

Dorset Fire Authority

Minutes of meeting held at Dorset Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters, Poundbury, Dorchester on 31 March 2016.

Present:

Mrs Rebecca Knox (Chairman)

Mrs Ann Stribley (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Mark Anderson, Mr Les Burden, Mr Mike Byatt, Mr Ronald Coatsworth, Mr Malcolm Davies, Mrs Beverley Dunlop, Mr Philip Eades, Mr Spencer Flower, Mr Colin Jamieson, Mrs Susan Jefferies, Mr Trevor Jones, Mr Christopher Rochester and Mr John Wilson.

Officers present:

Mr Ben Ansell (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), Mr Darran Gunter (Chief Fire Officer), Mr Richard Bates (Treasurer), Mr Jonathan Mair (Clerk), Mr Mick Stead (Area Manager). and Mrs Helen Whitby (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Note: These minutes have been prepared by officers as a record of the final meeting of the Dorset Fire Authority and of any decisions reached.

Welcome and Apologies for Absence

1. The Chairman welcomed members to the final meeting of the Dorset Fire Authority. There were no apologies for absence.

Code of Conduct

2.1 No declarations were made by any members of any disclosable pecuniary interests under the Code of Conduct.

2.2 In response to a question about declarations of pecuniary interests for the new Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Authority which officially came into being the following day, the Clerk explained that members had already completed disclosable pecuniary interest forms for the Shadow Authority and that these would remain valid. Members would, however, need to complete a new form within 28 days of any change to their disclosures.

Minutes

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2015 were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising

Minute 89 – Matters Arising - Recruitment

4.1 It was confirmed that eight new firefighters had been appointed. An update on the position of Firefighter Apprenticeships was also given.

Minute 91 – Safe Drive Stay Alive

4.2 The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Safe Drive Stay Alive roadshow would continue but confirmed that funding for some programmes was reducing. A report would be provided for a future meeting of the new Fire Authority.

Minute 48.2 - Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report – Road Safety

4.3 The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been written to the Chairman of the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board asking for greater integration across organisations to address the rising number of killed or seriously injured incidents. She then outlined steps taken to progress this.

4.4 Members expressed continuing concern at the situation and it was suggested that a letter be sent to the appropriate Dorset Police Officer to try to progress this further. As

the new Fire Authority was meeting the following day, it was agreed that this would be discussed then.

Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees, the Health and Wellbeing Agenda and Youth Intervention Programmes

5.1 The Authority received a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer and the Area Manager on Local Performance Scrutiny Committees, the Health and Wellbeing Agenda and youth intervention programmes which addressed concerns previously raised by members.

5.2 Four shadow Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees (LSPCs) had been established – jointly for Bournemouth and Poole, and one each for Dorset, Swindon and Wiltshire - to scrutinise performance in their local areas. They would report to the Finance and Audit Committee and were next scheduled to meeting in May 2016. The first meetings had highlighted differences in response times across the new Authority area and steps were being taken to understand the disparity and mitigate any risks.

5.3 Members received an explanation of the new staff structure and of governance and performance arrangements. Further details would be provided in the Members' Handbook which members would receive at the first meeting of the new Authority the following day.

5.4 In response to members' questions, it was explained that any outcomes and actions arising from the LSPCs would be reviewed by them to ensure a cycle of continuing improvement. Their effectiveness would be considered when the new Authority's governance arrangements were reviewed.

5.5 With regard to the new Authority's work on prevention, this would focus on identifying those at most risk within communities, targeting resources towards them and signposting individuals to help by way of referrals. Members also noted the new Authority's potential future role in assistive technology and ideas for future funding were explained.

5.6 Officers highlighted the main challenge posed by the lack of funding to support the continuation of youth intervention programmes across the new Authority, including the Princes Trust. Members recognised the benefits these programmes provided and sought clarification of the total funding gap. The Chief Fire Officer was confident that the gap could be met and would provide a report on the way ahead for the Policy and Resources Committee in May and the new Authority in June 2016. Possible funding channels were discussed and the role that members could play was highlighted.

Noted

Chairman's Final Address

6. The Chairman thanked members and senior officers for their valuable contributions to the work of the Dorset Fire Authority. She hoped this would continue under the new Fire Authority. The Chief Fire Officer then presented members and officers with commemorative plaques to mark the occasion.

Questions

6. No questions were asked by members understand Standing Order 17.

Meeting duration: 11.00am to 11.50 noon