

AT A MEETING of the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Authority (Shadow Authority) held virtually on Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 22nd July, 2020

Chairman:

* Councillor Christopher Carter

* Councillor Roz Chadd
* Councillor Liz Fairhurst
* Councillor Jason Fazackarley
* Councillor Jonathan Glen
* Councillor Geoffrey Hockley

* Councillor Sharon Mintoff
* Councillor Roger Price
* Councillor David Simpson
* Councillor Dave Stewart
* Councillor Rhidian Vaughan MBE

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman: Stuart Harwood - Home Office

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other personal interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were present and no apologies were noted.

The Chairman welcomed Stuart Harwood to the meeting, who attended on behalf of the Home Office.

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

12. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations for the meeting.

13. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked all Firefighters for their work during the Covid-19 outbreak across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

14. MEMBER DEVELOPMENTS

There were no updates regarding Member developments.

15. APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE NOTIONAL AMOUNT FOR COUNCIL TAX SETTING

The Authority considered a report from the Chief Finance Officer (item 7 in the minute book) regarding the Council Tax setting for the new Combined Fire Authority (CFA).

The officer explained how the Council Tax setting was part of setting up new CFA and an Alternative Notional Amount (ANA) was required. What the council tax would have been in 2020-21 was used a base position; firstly as something to apply for setting the 2021-22 and also for Council Tax harmonisation.

Isle of Wight (IOW) Council Tax was compared to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority's (HFRA) Council tax based on the 2019-20 budget and there was an 80p difference between the notional IOW and actual HFRA.

Following recalculation based on 2020-21 budget, there had been an increase to £6.88. This has been primarily down the IOW assuming a 5% and only 2% being subsequently agreed.

Paragraph 17 in the report was highlighted as a summary of the option appraisal. Options 2 and 3 would result in the loss £4.4m and £3m income respectively, whereas Option 1 would harmonise at the current HFRA level and was therefore the recommended option.

There would be an increase on what residents were currently paying, averaging at a £6.88 increase for band D. 65% households were in bands A-C and 40% in A-B. Residents could apply under Council Tax Support Scheme and there were other mitigations in place so it was anticipated that this would not significantly effect many people.

Councillor Dave Stewart, Leader of the Isle of Wight Council confirmed that the IOW had also supported Option 1 in harmonising with Hampshire and everyone being treated the same. It equated to a 10p a week increase.

Members fully supported Option 1 but acknowledged that the Secretary of State could choose another option if it felt it was more appropriate. However, this was very unlikely due to the harmonisation being part of the originally approved business plan for the CFA.

RESOLVED

- a) The Shadow Authority agreed to calculate its proposal to the Secretary of State in respect of the ANA in accordance with Option 1, which assumed harmonisation of Council Tax at the existing HFRA Level, as per the business case approved by government.
- b) The Shadow Authority approved recommending to the Secretary of State that the Alternative Notional Amount be set at £69.06.

Chairman,