

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY held at the  
Borough Council Offices, Eastleigh on 26 September, 2013

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:

p	Graham Burgess	p	Robin McIntosh
p	Adam Carew	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	Chris Carter	p	Frank Pearce
p	Roz Chadd	p	Andrew Pope
p	Keith Chapman	p	Roger Price
p	Mark Cooper	p	David Simpson
p	Liz Fairhurst	p	Phil Smith
p	Jason Fazackarley	p	Royston Smith
p	Jane Frankum	p	Mark Staplehurst
p	Jonathan Glen	p	Luke Stubbs
a	David Harrison	p	John Wall
p	Geoff Hockley	p	John West
p	Chris Lagdon		

**15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Harrison.

**16 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.

**17 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 14 June 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**18 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to this meeting.

**19 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Carter reported on his recent attendance at the LGA conference in Manchester, where he took part in discussions about working in partnership and on the outcomes of Sir Ken Knight's report. He had also recently represented the Chairman at the opening of the HFRS and Police co-location office in Shirley, Southampton.

Councillor Price reported that he had attended a Fire Management Service meeting, at which the strike action was discussed, that he was to continue to be on the arson task force and that he had joined a sprinkler group. Cllr Price also cited a recent speech by the Fire Minister, in which the substantial reduction in fires over the previous 10 years was highlighted.

## 20 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman announced that in July, HFRS competed at the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) Challenge which took place at the Albert Docks, Merseyside. The event hosted a field of 46 teams from UK fire and rescue services and a number of international teams, with HFRS competing in the disciplines of water rescue, trauma and extrication. Following two days of intense competition HFRS were crowned Overall Extrication Champions 2013 and also won awards for best medic and best technical team. This win gave the team automatic entry into the World Rescue Challenge being held in 2014. The Chairman confirmed that he would write to those involved to congratulate them on behalf of the Authority.

An evening of recognising the hard work of a whole host of staff, partners and supporters at Service HQ on Wednesday 11 December from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm was highlighted and the Chairman encouraged Members to attend a fantastic and inspiring night.

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the fire fighter fatality that occurred on 13 July 2013 in Greater Manchester. Stephen Hunt was fighting a difficult fire in the basement of a retail premises. As would be expected the FRSs have rallied round to support GMC and HFRS, with its own recent tragic experience, had been a significant contributor. GMC officers had made a number of visits to Hampshire for advice on investigative arrangements, funeral preparations and support for staff. The Chief Officer and a standard bearer from Hampshire represented both the Authority, the Service and the families of James Shears and Alan Bannon at the recent funeral. HFRS would continue to offer whatever assistance it can.

May this year saw a considerable change in Fire Authority membership and, following discussions with the other groups, it was decided to recognise the enormous contribution and commitment that Members from the previous Fire Authority had made. Certificates were presented to: Stephen Barnes-Andrews, Ian Beagley, Sam Darragh, Tim Knight and Marilyn Tucker, each of whom thanked the Chairman, the Authority and Fire Service officers. The Chairman also acknowledged the contribution of Adrian Evans, Roger Kimber and Cathy McEwing, who had been unable to attend the meeting, and confirmed that their certificates would be sent to them.

## 21 **HFRA PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 7 in the Minute Book, which was tabled at the meeting, regarding a proposed new proportionality table for the Authority, following appointments made by Hampshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority agree the revised proportionality table.

That Councillor Chad replace Councillor McIntosh on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and that Councillor Carew replace Councillor Chad on the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

## 22 **HFRA COMMITTEES' TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Authority received the report of the Clerk, item 8 in the Minute Book regarding the terms of reference of each of the Authority's committees.

The report was introduced and a number of key updates to the respective committees' terms of reference were highlighted. The relative merits of a less formal alternative to the proposed sub-committees to the Human Resources Committee were explained and discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority agrees the revised terms of reference for the Finance and General Purposes, the Standards and Governance and the Performance Review and Scrutiny committees.

That the Authority agrees the revised terms of reference for the Human Resources committee, on the basis that Member Working Groups for Principal Officer Pay and Member Development be appointed, with the Committee to agree detailed terms of reference for each Working Group.

## 23 **HFRA MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2013-14**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 9 in the Minute Book, regarding proposed updates to the Members' Allowances Scheme 2013-14 following the creation of a new political group on the Authority.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority agrees an amendment to the HFRA Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14, to include provision for a minority group spokesperson Special Responsibility Allowance for the UKIP group, at the same rate as that of the Labour group spokesperson.

That for the purpose of implementation, this amendment be backdated to the Annual Meeting of the Authority on 14 June 2013, being the date on which the new political group was formed.

## 24 **HFRA STANDING ORDERS' REVISIONS**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 10 in the Minute Book, regarding the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority Standing Orders

It was explained that the proposals to amend the Standing Orders had arisen as a result of Members regularly having to declare a pecuniary interest, under the provisions of the Localism Act, and subsequently to leave meetings, which had a potentially negative impact on representation and proportionality.

Although the impact of the proposed change would affect any circumstance of a pecuniary interest being declared, Members acknowledged that the trigger for the proposals had been the pecuniary interest of the Directors of 3SFire and clarification was sought as to whether those Directors should therefore declare an interest in the proposed decision.

A number of alternatives to the proposed changes to Standing Orders were proposed, which would result in the Directors of 3SFire being able to continue to participate in meetings of the Authority or its committees. It was proposed and agreed that these be given further consideration by the Standards and Governance Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards and Governance Committee be tasked to review and report on possible alternatives to the proposed changes to Standing Orders, with particular regard to the circumstances of the Directors of 3SFire.

## 25 **ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 11 in the Minute Book, regarding activity in the period 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2013.

In addition to the activities reported, it was explained that there had been a particular focus on taking action to avoid thatch fires caused by wood burning stoves, on safeguarding in partnership with other organisations and on the volunteers programme.

Specific Member queries relating to individual incidents and to the report in general were responded to and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note the report.

## 26 **BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT (BCM) POTENTIAL FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 12 in the Minute Book, regarding business continuity management plans in the event of industrial action.

An update was provided to the Authority on the strike that had taken place the previous day and processes in place to provide continuity were detailed, including the impact on response times. Members questioned the spread of cover that had been available and the ability of the Service to sustain cover over

a longer period. It was confirmed that some moving of resources had been required and acknowledged that a longer period of industrial action would require a more paced approach. It was furthermore confirmed that during the strike period, eight calls had been received, five of which had merited a response, which was typical for that time of the week.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note the preparations and resilience arrangements of the Service in anticipation of industrial action.

27 **REPORT ON THE OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT FIRE PEER CHALLENGE OF HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 13 in the Minute Book, regarding the outcomes of a recent peer challenge.

The background and process of the peer challenge was outlined and it was confirmed that the outcomes would also be referred to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee for more in depth review.

Members discussed a number of matters highlighted by the peer challenge including the value and nature of outsourcing, the performance of IT and the role of the Corporate Management Team.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority notes the contents of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Fire Peer Challenge Report.

28 **FACING THE FUTURE: FINDINGS FROM THE REVIEW OF EFFICIENCIES AND OPERATIONS IN FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND**

The Authority considered the report of the Chief Officer, item 14 in the Minute Book, regarding the recent report of the outcomes of work commissioned by Brandon Lewis MP, the Fire Minister, by Sir Ken Knight.

The background to the report was detailed and it was noted that it contained no direct recommendations to Fire Authorities. It was confirmed that an HFRS response had been prepared and that a working group of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee was undertaking an in-depth review of the findings.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority note the report.

29 **ISSUE RAISED BY A MEMBER OF THE AUTHORITY UNDER STANDING ORDER 12**

The Authority considered the report of the Clerk, item 14 in the Minute Book, regarding an issue raised by a member of the Authority under Standing Order 12.

Standing Order 12 was explained to Members and it was noted that it was for the Authority to reach an agreement as to how to proceed with the matter that had been raised. The absence of a specific Standing Order relating to notices of motion was discussed and it was agreed that the Standards and Governance Committee should consider whether an addition to the Standing Orders was required.

The motion on blacklisting detailed in the report was proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Mintoff. Cllr Pope explained the background to the motion, citing a number of blacklisting incidents and sought the endorsement of the Authority.

Cllr R. Smith proposed and Cllr Carter seconded an amendment to the motion to read:

“A number of construction companies have been challenged about supporting the existence of and subscribing to construction industry ‘blacklists’, which detail covertly gathered information on construction trade unionism, militant tendencies, poor timekeeping, trouble making, etc. Blacklisting is an unacceptable practice and cannot be condoned.

This Fire Authority resolves to support the campaign against blacklisting, and will seek written assurances from its partners and suppliers that they do not use blacklisting.”

A vote was held and the proposed amendment was unanimously accepted. Cllr Pope accepted the amended motion to be the substantive motion and a further vote was held, with the result that the motion was unanimously accepted by the Authority.

RESOLVED:

That the Authority accept the motion on blacklisting as set out above.

30 **MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2 JULY, 2013**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee held on 2 July 2013

31 **MINUTES OF STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 5 JULY 2013**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Standards and Governance Committee meeting held on 5 April 2013. It was agreed that the recommendations to the Authority in Minutes 8 and 9 of the meeting be deferred

until further review of the position of the Directors of 3SFire had been completed (Minute 24 refers).

**32 MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 JULY 2013**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee held on 10 July 2013. It was noted that the changes to Committee's terms of reference, including the formation of two Member Working Groups, had been approved earlier in the Authority's meeting (Minute 22 refers).

**33 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 24 JULY 2013**

The Authority received the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 24 July 2013.

The recommendations to the Authority in Minutes 7(d) and 8(d) were agreed. It was noted that the issue of blacklisting, in regard to Authority contracts would be discussed further at a future meeting of the Committee (Minute 9(d) refers).

The recommendation to the Authority in Minute 11(b) was considered and it was noted that Cllr Bennison was no longer a member of the Authority. It was proposed and agreed that Cllr Carew be appointed as the Environmental Champion Member for the Programme Board.