



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority held at 10:00 hours
on Tuesday 5 December 2017 at the
Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Salisbury**

Members present: Cllr Spencer Flower (Chairman); Cllr Garry Perkins (Vice Chairman); Cllr Steve Allsopp; Cllr Abdul Amin; Cllr Mark Anderson; Cllr Les Burden; Cllr Steve Butler; Cllr Malcolm Davies; Cllr Andrew Davis; Cllr Matthew Dean; Cllr Beverley Dunlop; Cllr Brian Dalton; Cllr Peter Hutton; Cllr Bob Jones; Cllr Nick Martin; Cllr Paul Oatway; Cllr Byron Quayle; Cllr Pip Ridout; Cllr Christopher Rochester; Cllr Ann Stribley; Cllr Robert Yuill.

Officer attendance: Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Mr Ben Ansell; Clerk & Monitoring Officer to DWFR, Mr Jonathan Mair; Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Mr Derek James; Director of Finance & Treasurer, Mr Phil Chow; ACFO John Aldridge (Director, Service Support); Director of People Services, Ms Jenny Long; ACFO Jim Mahoney, (Director, Community Safety); ACFO Mick Stead, (Director of Service Improvement); Democratic Services Officer, Mrs Marianne Taylor; AM Seth Why, Head of Fire Safety (Prevention and Protection)

Guest: Mr Scott Tacchi, Project Manager and Partner, Ridge and Partners LLP.

17/54 Welcome

- 17/54.1 The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- 17/54.2 The Chairman provided an update to Members on his recent meeting with Wendy Williams, Inspector, of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies.
- 17/54.3 He went on to advise of the multi-agency flood defence exercise taking place on field opposite Salisbury Fire Station and invited Members to observe, should they so wish, after the meeting.

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17/54.4 The Chairman also confirmed to Members of his intention to write to all local MPs regarding the Service's financial position and any preferred freedoms concerning council tax increases.

10:10 Cllr Beverley Dunlop arrived

17/55 Apologies

17/55.1 The Chairman confirmed that apologies were received from Cllr Richard Biggs; Cllr Kevin Brookes; Cllr Ernie Clark; Cllr Colin Jamieson; Cllr Susan Jefferies; Cllr Rebecca Knox; Cllr Colin Lovell; Cllr Christopher Newbury; Cllr Vikki Slade

17/56 Code of Conduct, Declarations of Interest and Notifications of Any Other Business

17/56.1 The Chairman asked the meeting for any disclosures of pecuniary interests under the localism act. There were no disclosures.

17/57 Minutes of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority meeting on 8 September 2017

17/57.1 The Chairman asked Members to review and approve the minutes from the last meeting.

17/57.2 **RESOLVED: The minutes were confirmed and approved, without amendment, and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

17/58 Receive minutes from previous Policy and Resources Committee meeting (19/10/17)

17/58.1 The Chairman reviewed the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting with Members and provided a verbal update.

17/58.2 Members discussed and agreed that the Policy and Resources Committee meeting, due to take place on 11 January 2018, would be cancelled.

17/58.3 **RESOLVED: The cancellation of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 11 January 2018.**

17/58.4 **ACTION: Democratic Services Officer to cancel the Policy and Resources Committee meeting booked for 11 January 2018.**

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- 17/59 Receive minutes from previous Finance, Governance and Audit Committee meeting (29/9/17).**
- 17/59.1 Cllr Bob Jones, Chairman of the Finance, Governance and Audit committee, provided Members with assurance of the draft meeting minutes.
- 17/60 Service Performance Review (six month summary)**
- 17/60.1 Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive (CFO), Ben Ansell, provided Members with a presentation on the Service's performance from April to September 2017.
- 17/60.2 The CFO highlighted to Members how the performance of the Service had been reviewed at the beginning of 2017/18 where baseline assessments were established against each key line of enquiry, leading to a judgement of 'developing, established or advanced' for each.
- 17/60.3 He went on to explain, how, through a strategic assessment, the Service identified where it wanted to be by 2018/19, balancing aspiration with resources and how this work directed the delivery of the Service Delivery Plan, along with the Service's strategic risks.
- 17/60.4 The CFO took Members through each of the Service's 5 priorities and explained how it monitors the progress and performance via the key performance indicators and corporate targets, providing assurance of and evidence for the baseline assessments provided. He also highlighted current areas of focus for the Service.
- 17.60.5 The CFO confirmed how the priorities are further scrutinised by Members, noting that Priorities 1, 2 and 3 are examined by the Local Performance and Scrutiny committee's and priorities 4 and 5 by Finance, Governance and Audit, who also scrutinise the strategic risks.
- 17.60.6 Members highlighted their concern regarding the rise in deliberate fire figures. The CFO explained that the Service's rising figure was in line with increases nationally and provided Members with assurance of the Service's focus on prevention.
- 17.60.7 Members discussed the response figures in the rural areas, where crewing is mainly from on-call personnel. The CFO provided Members with an update on the on-call review, noting its focus on the shortfall of on-call crewing.
- 11:40 Cllr Nick Martin arrived
- 17/60.8 Members requested for performance information on attendance times to be included in future reports.
- 17/60.9 Members discussed the usefulness of the Local Performance & Scrutiny

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committees and how they can make comparisons between local areas and demographic differences. Members requested for the minutes of these meetings to be appended to the Authority minutes when published.

17/60.10 The CFO confirmed that progress is on track and the Service is in a good position with regards to fulfilling its commitments in the Service delivery plan.

17/60.11 **RESOLVED: Members noted the Service Performance Review (Six Month Summary).**

17/60.12 **ACTION: Democratic Service Officer to append the minutes from the Local performance and Scrutiny Committees to the minutes of the Authority when published.**

17/60.13 **ACTION: CFO to include attendance times in future performance review reports.**

17/61 Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2017-2018

17/61.1 The Director of Finance & Treasurer, Mr Phil Chow, took Members through the Treasury Management performance for the period ending 30 September 2017, against the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Prudential Indicators for 2017-18 report that was approved at the Authority meeting on 9 February 2017.

17/61.2 Mr Chow brought lending lists and investments to Members attention and noted the changes that have taken place so far. He highlighted the gap between what the Service could have borrowed (capital financing requirement) and what was actually borrowed, for capital purposes, noting that the Service has under-borrowed by approximately £13m. Mr Chow also noted that one maturity loan was repaid in October, which has reduced the level of borrowing.

17/61.3 Members discussed the loans, interests and repayment methods and noted the Services position.

17/61.4 **RESOLVED: Members considered and noted the updated Treasury Management position as at 30 September 2017.**

17/62 Statement of Assurance

17/62.1 The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO), Derek James, took the Members through the Statement of Assurance which the Service, under the National Framework document (2012), is required to produce annually covering financial, service and governance matters.

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- 17/62.2 Chairman of the Finance, Governance and Audit Committee, Cllr Bob Jones commended the Statement to Members and confirmed the recommendation, of the Finance, Governance and Audit Committee, of its approval.
- 17/62.3 **RESOLVED: Members approved the draft Statement of Assurance 2016/17.**
- 17/62.4 **ACTION: Democratic Services Officer to ensure that the Statement of Assurance is published on the Service's website.**
- 17/63 Revised Capital Programme**
- 17/63.1 The Director of Finance and Treasurer, Mr Phil Chow took Members through the Revised Capital Programme, which is regularly monitored and reviewed by the Finance Governance and Audit Committee. Mr Chow highlighted how the paper identifies how the programme had been revised to take account of capital slippage and reassessment of needs and put forward a revised set of prudential indicators for 2017-18 regarding affordability, prudence and sustainability.
- 17/63.2 **RESOLVED: Members noted the changes required and reported in Section 2 of the report; approved the revised Capital Programme for 2017-18 of £9.334m; and approved the revised prudential indicators – Appendix A, as a result of the change in the capital programme 2017-18.**
- 17/64 Grenfell Towers, verbal update**
- 17/64.1 Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive (CFO), Ben Ansell, gave a presentation on the Grenfell fire tragedy and provided an update on the public enquiry, recovery task force and the Hackitt Review.
- 17/64.2 The CFO provided assurance to Members of the work undertake in relation to the 180 high-rise residential properties within the Service area, noting the Service's appointment of a high-rise project officer, additional training, multi-agency exercises and the Services involvement within both the Swindon & Wiltshire Local Resilience Forum and Dorset Local Resilience Forum.
- 17/64.3 The CFO confirmed that investment had been approved to renew two 32m aerial ladders and a 42m aerial appliance.
- 17/64.4 He went on to advise Members of the premises information plates, fitted to high rise buildings with over 10 storeys, noting the vital information for operational staff attending an incident and confirmed that the Service had undertaken a project to ensure that these are fitted to all buildings with over six storeys, which would be delivered over the next few months.

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17/64.5 Members thanked the CFO for his update and requested for an update following the inquiry.

17/64.6 **ACTION: The CFO to provide Members with an update following the inquiry.**

17/65 Public DVD

17/65.1 Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive (CFO), Ben Ansell introduced the short DVD promoting the Service to Members and the Public, which included footage from the 'have a go days', Salamander & SPARC courses for 12 to 18 year olds; the Memorial Service at Christchurch Fire Station for firefighters who had lost their lives 30 years ago; Safe Drive Stay Alive; the International Wildfire Conference; the incidents attended (including the Jurassic Skyline tower rescue in Weymouth); use of drones; support from the Red Cross and a complex fire on the A303 in October.

17/66 Date of Next Meeting

17/66.1 The Chairman confirmed the date of the next Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority meeting as Friday 9 February 2018 at Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre, Hulse Rd, Salisbury SP1 3NR, from 10am.

17/67 To consider passing the following resolution:

17/67.1 In accordance with Section 100A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public for the business specified below because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information to the public.

17/67.2 **RESOLVED: To close the meeting to the press and public.**

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17/68 Safety Centre Discussions

17/68.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer, John Aldridge, took Members through the paper.

17/68.2 Cllr Bob Jones and Cllr Garry Perkins, as members of the Safety Centre working group, confirmed their support for the paper.

17/68.3 Members discussed the paper and requested that an options paper be brought to the Authority meeting in February 2018.

12:05 – Cllr Beverley Dunlop left the meeting.

17/68.4 **RESOLVED: Members voted on the 3 recommendations within the and provided their approval, with one abstention.**

17/68.5 **ACTION: ACFO Aldridge to provide Members with an options paper at the Fire Authority Meeting on 9 February 2018.**

17/69 Marauding Terrorist Fire Arms (MTFA) – verbal update

17/69.1 Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Jim Mahoney, provided an update to Members.

17/69.2 ACFO Mahoney advised of the Service's position statement following the decisions made by Members in relation to the recommendations of the confidential report entitled Responding to new risks: Marauding terrorist firearms attack (MTFA) uplift programme presented at their 8 September 2018 meeting.

17/69.3 Members noted the position statement and requested for a copy to be provided to all Members.

17/69.4 **RESOLVED: Members accepted the verbal update and noted the position of the Service.**

17/69.5 **ACTION: ACFO Mahoney to provide a copy of the position statement to Members.**

The meeting closed at 12:25hrs

Signed: _____

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