

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY held at the BRIGADE TRAINING CENTRE, DEVIZES on THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2000**

**Present :** Mr D J Willmott (Chairman), Mrs C Crisp, Councillor D Dart, Mr P R Davis, Councillor M Dilley, Councillor F Foley, Mrs L P Morris, Councillor T Page, Mrs P Rugg, Mrs M E Salisbury, Mr T R Sturgis, Mr N S E Westbrook.

**120 Minutes of Last Meeting** The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2000 were confirmed and signed.

**121 Apologies** Apologies were received from Mr B Atfield.

**122 Chairman's Announcements** The Chairman informed the meeting that the LGA General Assembly on 1 December had debated and approved a motion urging the Government to permit Combined Fire Authorities to become precepting bodies on a pilot basis. Members concurred with his proposal to ask officers to remind the Association that this Authority wished to be a pilot, and meanwhile to examine the financial implications for the Authority.

**123 Questions from the Public** The Chairman replied to questions from Mr J Tray, Secretary, Wiltshire Branch of the FBU concerning (i) the budget for 2001/2 and (ii) the exclusion of the public from recent meetings of the Authority at which the Collaboration Project had been discussed.

**124 Revenue Estimates 2001/2002** A report by the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer was presented.

The Chairman moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr Westbrook :

- (a) To approve the revenue estimates for the financial year 2001/2, as set out at Appendix A to the report presented, and to notify the constituent authorities of the Authority's net expenses for 2001/2 of £15,777,100 as required by paragraph 21(2) of the Wiltshire Fire Services Combination Scheme ; and
- (b) To inform the constituent authorities of the omission from the estimates of financial provision for any change in the conditions of service of retained firefighters arising from the Part-time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations.

In speaking to the motion, the Chairman reminded members of the statutory process for setting the Authority's budget. He also referred to the fact that the estimates as presented did not include provision for two additional posts which in the professional opinion of the Chief Fire Officer were required for the efficient operation of the Brigade.

Cllr Dilley moved the following amendment which was seconded by Cllr Page :

To amend the estimates by the deletion of development items to a value of £44,000, in order to restrict the overall increase over 2000/1 to 4.1%.

The amendment was lost.

Councillor Dilley proposed a further amendment :

To add to the end of (b) : and that the first call on costs for any such change be met from any underspend on the 2001/2 budget.

The Chairman agreed to add this amendment to his motion, whereupon the motion as amended was put to the vote, and it was

Resolved :

- (a) *To approve the revenue estimates for the financial year 2001/2, as set out at Appendix A to the report presented, and to notify the constituent authorities of the Authority's net expenses for 2001/2 of £15,777,100 as required by paragraph 21(2) of the Wiltshire Fire Services Combination Scheme ; and*
- (b) *To inform the constituent authorities of the omission from the estimates of financial provision for any change in the conditions of service of retained firefighters arising from the Part-time Workers (Prevention of Less Favourable Treatment) Regulations, and that the first call on costs for any such change be met from any underspend on the 2001/2 budget.*

## **125 Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved :

*In accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public from the meeting for the business specified in minute no 126 because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 11 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.*

## **126 Collaboration with the Emergency Services : Joint Communications Centre Project** On considering a paper by the Clerk, Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer,

Resolved :

- (a) *To note the paper and to ask officers to continue to keep members informed of progress on the project.*
- (b) *To note that, unless there are significant late changes to the proposed terms, the Agreement with the other two parties will now be concluded in accordance with the resolution of this Authority contained in Min. 84-2000.*
- (c) *To ask officers to seek written confirmation of the ISB grant and to report to group leaders as soon as possible.*

(Duration of meeting 10.30am to 11.15am)