

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 28th January 2015

PRESENT

Cllr S Barton

Mrs J Fox CC

Mr S Bray CC (Chair)

Mr P Lewis CC

Cllr A Byrne

Mr O O'Shea CC

Mr M Charlesworth CC

Mr T Kershaw CC

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 R Hall

Temp Area Manager, Organisational Change Programme

Mr G Goodman

Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Mrs J Green

Member Services Co-ordinator

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms A Breadon

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), External Auditor

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D Bajaj.

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

The Chair welcomed Mr Tony Kershaw CC as a newly appointed member of the Combined Fire Authority (CFA) and to his first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee were informed of the decision taken by Unison to call off the proposed 24 hour National Health Service strike action which was scheduled for

Thursday, 29th January 2015.

The Chair agreed to move Items 9 and 10 up the Agenda.

4. Urgent Items

None.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19th November 2014 as a correct record.

RESOLVED

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 19th November 2014 as a correct record.

6. Item 9 on the Agenda - External Audit Plan 2014/15

The Committee welcomed Ms Alison Breadon, External Auditor, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to the meeting to join the Treasurer in the presentation of the CFA's external auditor's Audit Plan for 2014/15 for its consideration.

Ms Breadon confirmed this would be the last Audit Plan presented by PwC as a new external auditor would take over following the completion of the 2014/15 accounts.

The Committee suggested that a detailed overview of its responsibilities would be of value. The Treasurer confirmed that Internal Audit fully engage with the Committee and offer training and provide explanations for what they do, presenting their findings to the Committee during each Municipal Year.

It was confirmed that the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy is in the process of being updated and will be presented to the Committee at a future date.

The Committee expressed its thanks to Ms Breadon and all at PwC for their commitment and hard work.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the External Audit Plan for 2014/15.

7. Item 10 on the Agenda - Appointment of External Auditor

The Treasurer presented this report to provide an update on the procurement of external audit services and detailed the interim proposal for the appointment of internal audit services.

The Treasurer confirmed the appointment of KPMG as external auditors from the 2015/16 accounts. Work will commence in the Summer of 2015.

In order to ensure and maintain stability the Committee supported the suggestion to extend the Leicestershire County Council's contract for the provision of internal audit for two more years.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the appointment of KPMG and supported the continuation of the current internal audit provision until 31st March 2017.

8. Item 6 on the Agenda - Key Projects Report

The Head of HR, Planning and Performance presented this routine update report to the Committee providing details on any project developments in the period since its last meeting on 19th November 2014.

The Committee were informed that the Support Staff Review was progressing well and running to plan.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

9. Item 7 on the Agenda - Local Government Finance Settlement

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented this report to the Committee outlining the Combined Fire Authority's (CFA's) Revenue Spending Power and projected income for 2015/16 and its probable implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2015 – 20. A detailed PowerPoint presentation was presented to enhance the information within the covering report.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and noted the options for the 2015/16 Council Tax to be presented to the CFA in February.

10. Item 8 on the Agenda - Collaborative Arrangements

Richard Hall, Temporary Area Manager (Organisational Change Project), presented this report to the Committee to offer an update on collaborative arrangements both underway and in development. A detailed PowerPoint presentation was also presented.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and noted the report.

11. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 18th March 2015.

28th January 2015
14:00 hrs – 14:48 hrs

CHAIR