

# **WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY**

## **MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES on THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2014**

**Present :** Cllrs G Payne (Chairman), A Bennett, E Clark, P Edge, Mrs M Groom, R Jones MBE, J Knight, N Martin, C Newbury, G Perkins Mrs B Wayman and R Wright.

### **71 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2013 were amended to reflect the fact that Cllr Wright had sent his apologies and signed.

### **72 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Devine.

### **73 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.

### **74 Chairman's Announcements**

- a) The Chairman reminded members to submit their travelling expenses by early March in order that they could be processed within this financial year.
- b) The Chief Fire Officer gave a brief resume on the FRS's role during the current flooding crisis and the support and advice it was offering to communities. He was asked to collate the costs involved and any monies recovered and report back to the CFA. The Chairman expressed the CFA's thanks and admiration to all staff for their work at this particularly difficult time.
- c) The Chairman reported that he had discussed the issue of Council Tax increases with Brandon Lewis MP.
- d) It was proposed to start a programme of Station visits in the Spring.

### **75 Questions from the Public**

There were no questions from the public.

### **76 Finance Review and Audit Committee**

The minutes of the Finance Review and Audit Committee held on 17 December 2013 were received.

### **77 Capital Programme 2014/15, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2014/15 and Prudential Indicators**

On considering a paper by the Brigade Manager (& Treasurer),

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## Resolved:

- a) *To approve the Capital Programme for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A of the paper.*
- b) *To approve the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2014/15.*
- c) *To approve the prudential indicators in respect of the Capital Programme 2014/15, as set out in Appendix B of the paper*
- d) *That the Chairman write to the Minister highlighting concerns about the system of bidding for funds.*

## **78 Revenue Budget 2014/15 and Fire Precept Resolution**

The Authority received a paper by the Brigade Manager (& Treasurer) and requested that a comprehensive report on chargeable services and the costs of their recovery be submitted to the Programme & Scrutiny Board for their consideration.

On considering a paper by the Brigade Manager (& Treasurer),

## Resolved:

- a) *To set the Fire Precept Band D at £63.62, Precept Requirement at £14,860,300 and Budget Requirement of £24,804,000 for 2014/15*
- b) *To authorise the Brigade Manager, Governance & Assurance to give notice of the approved precept to the appropriate billing authorities.*
- c) *To authorise the Brigade Manager, Governance & Assurance to pay out of the combined fire service fund sums in respect of :*
  - (i) *All accounts and debts due by the Authority forming the Authority's gross revenue expenditure for 2014/15 in the approved budget and such changes as may be agreed subsequently by the Authority;*
  - (ii) *The cost of capital items including the purchase and leasing of equipment specified in the capital budget, and*
  - (iii) *Such loans made by the Authority as may be approved.*
- d) *To authorise the Brigade Manager, Governance & Assurance to borrow such sums as may be required in respect of schemes in the capital budget.*

## **79 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-19**

On considering a report by the Brigade Manager (& Treasurer),

## Resolved:

*To approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-19 as set out in Appendix A of the paper.*

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### **80 Extension To Existing Contracts**

The Clerk briefed the Authority on the requirement for an extension to a contract with 3tc Software which ended on 3 December 2013

Resolved:

*To approve a three month extension to the contract and a further three months if required, further to discussions with the Chairman.*

### **81 Protection, Prevention and Intervention.**

A short visual presentation was made to members and it was agreed that this should be distributed to Area Boards and Locality meetings.

### **82 Fire Safety Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)**

The Members noted the contents of a paper by the Chief Fire Officer on the extension of the Primary Authority Scheme to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the requirement to abide by the terms and conditions of the Scheme when undertaking its regulatory activities.

Resolved:

*That the Authority take an active participation but targeted approach in the Primary Authority Scheme.*

### **83 WFRS Website Update**

A presentation was made on the new WFRS website.

### **84 Staffing Committee**

The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of 31 January 2014 were received.

### **85 Pay Policy Statement 2014/15**

The Members received a paper by the Brigade Manager, People & Development.

Resolved:

*To approve the pay policy statement on the proviso that further information is provided to the Staffing Committee regarding limits on severance payments not covered under paragraph 39 of the pay statement.*

### **86 Pensions Discretions – Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)**

The Members received a paper by the Brigade Manager, People & Development,

Resolved:

*To approve the revised discretions policy as recommended by the Staffing Committee.*

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**87 Pensions Discretions – Firefighters’ Pension Scheme & New Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (FPS & NFPS)**

The Members received a paper by the Brigade Manager, People & Development on the Pensions Discretions for the two Firefighters’ Pension Schemes and requested that the potential cost to the Authority of increasing the commutation limit be submitted to the Staffing Committee for consideration.

**88 Combination Oversight Board**

A paper by the Clerk to the Authority on the revised terms of reference for the Combination Oversight Board was received

*Resolved:*

*To agree the revised terms of reference*

**89 Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 12.40 p.m.)