

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held at the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on Wednesday 19th November 2014.

PRESENT

Cllr D Bajaj

Mrs J Fox CC

Cllr S Barton (at 2.04pm)

Mr P Lewis CC

Cllr A Byrne

Mr O O'Shea CC

Mr M Charlesworth CC

Mr R Shepherd

Mr J Coxon CC

OFFICERS

Mr R Chandler Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Mr S Lunn Director of Community Services

Mr T Peel Treasurer and Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Mr M Andrew Head of HR, Planning and Performance

Mr G Goodman Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms J Jones PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), External Auditor

Mr N Jones Head of Internal Audit Service, Leicestershire County Council (LCC)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Bray CC. In Mr Bray's absence Mr Charlesworth CC took the Chair.

2. To receive declarations by members of interests in respect of items on this Agenda

No declarations of interest were received.

3. Chairman's Announcements

None.

4. Urgent Items

None.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 3rd September 2014 as a correct record.

RESOLVED

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 3rd September 2014 as a correct record. It was noted that the issue of the Committee having a report on 'Co-operation with other Emergency Services' has been referred from the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) and will appear on a future agenda.

6. Key Projects Report

The Head of HR, Planning and Performance presented this regular updating report.

In response to questions the Committee was advised that:

1. Collective consultation has taken place with UNISON on the Support Staff Review with queries raised and answered and a concession made that some new posts would be ring fenced. Work will continue with UNISON to manage the changes sensitively until the end of March 2015.
2. In terms of the IRMP the FBU has been involved in the consultation process, has made comments to the Joint Consultative Committee and are able to comment at any part of the process as they feel appropriate.
3. The CFA already has planning permission for the change of use of the site at Castle Donington to a fire and rescue station and the current application is for the refurbishment works in respect of which no problems are anticipated.
4. The 4 month delay between the delivery and the operational availability of the new Ariel Ladder Platform is due to training and stowage fit out requirements.

Members asked that a little more detail could be provided in the covering report for each project.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

7. Health and Safety Statistics 2013/14

The Director of Community Services presented this annual report. It was highlighted that this year's presentation included changes requested by the Committee following last year's presentation and in particular a breakdown of critical equipment failures into categories. Future presentations will provide greater detail on liability for vehicle accidents and provide ratios to staffing number as well as raw number of incidents.

In response to questions the Committee was advised that:

1. Loughborough University are undertaking a fatigue study of the Day Crewing Plus Duty System. A report will be brought to the Committee at a future date.
2. The Training Department sees higher levels of safety events but the

environment in which these happen is controlled.

3. No age correlation has been identified for personal injuries.
4. Future reports will look at putting the bar charts in chronological and replacing station numbers with names or abbreviations.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Health and Safety Statistics for 2013/14.

8. Internal Audit Report – Duplicate Payments

Mr Jones, Head of the Internal Audit Service at LCC, spoke to this follow up report on duplicate payments. The Treasurer confirmed that the changes to Agresso for direct debits and bank transfers have now been made.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

9. Annual Treasury Management Report 2013/14

The Treasurer presented this annual report on treasury management. He pointed out that cash balances rather than borrowing had been used which reduced the CFA's debt and has saved money given the differential in interest rates for borrowing and saving.

In response to questions the Committee was advised that:

1. The figure for the budget for Capital Financing Requirement for 2013 would be advised post the meeting.
2. A breakdown of the £16m borrowing would be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the Annual Treasury Report for 2013/14.

10. External Audit – Annual Audit Letter 2013/14

Ms Jones from PwC presented the Annual Audit Letter 2013/14.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the External Audit Annual Audit Letter.

11. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 28th January 2015.

**19th November 2014
14:00 – 14:50**

CHAIR