

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 14 November 2013.

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

Also present:

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

911. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

911.1 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.

912. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

912.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Theobald.

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

913.1 There were none.

914. TO CONSIDER ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

914.1 There were none.

915. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES PANEL MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2013

915.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (Copy in Minute Book).

916. CALLOVER

916.1 Members reserved the following item for debate:

917. Revenue Budget and Capital Programme Monitoring 2013/14

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

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

- 917.1 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 September 2013. (Copy in Minute Book).
- 917.2 The Treasurer informed Members that the Revenue Budget for 2013/14 was currently predicted to be underspent by £514,000. The majority of this underspend was in IMD and Corporate Services budgets. Members were advised that a more detailed review of the IMD budget was underway which was likely to see a reduced underspend at the next meeting's report. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive explained that there were significant challenges with IMD to ensure that the system was robust; external consultants were being engaged to assist the Service. Members were also alerted that income from the local share of business rates was expected to be lower than budgeted for, which would also reduce the underspend and this would be reflected in the next report to the Panel.
- 917.3 The overall Capital Programme was projected to be underspent by £284,000 which was an increase on the previous report to this Panel, whilst the current year's capital programme was projected to be under budget by £1,315,000. This was primarily due to delays in progressing the project for a new fire station at Newhaven and £970,000 would carry over to 2014/15.
- 917.4 Councillors were advised that officers were currently assessing the potential impact of two pension related issues: the judgement in the Norman v. Cheshire case, which had determined that some special allowances should be regarded as pensionable; and the proposed modified pension scheme for Retained Duty staff. Both would have financial and administrative implications. The financial costs, both one off and on-going, would need to be factored into the Authority's medium term finance plan. An update would be brought to a future Panel meeting.
- 917.5 The Chairman wished to record his appreciation for the excellent work carried out on the refurbishment of Crowborough Fire Station.
- 917.6 **RESOLVED** – That the Panel note:
- (i) the projected 2013/14 Revenue Budget outturn;
 - (ii) the projected Capital Programme outturn and variation to the Capital Programme;
 - (iii) the current and planned use of Reserves; and
 - (iv) the shortfall in 2013/14 budget savings and that they are managed within the current overall spend.

918. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT – HALF YEAR REPORT FOR 2013/14**

918.1 Members noted a report of the Treasurer which advised them that the treasury management half yearly report was a requirement of the Fire Authority's reporting procedures and covered the treasury activity for the first six months of 2013/14. The report included an update on the first half year of Prudential Indicators which related to the treasury activity. (Copy in Minute Book).

918.2 **RESOLVED** – That the Panel note the treasury management performance for the first half year of 2013/14.

919. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

919.1 **RESOLVED** – That items 920 and 922 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

2014