

WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of a MEETING of the PROGRAMME AND SCRUTINY BOARD

held at WILTSHIRE FRS HEADQUARTERS, MANOR HOUSE, POTTERNE

on THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Cllrs E Clark, C Devine, R Jones and G Perkins.

50 Appointment of Chairman

The meeting being the first since the Authority's annual meeting in June, Cllr Devine was appointed Chairman of the Board and took the chair.

51 Apologies

Apologies were presented from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the Brigade Manager Governance and Assurance.

52 Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any interests which the Authority's Code of Conduct required to be disclosed, or dispensations granted by the Clerk to the Authority or by the Ethics Committee.

53 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 14 May 2015 were approved. (It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 3 September 2015 had not taken place.) The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the actions referred to in min. no. 46 had since been completed.

54 Workstream Reports

Reports from the three workstreams were received. The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) highlighted issues of particular interest in the reports of (a) and (b) below. The Brigade Manager People and Development did likewise in relation to (c). The following actions were identified by members:

a) Governance and Assurance Workstream

- Officers were asked to report to the December meeting of the Authority on any issues to do with the "winding-up" of the Authority which required the Authority's consideration.
- The CFO was asked to let the Chairman know the reasons for the initial difficulties with the new command and control system in capturing performance information.
- It was requested that future reports on accidents include comparable statistics (by year and by FRA).

b) Operational Delivery Workstream

- Members supported the planned upgrade of accommodation at Salisbury Fire Station being brought forward from 2016/17 to the current financial year. It was noted that a paper recommending a change to the 2015/16 capital programme would be considered at the next meeting of the Authority.

- The Board was shown a short news item made by ITV on the Networked Fire Control Services Partnership (NFCSP). Officers were asked to include this in the usual visual presentation at the next meeting of the Authority.
- c) People and Development Workstream
- It was noted that, following a review of the Authority's business continuity, a paper would be presented to the next meeting of the Authority.
 - The Brigade Manager People and Development undertook to respond to a query from Cllr Jones on the future of the current hot-fire training facility.
 - Though recognising precise figures were not available at this stage, members expressed an interest in being informed in due course of the number of redundancies in the current organisation as a result of the combination with Dorset.

55 Strategic Risk Register

The updated Strategic Risk Register was presented. Two actions were identified.

- Members endorsed the suggestion that risk no. 311 (strike action by FBU) be removed as a strategic risk and transferred to the operational risk register.
- It was agreed that the pressures on staff (especially corporate staff) due to their increasing workload arising from combination with Dorset, should be regarded as a strategic risk.

56 Other Business

- a) Members gave their informal support to proposals to mark the end of the Authority and of the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service (FRS) in March 2016.
- b) Cllr Perkins asked that consideration be given to the disposal of FRS memorabilia. The Acting Clerk advised that the shadow Dorset and Wiltshire FRA should be involved in any consideration as there was a presumption that the Authority's current property assets would vest in the new Authority on 1 April 2016.

56 Future Meetings

It was noted that no more meetings had been scheduled for the workstreams. Some discussion ensued as to the extent to which further meetings of the Authority and its committees might be required up to 31 March 2016. This was linked to the more general consideration of "winding-up", and would be included in the officers' report to the Authority referred to in the first bullet point of min. 54(a) above.