

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 7 July 2016.

Members Present: Councillors Barnes, Howson (Chair), Lambert and Pragnell.

Councillor Taylor was in attendance and was invited to sit at the table during the meeting.

In attendance:

Mr. G. Walsh (Chief Fire Officer), Ms. D Whittaker (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), Mr. M. Andrews (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Miss L. Woodley (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Mr. D. Savage (Assistant Director Resources/Treasurer), Mrs L. Ridley (Assistant Director Planning & Improvement) and Mrs. K. Ward (Clerk).

019. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

019.1 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.

020. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

020.1 **RESOLVED** – That Councillor Howson be elected Chairman of the Panel for the year.

021. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

021.1 Apologies were received from Councillor O'Quinn.

022. ANY OTHER NON-EXEMPT ITEMS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

022.1 There were none.

023. NON-CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF THE POLICY & RESOURCES PANEL MEETING HELD ON 26 MAY 2016

023.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (Copy in Minute Book).

024. CALLOVER

024.1 Members reserved the following item for debate:

025. Emergency Services Collaboration Programme – Integrated Transport Function – Fuel Project

025. **EMERGENCY SERVICES COLLABORATION PROGRAMME – INTEGRATED TRANSPORT FUNCTION – FUEL PROJECT**

- 025.1 The Panel considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer that updated Members on the integrated fuel collaboration project and sought support to progress with the development of this project through the Integrated Transport Function (ITF) of the Emergency Services Collaboration Programme (ESCP). (Copy in minute book).
- 025.2 The emergency services partners (East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Surrey and Sussex Police) across Surrey and Sussex were working together across a wide range of activities, and the integrated transport function, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations, was the first of a number of projects to emerge.
- 025.3 In order to facilitate this, and as a first step, the Panel was asked to agree to ESFRS becoming part of an integrated vehicle fuel system process across partners, funded by £0.4m from the Fire Transformation Fund grant. This would enable ESFRS vehicles to access bulk fuel across Sussex and Surrey partner sites, realising savings against the costs of purchasing fuel from commercial forecourts.
- 025.4 The proposals were put forward with a view to maintaining or enhancing resilience which would include maintaining sufficient reserve stock levels, enabling 24/7 access at more sites and enhancing chain management.
- 025.5 Councillor Barnes asked whether the savings would offset the costs. The Treasurer advised that the proposals had come about at a timely moment as the funding from the Fire Transformation Fund would support the one-off costs of the project and running costs in the first two years. This would cover the cost of the replacement of all of the Authority's existing fuel tanks which would, in principle, allow us to release the funding included for a similar scheme in the Capital Programme. The business case identifies a small increase in revenue costs for the Authority from year 3 but there was an agreement in principle that no partner was worse off as a result of the ITF. In reality, the Authority would likely have incurred a higher ongoing revenue cost if it had moved to digital dispensing on its own.
- 025.6 Councillor Lambert felt the proposal was a sensible one but enquired as to whether the savings ratio had been determined. Officers advised that, although the details had been agreed in principle, more discussions were required to work out the finer detail.
- 025.7 **RESOLVED** –That
- (i) agreement for ESFRS to join the next stage of the ITF fuel project by becoming part of an integrated vehicle fuel system be approved;
 - (ii) the implementation and first two years of maintenance costs to be covered by the use of a proportion of the DCLG Fire Transformation Fund grant funding received by the ESCP be noted and approved;

- (iii) the maintenance costs from Year 3 onwards, based on the agreement within the ESCP that any negative impact on an individual Service's budget will be mitigated wherever possible by redistribution of the savings achieved by some, or all, of the other partners, be noted and accepted; and
- (iv) the equipment, once installed through a transfer of assets procedure, be accepted.

026. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

- 026.1 There were no items that, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, would result in disclosure of exempt information, and which required the exclusion of the press and public.

The meeting concluded at 10.15 hours.

Signed

Chairman

Dated this 3rd November 2016