

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 7th May 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 (CFO)

Mr R Chandler

Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer (DCFO)

Mr S Lunn

Director of Community Safety

Mr T Peel

Treasurer and Director of Finance and Corporate Services

Mr R Hall

Area Manager – Organisational Change Programme

Mr G Goodman

Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Mrs J Green

Member Services Co-ordinator

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair's announcements had been circulated to all present. The Chair made reference to the Award received by the Service for the 'Most Improved' employer in the region in recognition of the work undertaken to promote awareness of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual equality. The Committee wished to extend their congratulations to all involved.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED:

The Committee confirmed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2014.

6. Urgent Items

None.

7. 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 2013 to February 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the performance for the period April 2013 to February 2014 against the range of indicators.

8. 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 5th March 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report.

9. Financial Budget Monitoring as at 31st March 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 12 ending 31st March 2014.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Noted the budget position as at the end of March 2014.
- b) Agreed the increase of £125,000 to the 2014/15 Capital Programme for a replacement heating system at Western Station funded by a Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay virement from the revenue Repairs and Maintenance budget.
- c) Noted the review of growth and savings as at the end of March 2014.
- d) Noted the review of carry forwards as at the end of March 2014.
- e) Noted the treasury management position as at the end of March 2014.

10. Update on Strike Action

The Chair invited the CFO to provide a verbal update to the Committee on the recent strike action that took place during the period Friday 1st May to Sunday 4th May 2014. He confirmed that due to the breakdown in talks between the Government and Union Representatives a long term resolution does not seem likely and it is anticipated that further strike action may be called to take place over the next Bank Holiday at the end of May 2014. As soon as any information is received it will be conveyed to all Members.

11. Organisational Change Programme

The CFO presented this report to formally seek the approval of the Committee to commence the Organisational Change Programme (OCP) in order to address the budget shortfall identified from 2015 onwards.

A range of options were discussed in private session but no decisions were made.

RESOLVED:

The Committee:

- a) Approved the formal commencement of the OCP.
- b) Agreed to move into private session to discuss the range of options which could be available to the CFA.

12. Resolved to exclude the public

The following item is exempt under Part 1, paragraph 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it concerns labour relations matters arising between the CFA and its employees.

In accordance with Part 2, paragraph 10 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 the public interest in the report remaining confidential outweighs the public interest in disclosure as the CFA is entitled to discuss matters affecting its staff privately prior to entering any formal dialogue with its representative bodies.

13. Exempt Item – Organisational Change Programme

The CFO informed the Committee of the proposed process to be undertaken to ensure a balanced budget in future years.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the information provided.

14. Date of next meeting

This was confirmed as 27th August 2014.

7th May 2014
2:00pm – 3:50pm

Chairman