

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2010**

Present : Cllr Brigadier Robert Hall (Chairman), Cllr Mike Bawden, Cllr Philip Brown, Cllr Peter Davis, Cllr Chris Devine, Cllr Mrs Mollie Groom, Cllr Howard Marshall, Cllr Nick Martin, Cllr Derique Montaut, Cllr Christopher Newbury (from part way through the business under minute no. 7), Cllr Jeff Osborn, Cllr Graham Payne, Cllr David Wren.

1 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2009 were confirmed and signed.

2 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Members' Interests

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

All members declared a personal interest in minute no. 13 by reason of their serving on a local authority providing services to the Authority.

Councillors Brigadier Hall and Wren each declared a personal interest in the business discussed under minute no.14 by reason of their positions as Alternate Director and Director respectively of South West Fire Control Limited. 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.

4 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman welcomed Gina Williams (UNISON) and Paul Lawler (FBU) to the meeting.

The Chairman reported that Dan Cooke, a Station Manager based at the Training & Development Centre, and Stuart Hillier, a retained firefighter based at Pewsey, had been part of a four person assessment team sent by Rapid UK to Haiti on the 13 January, the day after the earthquake had struck that country. They had spent seven days as part of the international search and rescue effort and had been directly involved in the saving of the lives of two female casualties. He said that the officers would be presenting their experiences at a meeting of the Wiltshire Institution of Fire Engineers' Group to which members would be invited.

The Chairman said that Cllr Newbury had made available to members a copy of his report and comments on the proceedings of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee. This could be obtained on request to the Democratic Services Manager.

The Chairman advised members that the written submission from the Authority to the CLG Parliamentary Select Committee could be found on the Committee's website. The Select Committee had heard oral evidence on 8 February. This would also be on the website in due course.

Members were advised that the Authority's representatives at the LGA Annual Fire Conference in March would be Cllr David Wren, Cllr Christopher Newbury (who would also be attending as part of his role on the LGA) and the Chief Fire Officer.

5 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

6 Programme & Scrutiny Board

A report of the meeting of the Programme & Scrutiny Board held on 21 January 2010 was received.

7 Strategic Plan

Members considered a recommendation of the Programme & Scrutiny Board to approve the Strategic Plan 2010-2013 incorporating the Integrated Risk Management Plan and the Corporate Plan. After discussion, it was

Resolved:

- a) *Subject to a number of minor changes in the text and the addition of an explanatory note to the analyses of incidents, to approve the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), Mission Statement and Core Values as presented.*
- b) *To note the process for publication and distribution of the IRMP, and the process for it to be reviewed annually through the Programme & Scrutiny Board.*
- c) *To note the Service's Corporate Plan which has been recognised by other organisations as an excellent document.*
- d) *To thank those officers involved in the preparation of the IRMP and associated documents for their hard work.*

8 Finance Review & Audit Committee

The minutes of a meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 2010 were received.

9 Capital Programme 2010/11 and Prudential Indicators

On considering a paper by the Finance Director,

Resolved:

To approve the Capital Programme (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).

10 Revenue Budget 2010/11 and Council Tax Resolution

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

Resolved:

- a) *To approve a net revenue budget for 2010/11 of £25,126,600.*

- b) To approve a net precept of £15,517,100 resulting in a Council Tax for each Council Tax band as follows:

Band A	£41.59
Band B	£48.52
Band C	£55.45
Band D	£62.38
Band E	£76.24
Band F	£90.10
Band G	£103.97
Band H	£124.76

- 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 2010/11 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.

11 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made.

12 Carbon Management Plan

On considering a paper by the Assistant Chief Officer, Resources and on noting that this matter had been considered by the Programme and Scrutiny Board,

Resolved:

To approve the Carbon Management Plan as presented and to endorse its implementation.

13 External Support Services

On considering a paper by the Clerk and recommendations of the Programme & Scrutiny Board,

Resolved:

- (a) *To renew or extend the current contracts for the external support services itemised in paragraph 1 of the paper presented with effect from 1 April 2010 for one year in respect of payroll, pensions administration and legal services, and for two years in respect of personnel advice and internal audit.*

(b) To ask officers to pursue the potential for achieving savings by making alternative arrangements for the provision of payroll, pensions administration and legal services, and to report back to the Programme & Scrutiny Board in due course in time for consideration of the 2011/12 budget.

14 Fire & Rescue Service Circular 73/2009

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer, and the submission made by the Regional Management Board in response to the consultation contained in this Circular,

Resolved:

To approve a response to Circular 73/2009 being made on behalf of the Authority in support of the views and comments expressed by the Regional Management Board.

15 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

(Duration of meeting 10.35am to 12.50pm)