the Member Working Group, Tony Rowe OBE be appointed as independent non-executive Director to the Board of Red One Ltd. (and Chair of the Board) for an initial period until the Annual Meeting of the Authority in 2016;
- (b) that, subject to (a) above, the remainder of report DSFRA/15/23 and specifically the intended next steps to secure revised governance arrangements for commercial services activities be noted.

DSFRA/34. Commercial Activities 2014-15 Financial Year - Declaration of Dividend by Red One Ltd.

(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 Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/15/24) on the return from commercial trading activities for Red One Ltd. during the last (2014-15) financial year and on the recommendation of the Commercial Services Committee, following its meeting on 7 September 2015, as to use of the dividend declared by the Board of Red One Ltd.

RESOLVED that the recommendation of the Commercial Services Committee, following its meeting on 7 September 2015, as to the apportionment of the dividend declared by the Board of Red One Ltd in respect of the 2014-15 financial year be approved, with the Authority proportion of the dividend being used to off-set capital expenditure.

(SEE ALSO MINUTE DSFRA/26(b) ABOVE)

DSFRA/35. Regional Control Centre, Taunton - Further Considerations

(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 Chief Fire Officer (DSFRA/15/25) on the history of the FiReControl project initiated by the former Labour government and subsequent actions by the Department for Communities and Local Government, following cancellation of the project, both to dispose of the Regional Control Centres built as part of the project and to secure necessary improvements in the efficiency and resilience of fire control rooms.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the recommendation as set out in report DSFRA/15/25 in relation to the Regional Control Centre, Taunton, be approved;
- (b) that, subject to (a) above, the report be noted.

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.35hours.

APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2015

Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18						
Item PROJECT	2015/16	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
	Approved Budget	Year end Slippage	Amendments, slippage & Savings	Revised Budget	Revised Indicative budget	Indicative Budget
Estate Development						
1 Major Projects - Training Facility at Exeter Airport	329	76	16	421	0	0
2 Minor improvements & structural maintenance	1,616	476	(472)	1,620	2,955	2,040
Estates Sub Total	1,945	552	(456)	2,041	2,955	2,040
Fleet & Equipment						
3 Appliance replacement	4,089	575	(162)	4,502	3,015	2,557
5 Specialist Operational Vehicles	480	257	(393)	344	400	400
6 Equipment	1,391	266	(704)	953	1,054	320
7 ICT Department	250	0	(5)	245	0	0
8 Water Rescue Boats	93	0	0	93	0	0
Fleet & Equipment Sub Total	6,303	1,098	(1,264)	6,137	4,469	3,277
Overall Capital Totals	8,248	1,650	(1,720)	8,178	7,424	5,317
Programme funding						
Earmarked Reserves:	1,910	873	(1,736)	1,047	5,494	921
Revenue funds:	2,118	0	16	2,134	0	0
Borrowing	4,220	777	0	4,997	1,930	4,396
Total Funding	8,248	1,650	(1,720)	8,178	7,424	5,317

PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

	INDICATIVE INDICATORS 2017/18 to 2020/21					
	2015/16 £m Estimate	2016/17 £m Estimate	2017/18 £m Estimate	2018/19 £m Estimate	2019/20 £m Estimate	2020/21 £m Estimate
Capital Expenditure						
Non - HRA	8.178	7.424	5.317	3.568	4.069	3.819
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)						
Total	8.178	7.424	5.317	3.568	4.069	3.819
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream						
Non - HRA	3.76%	4.18%	4.23%	4.56%	4.98%	5.31%
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Non - HRA	25,817	25,724	28,186	29,663	31,417	32,758
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other long term liabilities	1,444	1,374	1,299	1,209	1,112	1,010
Total	27,261	27,098	29,485	30,872	32,529	33,768
Annual change in Capital Financing Requirement	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Non - HRA	3,169	-163	2,387	1,387	1,657	1,239
HRA (applies only to housing authorities)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	3,169	-163	2,387	1,387	1,657	1,239
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Increase/(decrease) in council tax (band D) per annum	-£0.10	-£0.10	-£0.18	N/A	N/A	N/A
PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS - TREASURY MANAGEMENT						
Authorised Limit for external debt	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Borrowing	29,477	30,949	32,827	34,241	35,737	37,294
Other long term liabilities	1,516	1,443	1,364	1,270	1,167	1,061
Total	30,993	32,392	34,190	35,510	36,904	38,355
Operational Boundary for external debt	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Borrowing	28,186	29,663	31,417	32,758	34,166	35,656
Other long term liabilities	1,444	1,374	1,299	1,209	1,112	1,010
Total	29,630	31,037	32,716	33,967	35,278	36,666
Maximum Principal Sums Invested over 364 Days						
Principal Sums invested > 364 Days	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000

TREASURY MANAGEMENT INDICATOR	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %
Limits on borrowing at fixed interest rates	100%	70%
Limits on borrowing at variable interest rates	30%	0%
Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2015/16		
Under 12 months	30%	0%
12 months and within 24 months	30%	0%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	0%
10 years and above	100%	50%