

## SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

### MINUTES OF THE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19 DECEMBER 2011 AT SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS

#### 66. PRESENT:

Councillor	Left	Authority
A M Ernest (Chairman)		Vale of Glamorgan
K Hyde (Vice Chairman)		Cardiff
D Bolter		Caerphilly
S Bradwick		Rhondda Cynon Taff
J Daniel		Rhondda Cynon Taff
D T Davies		Caerphilly
R J W Greenland		Monmouthshire
C James		Bridgend
S J Jones		Rhondda Cynon Taff
L W Kelloway		Cardiff
C Mann		Caerphilly
R McKerlich		Cardiff
G Price		Merthyr Tydfil
W J Routley		Newport
D Sage		Bridgend
J Singh		Cardiff
B Thomas		Blaenau Gwent
W Tomlinson		Torfaen
E T Williams		Vale of Glamorgan

#### APOLOGIES:

R Jones		Torfaen
R Patel		Cardiff
G Stacey		Rhondda Cynon Taff
D Hando		Newport
V E Smith		Monmouthshire

#### ABSENT:

**OFFICERS PRESENT:-** Acting CFO H Jakeway; Acting DCO S Chapman; ACFO R Hammerton - Director of Technical Services; ACO P Haynes – Director of People Services; Acting ACFO A Thomas – Director of Operations

## **67. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Each Member declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in each agenda item which affected their Authority.

In addition, the following Members specifically drew attention to the following interests as it affected their home Authority:

Councillor Routley	Item 14
Councillor Bradwick	Item 17
Councillor Daniel	Item 17

## **68. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WELCOME TO THE ACTING CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER**

The Chairman extended a warm welcome and congratulations to Huw Jakeway and Sally Chapman in their acting roles.

### **ATLANTIC DASH**

Members will be aware that John Haskell and Jamie Windsor set out on their epic journey on 7 December 2011 to row 3,000 miles across the Atlantic from Tenerife to Barbados. The start of the race was delayed slightly due to bad weather; however, despite thirty foot waves and a broken rudder, John and Jamie have hit the 1,000 mile mark and remain in very high spirits.

### **SERBIA**

On Wednesday, 19 October 2011, a crew consisting of Service personnel and Young Firefighters departed Caerphilly Castle with the aim of driving a convoy of six fire engines to Serbia. This epic journey took five days and covered a distance of over 1400 miles, passing through eight European countries. The journey was filmed by ITV and subsequently screened as a Wales this Week documentary entitled 'Blazing to Serbia'.

Another five fire appliances are available and arrangements are in hand to deliver them to Serbia by the end of January 2012.

## **COUNCILLOR R JONES**

The Chairman wished a speedy recovery to Councillor R Jones who is very unwell at the moment.

## **69. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The following minutes were received and accepted as a true record of proceedings:

- HR & Equalities Meeting held on 11 July 2011
- Finance, Audit & Performance Management Meeting held on 18 July 2011
- Fire & Rescue Authority Meeting held on 26 September 2011
- Finance, Audit & Performance Management Meeting held on 17 October 2011.

It was further agreed that for future meetings, Councillor S Jones' recommendation to also note Members' late arrival times, in addition to minuting Members' departure times, be adopted.

## **70. UPDATE ON ACTIONS**

The Acting Deputy Chief Officer informed Members of actions undertaken since the last meeting and highlighted the key final recommendations in the Independent Remuneration Panel's published report. It was agreed that a further report would follow at the February meeting.

## **71. MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE**

The Chairman drew Members' attention to the up to date figures on Fire & Rescue Authority Members' attendance for the period 27 June-19 December 2011.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the content of the report.

## **72. APPOINTMENT TO HR & EQUALITIES COMMITTEE**

The Acting Deputy Chief Officer brought to Members' attention the need to appoint a Conservative Member to the HR & Equalities Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Councillor McKerlich will advise Officers in due course of the Conservative Group Member to be appointed as a Member of the HR & Equalities Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

### **73. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2010/11**

The Treasurer reported on the treasury management activity for 2010/11, in accordance with the Authority's approved Treasury Policy Statement, for Members' approval.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members approved the results of the treasury management activities and the performance achieved in 2010/11.

### **74. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2011/12 MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT**

The Treasurer reported on the Mid-term Review which sets out comprehensive information on treasury management activity undertaken during the period 1 April-30 September 2011, and provides further commentary on recent events affecting the money markets.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members approved the result of the treasury management activities and the performance achieved to date in 2011/12.

### **75. RISK REDUCTION PLAN & MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN PROJECTS**

The Acting Chief Fire Officer updated Members upon the projects contained in Risk Reduction Plans 2011/12 and 2012/13, and the Medium Term Financial Plan 2011/15. The Acting Chief Fire Officer also highlighted to Members some of the difficulties Officers foresaw in delivering some of the proposed future savings currently identified within the Medium Term Financial Plan and the potential impact that this could have on future budgets.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members noted the content of the report and the progress being made by Officers, and the impact of implementing the recommendations of the projects.

### **76. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2012/13**

The Treasurer provided Members with information enabling them to make budget proposals to constituent councils by the due date, and to consider the framework Capital Programme for 2012/13.

Members sought clarification on specific elements of the revenue budget, and debated the merits of maintaining the mid-year estimates or transferring to the population forecasts as the basis of calculating Local Authority contributions.

In relation to the capital budget, the financial feasibility of the new Britannia Fire Station project was debated and Members reaffirmed their commitment to progressing this as soon as capital receipts from the sale of Lanelay Hall were received. In this regard, Members agreed to the Chairman writing to the Leader of RCT to explain the importance of the application to the Authority and its Constituent Councils. Councillor Davies wished to thank the Officers of both the Service and Monmouthshire County Council for their efforts in progressing this issue.

Members expressed reservations about the deliverability of the latter projects within the Medium Term Financial Plan.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

76.1 Members noted the implications of the 2012/13 final Local Government Settlement and the indicative settlements for 2013/15.

76.2 Members agreed to consult constituent councils on a proposed revenue budget of £70,588,366 for 2012/13; a reduction of £569,249 or 0.8% on the equivalent figure for the current financial year.

76.3 Members approved the use of Population Forecasts as a contributions allocation proxy for 2012/13 and beyond.

76.4 Members provisionally approved the 2012/13 capital budget of £5.083 million for further consideration at the 6 February 2012 budget setting meeting.

Members wished to thank the Treasurer, Officers and accountancy staff for the responsible way in which they have considered the 2012/13 budget.

## **77. RRP COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

The Director of People Services reported on the main reasons for the establishment of a Joint Consultative Forum, incorporating Members of the Fire & Rescue Authority, Officers of the Service and employee representatives of all the recognised Trade Unions. The Director of People Services also outlined the legal requirements for a Joint Consultative Forum, methods of consultation, the setting up of a Joint Consultative Forum, the consultation issues and outlined what could be discussed at such a forum.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

77.1 Members agreed to the establishment of a Joint Consultative Forum outside of the normal negotiating forums already established within the Service.

77.2 Members agreed that Representative Bodies be approached to commence dialogue to facilitate the introduction of the Joint Consultative Forum with immediate effect.

## **78. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 2 – APRIL 2011 TO SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Acting Chief Fire Officer reported on the performance information and recorded incident statistics from April 2011 to September 2011.

Members wished to extend their congratulations on the high-achieving results contained within the report, and the Chairman requested the Acting Chief Fire Officer to relay Members' appreciation to all those concerned.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

78.1 Members noted the performance details and statistical data contained within the report.

78.2 Members approved the publication of the performance and statistical data onto the Service's internet site.

## **79. REFURBISHMENT OF MAINDEE FIRE & RESCUE STATION**

The Acting Deputy Chief Officer sought Members' approval in accordance with Contract Standing Orders to award the contract for the refurbishment works at Maindee Fire & Rescue Station as part of the Service's wholetime station refurbishment programme.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

Members authorised the Acting Deputy Chief Officer to award the building contract for the refurbishment of Maindee Fire & Rescue Station within approved budget.

## **80. SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO PENSION CONSULTATION REQUEST**

The Director of People Services reported on the parameters of the three consultation documents received by the Fire & Rescue Authority which set out the areas for response.

(Councillor S J James left the meeting at 1140 hours.)

Members sought clarification on certain elements of the Pension Scheme and how these may affect staff, and it was noted that the death in service benefits are only attainable to staff in the Scheme.

The Chairman requested the Director of People Services to prepare a newsletter advising all staff of the benefits attainable by becoming a member of the Scheme.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

80.1 Members noted the content of the report

80.2 Members endorsed the comments in the Appendix to the report for submission to both Welsh Government and the LGE.

## **81. WATER RESCUE PROVISION – CARDIFF BAY**

The Director of Operations reported on the proposals to enhance the Service's water rescue assets in view of the expanding risks within Cardiff Bay.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members considered the proposal to provide a water rescue boat asset within Cardiff Bay as outlined, and gave approval for Officers to pursue discussions with the Harbour Authority, Marine Coastguard Agency and RNLI to achieve this proposal.

## **82. RELOCATION OF PAINTSHOP AND ATTACHED PRESSURE-WASH BAY TO HEADQUARTERS**

The ACFO Technical Services reported that further to the Fleet & Engineering Services Workshops relocation in June 2009 and subsequent business case that Members accepted to re-site the Paintshop at the new HQ and due to the works not being carried out immediately, the Paintshop and Vehicle Pressure-Wash functions have continued to operate remotely from the Lanelay Hall site to the present date. In order to facilitate disposal of Lanelay Hall it is now timely to move both facilities to HQ. However, during the elapsed time, building costs have increased from the original estimates. The original business case accepted at the time remains unaltered, only the costs have changed.

It was noted that the Overall Annual Cost Comparison within Appendix A to the report contained an incorrect estimation of savings at £56,856 per year. Members recognised, however, that savings would be accrued at an estimated £17,856 per year.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members supported the preferred option of relocating the Paintshop to HQ and agreed to the inclusion of a sum of £368,000 in the draft Capital Programme for 2012/13 to deliver this.

### **83. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Acting Deputy Chief Officer presented the Forward Work Programme.

### **RESOLVED THAT**

Members accepted the Forward Work Programme for the Fire and Rescue Authority 2011/12.

### **84. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 1)**

There were no items of urgent business.

### **85. RESOLUTIONS TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC BY VIRTUE OF SECTION 100A AND PARAGRAPHS 12, 13, 14 & 15 OF PART 4 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED)**

A resolution to exclude the press and public by virtue of Section 100A and paragraphs 12, 13, 14 & 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) was unanimously passed.

### **86. FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITIES IN WALES: STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE AND DISCUSSION DOCUMENT**

The Acting Chief Fire Officer introduced Members to the strategic discussion document written by the three Chief Fire Officers in Wales. It was highlighted that whilst the document considers potential options for the future of Fire & Rescue Services in Wales, it was not meant to be a detailed options analysis paper, nor is it meant to represent a detailed business case for any preferred option. It has been written to produce discussion and debate and to allow Members to consider and indicate which, if any, option(s) they consider worthy of further discussion, research and development.

Members queried and debated the principles of discussing the options paper without prior mandate for their respective home Authorities.

## **RESOLVED THAT**

86.1 The fourth option contained within the report be pursued with a further briefing to be given to Members on the discussions between the three Fire and rescue Services in Wales, the Welsh Government and Fire Advisor.

86.2 Councillor T Davies requested that it be minuted that he abstained from voting on the issue, and Councillor D Sage that he voted against the resolution.

The Chairman reminded Members that the report must remain confidential.

## **87. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS URGENT (PART 2)**

There were no items of urgent business.