

WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE REVIEW AND AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD AT WILTSHIRE FRS HQ, MANOR HOUSE, POTTERNE, DEVIZES ON TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015

Present : Cllrs R Jones, N Martin, J Tray and Mrs B Wayman

35 Appointment of Chairman for the Meeting

In the absence of the Chairman of the Committee, it was agreed that Cllr J Tray chair the meeting.

36 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 September 2015 were confirmed and signed.

37 Members' Interests

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.

38 Revenue and Capital Monitoring Report as at 31 October 2015

The Committee received a paper by the Brigade Manager, Governance and Assurance to which were attached monitoring statements for the 2015/16 revenue and capital budgets for the period to 31 October 2015.

It was noted that there were projected year-end under-spending of £1.015m on the revenue budget and £5.524m on the capital budget.

The revenue under-spending included a credit entry of £300k for money to be reimbursed to the Authority by the Government correcting an error by the Government's actuary in the calculation of firefighter commutation payments in respect of the years 2001-2006.

The capital under-spending was mainly due to a number of large scale projects being delayed, i.e. the Safety Centre, the ICT Harmonisation Programme and vehicle replacements which were on hold pending combination with Dorset. It was also noted that the Authority at its meeting on 9 December 2015 would be recommended to approve a revised capital programme to take account of works at Salisbury Fire Station being carried out in 2015/16 instead of 2016/17 as originally envisaged.

Resolved:

To note the paper.

39 Treasury Management Mid-Year Report

The Brigade Manager, Governance and Assurance presented a report providing a synopsis of treasury management performance for the period to 30 September 2015.

40 Internal Audit

Mr S Phillips, Internal Audit at Swindon Borough Council (the Authority's internal auditors) attended the meeting for this item.

On considering a progress report by the Head of Internal Audit,

Resolved:

To note the report.

41 External Audit

Mr D Parson, Assistant Manager, KPMG (the Authority's external auditors) attended the meeting for this item.

(a) Progress Report

On considering a progress report,

Resolved:

To note the report.

(b) Future Arrangements for the Appointment of External Auditors

Mr Parson presented a paper on forthcoming changes to the statutory arrangements for the appointment of external auditors and the implications for local authorities. It was noted that the actions referred to in the paper would be matters for consideration by Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority in due course.

42 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that, barring any unforeseen urgent matters arising, the final meeting of this Committee would be held on 17 March 2016 at 2 p.m.

43 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

(Duration of meeting: 2 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.)