

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the WILTSHIRE & SWINDON FIRE AUTHORITY
held at the WILTSHIRE FRS TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, DEVIZES
on THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER 2013**

Present : Cllrs G Payne (Chairman), A Bennett, E Clark, C Devine, P Edge, Mrs M Groom, R Jones, J Knight, N Martin, C Newbury, G Perkins and Mrs B Wayman. (Cllrs Martin and Newbury left the meeting part way through the business under minute no. 69 before the resolutions were adopted.)

55 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2013 were confirmed and signed.

56 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

57 Members' Interests

The Chairman reminded members of the need to declare any interests which the Authority's Code of Conduct required to be disclosed, or dispensations granted by the Clerk to the Authority or by the Ethics Committee.

58 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded members that Keith Strickland would be relinquishing the role of Clerk to the Authority at the end of December. This was therefore his last meeting of the Authority after 16 years as Clerk and 45 years' service in local government. On behalf of members, the Chairman congratulated Mr Strickland on his remarkable service, thanked him for all he had done for the Authority and presented him with a gift as a mark of appreciation.

59 Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

60 Programme and Scrutiny Board.

A report of a meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2013 was received.

61 Revised Capital Programme 2013/14

On considering a paper by the Brigade Manager,

Resolved:

To approve the revised capital programme for 2013/14 of £3.629m and the revised prudential indicators as set out in Appendices A and B respectively of the paper presented.

62 Protection, Prevention and Intervention

A short visual presentation was made to members.

63 Annual Health and Safety Policy Statement

On considering a report by the Brigade Manager,

Resolved:

To note the report and to approve the annual Health & Safety Policy Statement as appended to the paper presented.

64 Ethics Committee

The minutes of a meeting of the Ethics Committee held on 15 October 2013 were received.

65 Code of Conduct

On considering a paper by the Clerk to the Authority and the recommendations of the Ethics Committee,

Resolved:

- a) To note the September 2013 version of the guide for councillors entitled "Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests" issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the DCLG's revised "illustrative text".*
- b) To approve the amendments to the Authority's Members' Code of Conduct shown tracked in Appendix C to the paper presented.*

[Note: The Code of Conduct as amended is appended to these minutes.]

66 Scheme of Delegations to Officers

On considering a paper by the Clerk to the Authority,

Resolved:

- a) To rescind the delegation to the Chief Fire Officer in paragraph 16 of the Authority's Scheme of Delegations to Officers, and*
- b) To delegate the following powers to the Chief Fire Officer with immediate effect:*
 - 1. To exercise the functions of the Authority as Fire Authority under or in relation to the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.*
 - 2. To authorise employees for the purposes of sections 44 to 48 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.*
 - 3. To exercise all the powers of the Authority as an enforcement authority under relevant legislation. Without prejudice to the generality of this provision he/she may in particular carry out the following:*
 - 3.1 Take appropriate action on behalf of the Authority under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005;*
 - 3.2 Designate persons as Inspectors under Article 26 of the Fire Safety Order;*

3.3 Authorise named members of staff in writing to exercise statutory powers conferred on the Authority under Article 27 of the Fire Safety Order;

3.4 Exercise the powers of the Authority as Fire Authority in relation to the issue, serving and enforcement of alteration, enforcement and prohibition notices;

3.5 Take action as the enforcing authority in accordance with regulation 46 of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007;

3.6 Take action as the enforcing authority in accordance with regulation 7 of the Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996; and

3.7 Take action as the enforcing authority in accordance with regulation 8 of the Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990

67 Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

68 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved :

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the public from the business specified in minute no's 69 and 70 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 paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

69 The Wessex Alliance: Securing the Future

On receiving a presentation by the Chief Fire Officer and on considering a paper written jointly with the Chief Fire Officer of the Dorset Fire & Rescue Service, it was unanimously

Resolved:

a) Subject to due diligence and a full business case to include details of proposed financial savings, being considered and approved by the Authority in September 2014, to approve the principle of working towards the goal of a combined fire and rescue authority for Dorset and Wiltshire in April 2016 whilst maintaining local identity.

b) To establish a joint member/officer working party to be known as the Combination Oversight Board on the lines and with the terms of reference set out in Appendix B to the paper presented, subject to this Authority being represented at member level by the Chairman and three other members to be nominated by the Clerk after consultation with the Chairman.

c) To support the proposal to develop and deliver converged Service functions under single management teams.

d) To approve the development and submission of a joint bid to the Dept. of Communities and Local Government to try to secure resources from the

Government's £30m Efficiency Resource Fund and £45m Fire Efficiency Incentive Fund, subject to the bid being approved by the respective Chief Fire Officers and Treasurers after consultation with the Chairmen of the two authorities.

[Note: The Chairman of Dorset Fire Authority, and the Chief Fire Officer and Asst. Chief Fire Officer of Dorset Fire & Rescue Service attended for this item of business and, with the consent of the Chairman of the meeting under Standing Order 14, answered questions from members. They left the room before a vote was taken on the resolutions proposed for adoption.]

70 Fire Control

On considering a paper by the Chief Fire Officer,

Resolved:

- a) *To approve the setting up of a joint command and control centre with Dorset Fire & Rescue Service to be located at the Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service HQ.*
- b) *To enter into a legal Agreement with Dorset Fire Authority on terms to be agreed by the Clerk to the Authority and Chief Fire Officer.*
- c) *To approve the provision of £0.5m as this Authority's share of a joint contingency fund of £1m.*
- d) *To approve the principle of this Authority becoming the employer of all staff of the joint command and control centre, subject to the outcome of (e)below.*
- e) *To note that officers will carry out formal consultation with the staff concerned and the representative bodies.*

(Duration of meeting 10.30 a.m. to 12.40 p.m.)