

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2011**

Present : Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall (Chairman), Cllr Mike Bawden, Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Mrs Mollie Groom, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Nick Martin, Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr Bridget Wayman, Cllr David Wren.

1 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2010 were confirmed and signed.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Devine and Montaut.

3 Members' Interests

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any personal or prejudicial interests or dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

5 Capital Programme 2011/12 and Prudential Indicators

On considering a paper by the Finance Director,

Resolved:

To approve the Capital Programme for 2011/12 (as shown in Appendix A to the paper presented) and the prudential indicators in respect of the Capital Programme (as shown in Appendix B to the paper presented).

6 Revenue Budget 2011/12 and Council Tax Resolution

On considering a paper by the Finance Director and Chief Fire Officer, and after much discussion,

Resolved:

a) *Not to increase the council tax for 2011/12 and to accept the Government's offer of the Council Tax Freeze Grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in council tax, and accordingly to approve a net revenue budget for 2011/12 of £24,880,500 to include a contribution to reserves of £95,700.*

b) *To approve a net precept of £15,666,000 resulting in a council tax for each council tax band as follows, i.e. no change from 2010/11:*

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| <i>Band A</i> | <i>£41.59</i> |
| <i>Band B</i> | <i>£48.52</i> |
| <i>Band C</i> | <i>£55.45</i> |
| <i>Band D</i> | <i>£62.38</i> |
| <i>Band E</i> | <i>£76.24</i> |
| <i>Band F</i> | <i>£90.10</i> |
| <i>Band G</i> | <i>£103.97</i> |
| <i>Band H</i> | <i>£124.76</i> |

- c) *To authorise the Finance Director to give notice of the approved precept to the appropriate authorities.*
- d) *To authorise the Finance Director to pay out of the combined fire service fund sums required in respect of:*
 - i. *All accounts and debts due by the Authority forming the Authority's gross revenue expenditure for 2011/12 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.*
- e) *To authorise the Finance Director to borrow such sums as may be required in respect of schemes in the capital budget.*
- f) *To congratulate officers on their prudent management of expenditure against the 2010/11 budget, identifying savings and reductions to realise a significant underspending; which will assist in planning and implementing service changes and improvements for future years..*
- g) *To note that officers will in due course present options for members' consideration in the light of the financial prospects for the remaining years covered by the Government's comprehensive spending review.*

(Duration of meeting 10.00am to 10.40am)