

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Minutes of the meeting of the POLICY & RESOURCES PANEL held at East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, 20 Upperton Road, Eastbourne, at 10.00 hours on Thursday 29 August 2013.

Members Present: Councillors Barnes, Butler, Hawtree, Howson (Chairman), Pragnell, Rufus, Scott and Taylor

Also present:

Mr. D. Prichard (Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive), Mr. G. Walsh (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), Mrs. C. Rolph (Assistant Chief Officer - People & Organisational Development), Mr. D. Savage (Treasurer), Miss L. Woodley (Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Mrs. K. Ward (Clerk).

900. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

900.1 It was noted that, in relation to matters on the agenda, no participating Member had any disclosable pecuniary interest under Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011.

901. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

901.1 Apologies were received by Councillors Lambert and Theobald.

902. ANY OTHER NON-EXEMPT ITEMS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN/CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

902.1 There were none.

903. TO CONSIDER ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

903.1 There were none.

904. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES PANEL MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2013

904.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (Copy in Minute Book).

905. CALLOVER

905.1 Members reserved the following item for debate:

906. Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring 2013/14

905.1 **RESOLVED** – That all other reports be resolved in accordance with the recommendations as detailed below.

906. **REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2013/14**

- 906.1 Members considered a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and the Treasurer which reported on issues arising from the monitoring of the 2013/14 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme as at 30 June 2013. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 906.2 The Treasurer informed Members that in the period up until June 2013, the Revenue Budget for 2013/14 was predicted to be underspent by £424,000 of which £250,000 was an in-year savings as a consequence of a review of the IMD replacement strategy which could be set against the Authority's on-going savings targets. The Treasurer reassured Members that officers were working with Managers to identify further savings that could be delivered from the existing revenue budget.
- 906.3 The current year's Capital Programme and spending profile was projected to be underspent by £216,000. The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive updated members on the progress of Newhaven Fire Station. Members were advised that Assistant Chief Fire Officer Gary Ferrand had arranged meetings with local partners, Newhaven Town Council, Lewes District Council, SECAMB and Sussex Police. Although partners were willing to commit to the scheme there were some remaining business arrangements and terms to be concluded. Newhaven Town Council had decided not to participate in the project. SECAMB had fundamentally reviewed their ways of working and no longer require ambulance stations so the use of local premises on a short term basis suits their strategy, and although the Police were keen, they had not yet committed to progressing the matter to the detailed design stage.
- 906.4 Councillors were disappointed with the limited response from prospective partners in the public, voluntary and commercial sectors. Officers reassured Members that extensive work had been undertaken to explore the options for partnership working on the project and to engage with public sector partners, particularly given that a deadline had now been set for partners to make a firm commitment so that the project could proceed.
- 906.5 The Treasurer noted that because of current financial restraints in the public sector some potential partners were unwilling to commit to the long-term leases that would be necessary to ensure that the costs of the project could be equitably recovered and the Authority was not exposed to any undue financial risk now or in the future.
- 906.6 **RESOLVED** – That the Panel note:
- (i) The projected 2013/14 Revenue Budget outturn;
 - (ii) The projected Capital Programme outturn;
 - (iii) The current and planned use of reserves; and
 - (iv) The shortfall in 2013/14 budget savings.

907. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

907.1 **RESOLVED** – That items 908 and 909 be exempt under paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 and, accordingly, are not open for public inspection on the grounds that they include information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information), and information relating to any consultation or negotiations, or contemplated consultation or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

The meeting concluded at 12.55 hours.

Signed

Chairman

Dated this Day of

2013