

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the Council Chamber, The Castle, Winchester on 14 February 2013

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p S. Barnes-Andrews	p T. Knight
p I. Beagley	p C. McEwing
a A.S. Carew	a R. McIntosh
p C. Carter	p E. Neal
p K. Chapman	p F. Pearce
p M. Cooper	p R.H. Price
p S. Darragh	p D. Simpson
p A. Evans	p P. Smith
p L. Fairhurst	p R. Smith
p J. Fazackarley	p L. Stubbs
p J. Frankum	p M. Tucker
p D. Harrison	p J. West
p R.J. Kimber	

292. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carew and McIntosh.

293. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

The Clerk confirmed that the Standards and Governance Committee had given a dispensation to allow all Members to discuss and vote on the Fire Authority budget.

294. MINUTES

Subject to the correction of a typing error, the minutes of the Authority held on 5 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

295. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to this meeting.

296. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Price reported on his attendance at an Arson Prevention Forum, which had been organised in conjunction with the Local Government Association. The multi-agency approach to preventing arson was described and it was noted that agencies in Hampshire were very pro-active in this area.

297. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman advised Members that Property Services Manager Graham Starke had recently retired after 26 years of service. On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman wished him all the best for the future, noting that his experience and knowledge would be missed.

298. ACTIVITY REPORT

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book) highlighting prevention, protection and response activities in each of the group areas covering the period 31 October 2012 to 31 December 2012.

Over the course of discussion various questions were asked by Members and answered at the meeting. In particular concerns relating to the incidence of false alarms, home safety visits and the importance of working with communities to take preventative action were addressed.

RESOLVED:

That the Activity Report be noted.

**299. HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PLAN 2013 TO 2018:
PROPOSED CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding consultation feedback and the Plan's priorities and aims.

The new approach for the Plan was outlined and the two priorities of "Making life safer" and "Making our Service Stronger" were explained. The consultation methods and feedback, as detailed in the report were highlighted.

RESOLVED:

The Authority noted the summary of feedback from the consultation and approved the proposed priorities and aims under the themes of "Making life safer" and "Making our Service stronger" for inclusion in the 2013 to 2018 plan.

300. BUDGET 2013/14

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer and the Treasurer (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding the draft budget for the Authority for 2013/14.

The draft budget was presented to the Fire Authority and it was noted in particular that despite reductions in grant funding, the efficiency programme had enabled a

projected budget surplus. On the basis of the expectations of further grant cuts, two alternative options had been presented to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Authority noted and agreed the recommendation of the Committee (Minute 125 of the Finance and General Purposes Committee refers) to accept the freeze grant funding.

The Fire Authority expressed support for the proposals, noting that the collaborative approach to budget preparation was instrumental in ensuring that all Members were fully engaged.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Authority's council tax for 2013/14 be held at the current rate and that freeze grant funding be accepted to facilitate this.
2. That if any subsequent changes are required in the budget, the Chairman, Chief Officer and Treasurer be given delegated authority to reflect the actual position in the budget.
3. That the revenue budget for 2013/14 as set out in Appendix A be approved.
4. That the Capital Programme for 2013/14 set out in Appendix F be approved.
5. That the recommendations set out in Appendix H covering the Treasury Management strategy which incorporates the Prudential Indicators and the Policy on Minimum Revenue Provision be approved subject to making the necessary amendments to provide for a loan to the proposed HFRA company (see Minute 303 below).
6. That the Budget Requirement for the general expenses of the Authority for the year beginning 1 April 2013 be £67,473,400.
7. That the Council Tax Requirement for the Authority for the year beginning 1 April 2013 be £35,489,793.24.
8. That the Authority's council tax for the year beginning 1 April 2013 for the properties in each band be::

Band A	£40.92	Band E	£75.02
Band B	£47.74	Band F	£88.66
Band C	£54.56	Band G	£102.30
Band D	£61.38	Band H	£122.76

9. That precepts be issued totalling £35,489,793.24 on the billing authorities in Hampshire, requiring the payment, in such instalments and on such dates set by them and previously notified to the Authority, in proportion to the taxbase of each billing authority's area as determined by them which are set out below:

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	60,252.70
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East Hampshire District Council	45,965.13
Eastleigh Borough Council	41,575.62
Fareham Borough Council	40,244.00
Gosport Borough Council	24,532.40
Hart District Council	37,212.78
Havant Borough Council	37,204.14
New Forest District Council	67,702.70
Portsmouth City Council	50,500.70
Rushmoor Borough Council	28,799.18
Southampton City Council	55,471.70
Test Valley Borough Council	43,344.00
Winchester City Council	45,392.95
	578,198.00

10. That in accordance with the set of principles set by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for the year, it is determined that the relevant basic amount of council tax for 2013/14 is not excessive.

301. **PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME**

The Authority received the report of the Chief Officer (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding the commencement of the Scheme's two pilots and the participation of HFRS in the non statutory scheme.

The nature of the side by side pilots for a Primary Authority scheme were explained to the Fire Authority and it was noted that a decision on which model would be taken forward was expected later in the year. Members discussed the practicalities of cost recovery mechanisms and the way in which this would most likely work was clarified, depending on the relationship that individual businesses build with respective Fire Authorities.

RESOLVED:

The Authority acknowledged the commencement of the pilots on 2 January 2013 initiated by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the participation of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service in the non statutory scheme.

302. **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The Authority received the report of the Clerk (Item 11 in the Minute Book) regarding a Members' Allowances Scheme for HFRA Members from April 2013, including the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Royston Smith and seconded by Councillor Keith Chapman that a Members' Allowances scheme for HFRA Members from 1 April 2013 be adopted for a one year period at the same rates as the existing scheme. Members were supportive of this proposal and it was:

RESOLVED:

That subject to the updates noted in paragraph four of the report, a Members' Allowances scheme for HFRA Members from 1 April 2013 be adopted for a one year period at the same rates as the existing scheme.

**303. MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
– 29 JANUARY 2013**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 January 2013 (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

Minute 124 (changes to the capital programme) - The recommendation c to the Authority was agreed.

Minute 125 (acceptance of Council Tax freeze grant for 2013/14) - It was noted that the recommendation to the Authority had been agreed earlier in the meeting (Minute 300 refers).

Minute 128 (establishment of a trading company) - The recommendations a – d to the Authority were considered by Members with reference to the report to the Committee, which was appended to the Minutes for reference. A number of points were raised, including the principle of a public authority entering a commercial market place, the level of risk, potential future markets for the company and the staffing and ownership arrangements.

A vote was held and the recommendations agreed. In accordance with Standing Order 16.4, Councillor Knight requested that his opposition to recommendations c and d be recorded.

Further to the above, it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Authority appoint to the Board of the Company the following Directors:

- Councillor Royston Smith (Chairman)
- Councillor Chris Carter
- Councillor Roger Price
- Councillor Stephen Barnes-Andrews
- Dave Curry

**304. MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
– 28 NOVEMBER 2012**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee held on 28 November 2012 (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

It was confirmed that the forthcoming Committee meeting scheduled for 26 February 2013 had been cancelled due to lack of business.

**305. MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
– 30 NOVEMBER 2012**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee held on 30 November 2012 (Item 14 in the Minute Book).

306. MINUTES OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2013

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 30 January 2013 (Item 15 in the Minute Book).

The recommendation to the Authority of Minute 136 (Pay Policy Statement) was considered. It was noted that the pay award for Gold book staff was outstanding and it was confirmed that it had been agreed that if the national pay award was less than 1 percent, a local pay award would be granted to take the total pay award to 1 percent. It was resolved that the Pay Policy Statement be agreed with this agreement incorporated.

307. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

The Clerk drew the attention of all Members to the importance of maintaining confidentiality of the exempt Minutes and any ensuing discussion, as this was a necessary requirement of binding confidentiality agreements that had been entered into.

**308. EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY 5
DECEMBER 2012**

The exempt minutes of the Authority held on 5 December 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

309. EXEMPT MINUTES OF FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

– 5 DECEMBER 2012 and 29 JANUARY 2013

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 29 January 2013 (Item 18 in the Minute Book).

310. EXEMPT MINUTE OF HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 JANUARY 2013

Prior to consideration of this item, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Officers withdrew from the meeting due to their interest.

The Authority received and noted the exempt Minute of the Human Resources Committee held on 30 January 2013 (Item 19 in the Minute Book).