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## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 26th JULY 2012**

### **Present:**

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell, Dylan Butt, Lynda Byrne, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Derek Heffernan, Barrie Holland, Iain Lindley and John O'Brien

Also in Attendance: Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Alyson Hall (Acting Director of People and Organisational Development), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Andrea Heffernan (Head of Finance and Technical Services), Andrew Taylor (Head of Finance and Resources, Wigan MBC) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

### **7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James Hennigan, Bernard Judge, Alan Matthews, Michael Smith and Fred Walker.

### **8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

### **10. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)**

There were no items of urgent business received.

### **11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - 1ST INTERIM REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer which presented the Treasury Management: 1st Interim Report. The purpose of the report was to review the operation and exercise of delegated Treasury Management powers during the first three months of 2012/13 and considered the prospects for the remainder of the financial year. The report also reviewed the credit ratings of the organisations with which the Authority could place its surplus funds.

Recommended: That the Treasury Management: 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Report for 2012/13, be accepted.

## **12. BUDGET MONITORING QUARTER 1 2012/13: REVENUE/CAPITAL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer which set out the position of expenditure against the Revenue Budget including the Firefighters Pensions Account and the Capital Programme at the end of the first quarter for 2012/13 (Appendix 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report refers). In addition, the report provided an update on the final outturn for 2011/12. At Quarter 1 it was anticipated that by the end of the year there would be a £1.790m underspend when compared against the Original Budget.

Reference was made to paragraph 13 of the report which advised following discussions with senior members and recognising the economic pressure particularly on low paid workers it was proposed that a flat rate payment of £250 was made to low paid workers within the organisation on less than £21,500p.a. in 2012/13 at a cost of £70,000 on a one off unconsolidated basis.

In conclusion, the review of spending showed that in overall terms Brigade net expenditure was currently below the original budget. The predicted position reported should provide assurance that efficiencies were being achieved and that the position would help underpin the financial future of the Authority and that the Authority's financial management systems remained sound.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and the projected year end variations, be noted.
2. The current position on the capital programme, be noted and the proposed amendments, be approved.
3. The proposal as detailed in paragraph 13 of the report, be approved.

## **13. A STRATEGY FOR CORPORATE PLANNING AND INTELLIGENCE 2012-2015**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which introduced 'A Strategy for Corporate Planning and Intelligence 2012-2015'. A copy of the Strategy was attached at Appendix 1 of the report, for Members' reference.

It was reported that the Strategy had been developed to support other strategies and formed the basis of the Corporate Planning and Intelligence Directorate's development and delivery goals for the next three years. In addition, Members were advised of the recent restructure of the corporate planning functions and the renaming of the directorate.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and 'A Strategy for Corporate Planning and Intelligence 2012-2015' including comments raised, be noted.
2. The change in name of the 'Corporate Planning and Performance Directorate' to the 'Corporate Planning and Intelligence Directorate' be noted.

#### **14. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which introduced the draft 'Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2012-2015' and sought comments on the content and direction of the document. A copy of the draft Strategy was attached at Appendix 1 of the report, for Members' reference.

It was reported that the purpose of the Strategy was to provide clear direction to the consultation activity taking place in the future and support meaningful engagement with key stakeholders. This would support GMFRS strive for continual improvement and the delivery of a service high in public value.

Members were advised that their comments along with comments from other key stakeholders would be fed into the final version of the Strategy, in preparation for final approval at the end of Quarter 2 2012/13. Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood was the appointed Member Champion for Community Relations and had already been consulted on the content of the draft Strategy.

Recommended: That content of the report and draft 'Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2012-15' including comments raised, be noted.

#### **15. STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL RESILIENCE AND FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised on the final form of Strategic Governance Arrangements for Fire and Rescue National Resilience and of the publication of the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

Members were advised that the first meeting of The Fire and Rescue Strategic Resilience Board was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 when the terms of reference and membership of the Board were agreed. A copy of these documents was attached at Appendix 1 of the report, for Members' reference.

The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England was published on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012. An analysis of the framework, including a comparison with the previous framework and gap analysis would now be undertaken and reported

to future meeting of the Authority. A copy of the publication was attached at Appendix 2 of the report, for Members' reference.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Strategic Governance Arrangements for Fire and Rescue Resilience, as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.
3. The CLG Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be noted and a further report be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority following a gap analysis of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England.

## **16. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update on the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy as agreed at the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee on 21 July 2011 (Minute 9 refers). The report also included an update on key Health and Wellbeing activities over the past 12 months.

It was reported that during the past 6 months work had been taking place with New Leaf Health Limited to conduct the Health Needs Analysis and provide an outcome report. Once this report had been produced it would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee for Members' consideration.

Members were advised of areas of activity which had been taking place over the past 12 months and the next steps for 2012/13 which included updating the Action Plan to include the following new areas of work:-

- Fitness;
- Future works on the Occupational Health and Physiotherapy Contracts;
- Trauma Technicians;
- Stress Management;
- Attendance Management and Capability Review.

Members had an in-depth discussion on the content of the report and asked a series of questions that were answered accordingly by Officers.

Recommended: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The work being carried out under the framework of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, be noted.
3. The outcome of the Health Needs Analysis be submitted to a future meeting of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee.

## **17. TEXTILE RECYCLING BANKS**

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought support to take forward a proposal from the Fire Fighters Charity to undertake textile recycling at a number of key sites across the service.

It was reported that a proposal had been received from the Fire Fighters Charity in relation to their textile recycling initiative which involved support from Brigades with the placement of textile recycling banks on fire stations. Further information on the scheme was attached in Appendix 1 of the report. GMFRS had been trialling this on a pilot basis at a number of sites since 2011 and no issues had been encountered.

The Committee welcomed the report and suggested publicising the initiative across Greater Manchester.

Recommended: That the proposal from the Fire Fighters Charity, as detailed in the report, be supported and further work take place to identify further sites.

CHAIRMAN

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