

## KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

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MINUTES of a Meeting of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority held at Kent Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, The Godlands, Tovil, Maidstone on Wednesday, 13 February 2013.

PRESENT:- Mr B R Cope (Chairman), Mr T G Mason (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr R E Brookbank, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr H J Craske, Mr D S Daley, Mr J A Davies, Mr K A Ferrin MBE, Mr P Godwin, Mr A V H Gulvin, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr V B Hewett, Mr D A Hirst, Mr P J Homewood, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr M J Northey, Mr R J Parry, Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr R Tolputt.

OFFICERS:- The Chief Executive, Miss A Millington; the Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Mr C Kerr; the Director, Operational Policy and Resilience, Mr S Demetriou; the Director, Service Delivery, Mr S Griffiths; the Assistant Director, Finance, Mrs A Kilpatrick; the Head of Policy and Performance, Mr J Finch; the Planning and Performance Manager, Mr R Stanford-Beale; and the Clerk to the Authority, Mr S C Ballard.

*Prior to the formal start of the meeting, the Chairman, on behalf of the Authority, presented Martin Skeet of the Authority's Community Safety Team, as Agency Liaison Manager of Margate Task Force, with the Collaboration Award which had been won by Margate Task Force at the inaugural national 'Fighting Fraud' Awards Ceremony.*

### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

#### **42. Minutes – 18 December 2012**

*(Item A3)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 18 December 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **43. Integrated Risk Management Plan – Outcomes of Consultation and Next Steps**

*(Item B1 - Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Each year, the Authority produces an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for Kent and Medway, and consults on how it should develop its services to meet future needs, and the context for this development, whether economic, social or environmental. At its meeting on 17 October 2012, the Authority approved publication of the latest draft IRMP for consultation. The consultation period ran from 29 October 2012 to 14 January 2013, and the Authority considered a report on the outcomes of that consultation process.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
  - (a) the outcomes of the consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
  - (b) the Integrated Risk Management Plan be re-named the 'Safety Plan';
  - (c) the five Primary Strategies be named 'Focus on Your Safety', 'Focus on Business', 'Responding to Emergencies', 'Caring for the Environment' and 'Workforce Strategy'.

**44. Draft Revenue and Capital Budgets 2013/14 and Draft Medium Term Financial Plan 2013-16**

*(Item B2 - Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Members considered a report setting out proposals for the Authority's Revenue and Capital Budgets (including the consolidated Infrastructure Plan) and Council Tax levels for 2013/14; the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2013/14; Prudential Indicators; and the assumptions used in developing the Medium Term Financial Plan for 2013-16.
- (2) Some of the figures in the report had needed to be revised slightly as a result of information received from the Department of Communities and Local Government, and from Kent District Councils and Medway Council since the report had been published. An update sheet setting out the main revisions was tabled at the meeting.
- (3) Mr Mason moved, Mr Harrison seconded, that the recommendations in paragraph 44 of the report, with revised figures as in the update sheet, be approved.
- (4) Mr Christie moved, Mr Godwin seconded, as an amendment, that the Band D Council Tax be increased by 1.99% in 2013/14, resulting in a precept of £39,023k, to ensure that the Authority would benefit from an ongoing base budget increase of £760k, as opposed to the proposal in the report of accepting the Council Tax Freeze Grant which would give only a one-off benefit in 2013/14 and 2014/15; the increase in funding in 2013/14 to be used to purchase several additional COBRA units.
- (5) Following discussion, this amendment was put to the vote and

*Lost 21 votes to 2*

- (6) Mr Christie then moved, Mr Godwin seconded, as an amendment, that £320k of the final net revenue underspend for 2012/13 be used to fund a combination of an additional live-fire training day for those firefighters who attend the lowest number of property fires, and enable the purchase of several additional COBRA units.
- (7) Following discussion, this amendment was put to the vote and

*Lost 19 votes to 2*

- (8) The motion in sub-paragraph (3) above was then considered, and it was RESOLVED that:-
  - (a) the 2012/13 revenue budget underspend (currently forecast to be £959k) be transferred into the Infrastructure Reserve;
  - (b) the Revenue Budget proposals for 2013/14 be approved as set out in the report and Appendix 1 (as updated), including:-
    - (i) a net Budget requirement of £70,936k;
    - (ii) a total requirement from Council Tax of £38,263k to be raised through precept to meet the Budget requirements set out in (i) above;
    - (iii) a Council Tax for the listed property bands as shown in the following table:-

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>Annual Council Tax</b>
A	£45.30
B	£52.85
C	£60.40
D	£67.95
E	£83.05

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F	£98.15
G	£113.25
H	£135.90

- (c) the Capital Budget of £12,484k and consolidated Infrastructure Plan for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, together with the plans to use capital grant, capital receipts and revenue contributions to fund the expenditure, be approved;
- (d) the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy, including the appropriate Prudential Indicators, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;
- (e) General Reserves continue to be maintained at a level equivalent to 6% of the net revenue budget over the medium term;
- (f) £160k be transferred from General Reserves into a new Insurance Reserve on 1 April 2013, and a new Local Government Resource Review Reserve of £500k be created;
- (g) the Capital and Infrastructure Plans for the next three years, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (h) the assumptions being used to develop the Medium Term Revenue Financial Plans for 2013-16, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

**45. Corporate Plan 2013/14**

*(Item B3 - Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Each year, the Authority publishes a Corporate Plan which includes all of the agreed activity from the Integrated Risk Management Plan, as well as the Medium Term Financial Plan and the Infrastructure Programme. Members considered the draft text of the Authority's Corporate Plan for 2013/14.
- (2) RESOLVED that the draft text of the Authority's Corporate Plan 2013/14, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

**46. Members' Allowances Scheme 2013/14**

*(Item B4 - Report by Clerk to the Authority)*

- (1) The Authority is legally required to adopt a new Members' Allowances Scheme each year. Members considered a proposed Scheme for 2013/14, with allowances unchanged from the 2012/13 Scheme.
- (2) RESOLVED that the proposed Members' Allowances Scheme for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

**47. Contract for the Provision of Personal Protective Equipment**

*(Item D2 - Report by Chief Executive)*

*The Chairman agreed to take this item as urgent because it involved developments which had only come to light since the agenda for the meeting had been published.*

- (1) Members considered a report advising that Cosalt plc, with whom the Authority and ten other fire and rescue authorities had a fully managed contract for the supply, laundry and maintenance of their Personal Protective Equipment, was in financial difficulties and might have to enter insolvency proceedings.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and other Group Leaders, be authorised to take appropriate action to ensure operational resilience if necessary.

**48. Exclusion of Press and Public**

*(Item E1)*

RESOLVED that, under Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**EXEMPT ITEMS  
(Open Access to Minutes)**

**49. Hearings Panel – 8 January 2013**

*(Item E2)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Hearings Panel held on 8 January 2013 be noted.

*At the close of the formal business of the meeting the Chief Executive offered her thanks and best wishes for the future to all those Members who were retiring from the Authority at the Kent County Council Elections in May.*