

Minutes of a meeting of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority's Policy Committee held at the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters on Wednesday 5th March 2014

PRESENT

Cllr S Corral – in the Chair

Cllr C Bhatti

Mr B Liquorish CC

Cllr K Bool

Ms B Newton CC

Mr M Charlesworth CC

Mrs C Radford CC

OFFICERS

Mr D Webb

Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Mr R Chandler

Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Mr T Peel

Treasurer and Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Mr G Goodman

Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Mrs J Green

Member Services Co-ordinator

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs A Breadon

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

Mrs J Jones

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Lunn (Director of Community Services)

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair informed the Committee that he, along with the two other Group Leaders had spent the past two days at a planning event with the Senior

Management Team addressing proposals to meet the budget shortfall in the medium term.

The Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (DCFO) confirmed that at present there were no definite plans but a revised Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) would be produced as a matter of priority.

The Committee will be presented with a report outlining a proposed way forward at its meeting in May 2014. A further detailed report will be presented to the full Combined Fire Authority (CFA) in December 2014.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2014.

6. Urgent Items

None.

7. External Audit Plan

The Treasurer welcomed Alison Breadon and Jane Jones, External Auditors, PwC, to the meeting to present their Audit Plan for 2013/14 to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the External Audit Plan for 2013/14.

8. Performance Monitoring Report

The DCFO presented this routine update report to the Committee in respect of the organisational performance against the relevant Secondary Indicators for the period April to December 2013.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the performance for the period April to December 2013 against the range of indicators.

9. Key Projects Report

The DCFO presented this routine update report to the Committee in respect of on-going projects and tasks undertaken since the last Committee meeting on 8th January 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

10. Financial Budget Monitoring as at 31st January 2014

The Treasurer presented this regular routine financial monitoring report to the Committee. This report highlighted the current position of the Capital and Revenue budgets at Financial Period 10 ending 31st January 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Noted the budget position as at the end of January 2014.
- b) Agreed the increase to the Capital Programme of £9,501 for the refurbishment of Oakham Station as noted in paragraph 3.1.
- c) Agreed the virement of £43,500 from vehicle leasing for the purchase of vehicles as noted in paragraph 3.16.
- d) Noted the review of growth and savings as at the end of January 2014.
- e) Noted the review of carry forwards as at the end of January 2014.
- f) Noted the treasury management position as at the end of January 2014.

11. Firefighters' Pension Scheme Draft Regulations 2015 - Consultation

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the Committee with an update report on the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) current consultations on the regulations to introduce a new Firefighters' Pension Scheme from April 2015 and presented a proposed response on behalf of the CFA for agreement.

RESOLVED:

The Committee agreed the draft consultation response for submission to DCLG.

12. Medium Term Financial Plan

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented this report informing the Committee of the changes required in funding the Annual Budget for 2014/15 following the CFA's approval of a 1.5% Council Tax increase for 2014/15. The Committee were also made aware of issues affecting the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2015/17 as a direct consequence of this decision.

The Committee will be presented with a further detailed report in May 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

13. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 7th May 2014.

**5th March 2014
2:00pm – 3:10pm**

Chairman