

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY  
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES  
on THURSDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2010**

**Present :** Cllr Brig. R Hall (Chairman), Cllr M Bawden, Cllr P Brown, Cllr P Davis, Cllr C Devine, Cllr Mrs M Groom (from minute no.35), Cllr N Martin (up to and including minute no.41), Cllr D Montaut, Cllr C Newbury, Cllr J Osborn, Cllr G Payne, Cllr D Wren (up to and including minute no. 41).

**32 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2010 were confirmed and signed.

**33 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr H Marshall.

**34 Members' Interests**

Cllrs Brown and Wren each declared a personal interest in the business discussed under Minute No.40 by reason of their positions as Alternate Director and Director respectively of South West Fire Control Ltd. The Clerk to the Authority also declared an interest in the same item of business because of his position as Company Secretary of the Company.

**35 Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman reported on events he had attended in his capacity as Chairman of the Fire Authority including a Memorial Service for two Hampshire Fire-fighters at Winchester Cathedral and the annual Fire-fighters' Memorial Charitable Trust Service in London.

The Chairman also updated Members on:

- the involvement of Brigade Managers and himself in Ministerial workshops which formed part of the Fire Futures Strategic Review of the Fire & Rescue Service;
- the change of name of the LGA Fire Forum to Fire Commission
- the election of the Chief Fire Officer to the Board of the Institution of Fire Engineers
- the success of the Emergency Services Show
- his resignation as "Alternate" Director to Cllr D Wren in respect of the Board of South West Fire Control Ltd and his replacement by Cllr P Brown.

The Chairman also reminded Members of the Risk Management Seminar which would be taking place on 6th October 2010 at Devizes Fire Station.

**36 Questions from the Public**

In response to a question from Cllr Martin, the Chief Fire Officer gave an assurance that officers were willing to attend meetings of Community Area Boards/Clusters in Wiltshire and Swindon whenever appropriate subject to availability. There was a cost which needed to be taken into consideration within the context of the future budget constraints.

**37 Strategic Review**

A report and a verbal update on the Strategic Review into the Fire & Rescue Service being undertaken at national level were received. The involvement of the Chairman and Brigade Managers in the Review was reported and the progress made by each of the workstreams noted. The timetable, especially in view of the delayed start, was considered to be ambitious. The Chief Fire Officer undertook to keep Members advised of all and any progress on the Review.

### **38 Indicative Budget and Funding 2011/12 Onwards**

On considering a paper by the Finance Director containing indicative budgets and funding for 2011/12 onwards,

#### Resolved:

- a) *To note:*
  - *the assumptions made in establishing the interim assessment of the budget deficit over the next 4 years,*
  - *the potential political and strategic impact of such significant financial reductions being required, and*
  - *the need to evaluate risk when considering specific budget reductions.*
- b) *To note that the assumptions made in the paper are subject to change in the light of the outcome of the Government's review of public expenditure.*

### **39 Programme & Scrutiny Board**

- (1) The report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 6 September 2010 was received
- (2) The Board's annual report for 2009/10 was received
- (3) On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer on a redundancy and early retirement policy which had been considered by the Programme & Scrutiny Board,

#### Resolved:

- a) *To ask officers to continue discussions with the relevant representative bodies (and such other staff representatives as may be appropriate) with a view to gaining agreement to the terms of a redundancy policy for the Authority taking into account the prevailing economic circumstances and the possibility of other fire and rescue authorities amending the terms they currently offer their employees.*
- b) *To authorise the Staffing Committee under its delegated powers to approve a redundancy policy for the Authority and the associated terms, having considered the outcome of the discussions referred to in (a) above.*
- c) *To authorise the Staffing Committee under its delegated powers to review and determine the Authority's policy on added years ("augmentation") under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS).*
- d) *Noting that appeals against compulsory redundancies will fall to be heard and determined at member level, to ask the Authority's legal advisor to provide the pool of members for the Appeal Committee with bespoke training on the role of the Committee in relation to such appeals.*

### **40 South West Fire Control Limited**

- (1) Summaries of the discussion and decisions at meetings of the Board of Directors of South West Fire Control Limited held on 4 June 2010 and 29 July 2010 were received.
- (2) On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer and Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

- a) *To appoint Cllr P Brown to vote on the Authority's behalf at the AGM of South West Fire Control Limited to be held on 15 November 2010.*
- b) *To mandate Cllr Brown to cast the Authority's vote at the AGM in support of the proposed changes to the Company's constitution as set out in the appendix to the paper presented.*

**41 Finance Review & Audit Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Finance Review & Audit Committee held on 29 June 2010 were received. Cllr Martin as Chairman of the Committee reported that the Committee at a subsequent meeting on 14 September 2010 had received the external auditor's unqualified report on the audit of the 2009/10 accounts.

**42 Protection, Prevention and Intervention**

A short visual presentation was made.

**43 Cadet Scheme**

On considering a paper by the Assistant Chief Officer (Service Delivery),

Resolved:

- a) *To note the contents of the paper and to agree to the transfer of responsibility of the Fire Cadets to a voluntary body or bodies consisting of the parents and instructors from both units, on terms to be agreed by the Chief Fire Officer and the Clerk to the Authority*
- b) *To agree the re-commencement of the schemes after the 7 October 2010 to allow officers to attend the relevant Community Area Boards beforehand, to assist in securing external funding streams for these activities and to allow for a smooth transition to a voluntary status.*

**44 Standards Committee**

- (1) The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 15 June 2010 were received.
- (2) The Committee's annual report for 2009/10 was received.
- (3) On considering a recommendation of the Committee,

Resolved:

*To approve statements, as presented, in respect of the corporate policies on the Freedom of Information Act, the Data Protection Act, and the Environmental Information Regulations.*

**45 Co-operation and Collaboration with SW FRAs**

On considering a paper by the Clerk and the Chief Fire Officer, it was noted that fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) in the South West were being advised to put on a formal basis the current informal arrangements under which one FRA acted as a lead authority for specific collaborative projects.

Resolved:

*To enter into a Co-operation Agreement with the other FRAs in the South West on terms to be agreed by the Chief Fire Officer and the Clerk to the Authority after consultation with the Chairman, on the understanding that participation by an individual FRA in any one specific collaborative project is entirely at the discretion of the FRA.*

**46 Dates of Meetings 2011**

Resolved:

*To agree the following dates for meetings of the Authority in 2011:-*

*Monday 21 February )  
Thursday 26 May ) all at  
Thursday 22 September ) 10.30 a.m.  
Thursday 15 December )*

**47 Regional Management Board**

The minutes of meeting of the Regional Management Board held on 22 June 2010 were received.

**48 Urgency Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Urgency Committee held on 31 August 2010 were received.

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. )

