

AT A MEETING of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority
(Shadow Authority) held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, 10th
February, 2021

Chairman:

* Councillor Christopher Carter

* Councillor Roz Chadd	* Councillor Sharon Mintoff
* Councillor Liz Fairhurst	* Councillor Roger Price
* Councillor Jason Fazackarley	Councillor David Simpson
* Councillor Jonathan Glen	* Councillor Dave Stewart
* Councillor Geoffrey Hockley	* Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Emeka Ibeh, Home Office and Enzo Riglia from the Police and Crime Commissioners office.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor David Simpson.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To enable Members to disclose to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they may have in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest is not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that Members may wish to disclose.

38. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor David Stewart was added to the list of attendees for the February meeting. The minutes of the last meeting were then agreed.

39. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations for the meeting.

40. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman provided an update on the Fire and Rescue Service's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that teams and organisations across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight had worked exceptionally well together in particular volunteering in support of our health partners. Cllr Dave Stewart, Leader of the Isle of Wight Council, also passed on his thanks to the Fire and Rescue Service teams and NHS for their work.

An update was provided on the HMICFRS virtual inspection of how Services

were responding to the Covid-19 pandemic that took place at the end of 2020 and a summary had been published in January 2021. Three areas for focus were highlighted as well as areas of success and these would be considered as part of the Service's organisational planning. Despite being an interim inspection, the Chief Fire Officer was pleased at the improvement in how staff felt in working for the Service. A further report from HMICFRS on the State of Fire is due mid-March.

Following Wholetime Firefighter recruitment, the Chairman was excited to confirm a good response to the point that a 'talent pool' had been established for future positions that arose due to the number of applicants. There had also been a noticeable increase in women applying for roles, which was a positive step forward as the Service continued to strive in diversifying the workforce.

The Chairman ended his announcements by confirming that the meeting would be the final meeting of the Shadow Authority and the April meeting would be the first formal meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA). The Authority thanked the Chairman for his leadership.

41. MEMBER DEVELOPMENTS

It was confirmed that a virtual Local Governance Association (LGA) conference was taking place between 1-4 March, which Members were welcome to attend.

Councillor Chadd confirmed that the recent Diversity Network meeting had been cancelled.

42. TRANSFER OF EXISTING APPROVED POLICIES

The Authority considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 7 in the minute book), which set out existing approved Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) policies and position statements to be transferred to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA) on 1 April 2021.

The Authority level policies this applied to were highlighted in paragraph 10, and the position statements applicable in paragraph 11, which could be updated in future if it was felt this was necessary.

Members raised a Constitutional governance query relating to quorum for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority. It was confirmed that the quorum for the Combined Fire Authority would be 50% of Members, including any two of the constituent Authorities.

RESOLVED

a) The Shadow Authority approved the transfer of approved HFRA Policies, Position Statements and the 5 Design Principles to the HIWFRA commencing 1 April 2021.

b) The Shadow Authority supported the continued operation of the established Policy, Procedure and Guidance (PPG) framework for the new CFA.

43. HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Authority considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 8 in the minute book), which requested approval for the revised Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Statement of Intent for the HIWFRS on 1 April 2021.

The report set out the priorities of the Statement of Intent and Members were content with the proposals.

RESOLVED

a) the HSW Statement of Intent was approved by the Shadow Authority for display from 1 April 2021.

44. HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE SAFETY PLAN YEAR 2 IMPROVEMENTS

The Authority considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 9 in the minute book), which requested approval for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Safety Plan Year 2 improvements.

The report summarised what officers were hoping to achieve in the first year of the Combined Fire Authority and Members were pleased to see Covid impacts and staff wellbeing within the plan as priorities.

RESOLVED

a) The HIWFRA approved the Year 2 Safety Plan improvements.

b) The HIWFRA approved one-off funding of up to £205,000 for 2021/22 to be met from the Transformation Reserve.

45. INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER & INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021-22

The Authority considered a report from the Chief Internal Auditor (item 10 in the minute book), which provides a copy of the Internal Audit Charter and the proposed 2021/22 internal audit plan for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA).

The Internal Audit Plan is a risk based plan for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight as well as shared services with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Hampshire Constabulary. Some areas fell outside of scope of external audit and so were covered internally. Updates and progress reports on the plan would continue to go to Standards & Governance Committee going forward.

Total days invested by Internal Audit for 2021/22 currently stood above average at 200 days, based on the risks identified and the impact of the transition to the

new Combined Fire Authority and also considered elements not reviewed before. The impact on the average days would continue to be monitored over a three-year rolling basis.

RESOLVED

The Internal Audit Charter and Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22 was approved by the Shadow Authority

46. **BUDGET AND PRECEPT REQUIREMENT 2021/22**

The Authority considered a report from the Treasurer (item 11 in the minute book), which presented the 2021/22 forward budget to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Shadow Authority (HIWFRSA) for approval.

It was highlighted that an addendum had been circulated and published that covered updates since the report had been produced, as well as a new set of recommendations for the Authority to consider following the updates.

Pages 67-68 of the pack were discussed, which included the original £2m deficit and the addition of a £500,000 contingency due to the level of uncertainty regarding the ongoing impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Following updates, the deficit was amended to £778,000 in the addendum, which will be met from reserves next year.

It was confirmed that the Council Tax increases on page 64 would affect the Isle of Wight more due to aligning with Hampshire (a total of £8.25 including the proposed 1.99% increase for 2021/22), but it was accepted that budgets would need to be kept under review during the first year of the new Combined Fire Authority.

The capital programme had been presented differently to assist with clarity, and included two capital schemes for approval to ensure it was fully up-to-date.

RESOLVED

The Shadow Authority approved:

- a) The use of the Grant Equalisation Reserve to balance the budget for 2021/22.
- b). The Revenue Budget, as set out in Annex 2 to the Addendum.
- c). The Capital Programme and funding as set out in Annex 3 to the Addendum including the addition of £100,000 to purchase new co-responding vehicles.
- d). Funding of up to £2m from the Capital Payments Reserve for the redevelopment of Redbridge Fire Station, to replace prudential borrowing which would be swapped to fund other capital schemes.
- e). The Reserves Strategy as set out in Annex 4 to the Addendum.
- f). The Treasury Management Strategy as set out in Appendix E to the main

agenda item, including the Annual Investment Strategy for 2021/22, (and the remainder of 2020/21).

g). Delegated authority to the Chief Finance Officer to manage the Fire and Rescue Authority's investments and borrowing according to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement as appropriate.

h). Delegated authority to the Chief Financial Officer to make any final minor changes to the budget using compensating adjustments to the level of the draw from reserves, in order to balance the overall budget.

i). The Capital and Investment Strategy as set out in Appendix F to the main agenda item for 2021/22 (and the remainder of 2020/21).

j). The Section 25 Report as set out in Appendix G to the main agenda item which should be taken into account by the Shadow Authority in agreeing the budget and council tax (noting the reduced deficit and reduced draw required from the Grant Equalisation Reserve).

k). The council tax requirement for the Authority for the year beginning 1st April 2021 of £49,158,022.

l). That the new Combined Fire Authority's tax be increased by 1.99% above the Alternative Notional Amount set for 2020/21 (£69.06) for the year beginning 1st April 2021 and for the properties in each band, as set out below:

Band A: £46.95
Band B: £54.78
Band C: £62.60
Band D: £70.43
Band E: £86.08
Band F: £101.73
Band G: £117.38
Band H: £140.86

m) That the precepts set out below, totalling £49,158,022 are issued on the billing authorities in Hampshire & Isle of Wight, requiring the payment in such instalments and on such dates set by them and previously notified to the Authority, in proportion to the tax base of each billing authority's area as determined by them.

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council £4,692,554
East Hampshire District Council £3,620,600
Eastleigh Borough Council £3,364,749
Fareham Borough Council £3,085,151
Gosport Borough Council £1,882,087
Hart District Council £2,891,518
Havant Borough Council £2,919,184
Isle of Wight £3,752,482
New Forest District Council £5,038,471
Portsmouth City Council £3,978,443
Rushmoor Borough Council £2,275,529

Southampton City Council £4,534,917
Test Valley Borough Council £3,543,756
Winchester City Council £3,578,581

Total £49,158,022

47. HIWFRA MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2021/22

The Authority considered a report from the Clerk (item 13 in the minute book), which requested approval to adopt the Member Allowance Scheme (“the Scheme”) set out at Appendix 1 with effect from 1 April 2021 and also recommend that a cross party member working group be established at the Annual Meeting of the Authority in June 2021 to review the Scheme towards and bring recommendations for a new scheme by March 2022.

Members were happy with the report and there were no questions.

RESOLVED

a) That, having had regard to the recommendations of the relevant Independent Remuneration Panels (IRPs), the Shadow Authority agreed to implement the Members’ Allowances Scheme set out at Appendix 1 from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

b). It was noted that a member working group would be appointed at the Annual Meeting of the HIWFRA in June 2021 to conduct a review of the Members’ Allowances Scheme with recommendations for a new Scheme to be brought back to the Authority by 31 March 2022.

48. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HIWFRA FIREFIGHTERS PENSION BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The Authority considered a report from the Clerk (item 12 in the minute book), which requested approval for the Terms of Reference of the Firefighters’ Pension Board for the new Combined Fire Authority of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (HIWFRA) which will come into effect from the 1 April 2021.

This would allow the new CFA to set up a Pension Board to take place in April and also permit Isle of Wight Members to join along with the current Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority Members.

Going forward, the Pension Board would become a Hampshire & Isle of Wight Board and have a cross section of Scheme and Employer representatives from across the Combined Fire & Rescue Service.

RESOLVED

a) The Shadow Authority approved the proposed Terms of Reference for the HIWFRA Firefighters’ Pension Board as set out at Appendix A.

b). The Shadow Authority approved the membership of the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board as set out in paragraphs 6 - 7 of the report, and appointed the representatives set out in paragraph 7 above for 4-year terms, to take effect from the 1 April 2021 in accordance with the HIWFRA Firefighters' Pension Board Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix A

49. **HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
STATUTORY OFFICER APPOINTMENTS**

The Authority considered a report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 13 in the minute book), which requested approval from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Shadow Authority to appoint the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) to ensure the general administration of the new combined Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority (HIWFRA) from 1 April 2021, along with appointing a Monitoring Officer.

The history of the proposals were summarised and Members were pleased to see that the Combined Fire Authority would be more independent.

RESOLVED

a) The appointment of the Chief Fire Officer, to ensure the administration of the new combined Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority, was approved by the Shadow Authority for commencement on 1 April 2021.

b) The appointment of Hampshire County Council's Deputy Head of Legal Services, Paul Hodgson, as Monitoring Officer was approved by the Shadow Authority for commencement on 1 April 2021.

c) The appointment of Rob Carr as Chief Financial Officer and Section 151 officer was approved by the Shadow Authority for commencement on 1 April 2021.

d) Consequential changes to the HIWFRA constitution were delegated to the Monitoring Officer and brought to the HIWFRA for approval on 14 April 2021.

50. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business, as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

51. **STATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (SIP) - RE-PROVISION OF COSHAM
FIRE STATION**

The Authority considered an exempt report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 15 in the minute book) [SEE SUMMARY OF EXEMPT MINUTE]

52. **SERVICE HEADQUARTERS - FLEET MAINTENANCE CENTRE (FMC)
SPRINKLER SYSTEM INSTALLATION**

The Authority considered an exempt report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 16 in the minute book) [SEE SUMMARY OF EXEMPT MINUTE]

53. **DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER APPOINTMENT**

The Authority considered an exempt report from the Chief Fire Officer (item 17 in the minute book) [SEE SUMMARY OF EXEMPT MINUTE]

Chairman,