

AT A MEETING of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority  
held at Fire & Police HQ, Eastleigh on Tuesday 4th October, 2022

Chairman:

\* Councillor Rhydian Vaughan MBE

* Councillor Gary Hughes	Councillor Karen Lucioni
* Councillor Tony Bunday	* Councillor Keith Mans
* Councillor Cal Corkery	* Councillor Derek Mellor
Councillor Debbie Curnow-Ford	* Councillor Roger Price
Councillor David Harrison	
* Councillor Zoe Huggins	

\* Present

**115. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Debbie Curnow-Ford, Councillor David Harrison and Councillor Karen Lucioni. Donna Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner, also sent apologies for the meeting.

**116. 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.

**117. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 26 JULY 2022**

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and agreed.

**118. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations for the meeting.

**119. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman opened his statements with condolences to the Royal family on behalf of the Fire Authority following the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II. Following a formal request from the National Resilience Fire Control, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service had deployed a team of 18 HIWFRS colleagues to provide support to Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service on the day of the state funeral.

Following an inspection earlier in the year, the Service awaited a draft report from the inspectorate ahead of feedback and final publication in early 2023. Any actions would be considered by the Standards & Governance Committee later in 2023.

The Chairman shared that several trade unions across the UK were either considering or undertaking industrial action on the basis of the cost of living and current pay offers. The Fire Authority had stated that teams should be paid appropriately for the important roles they play in the community, although this was outside of the Authority's control. The Service was working on plans to continue delivering vital public services during periods of reduced staff availability.

The Chairman was pleased to announce that the Isle of Wight's very first Fire Cadet unit had been launched at Sandown Fire Station in September and looked forward to welcoming new cadets and volunteers.

## 120. **MEMBER DEVELOPMENTS**

Members shared the following updates:

- The Chairman, Councillor Rhydian Vaughan, had attended Prince's Trust events on both the Isle of Wight and in Basingstoke;
- Councillor Zoe Huggins had attended a Prince's Trust event in Redbridge as well as further developing her Children and Young People Champion role;
- Councillor Cal Corkery had attended the LGA Leadership course and also visited Cosham fire station. He had also liaised with the Fire Brigade Union to further understand its concerns and met with officers in his Sustainability Champion role to discuss current issues;
- Councillor Roger Price had attended the Fire Management Service Committee <sup>[1]</sup> on the 23 September where they had discussed fire finance and also received a presentation on community risk management;
- Councillor Tony Bunday had attended the Prince's Trust event at Redbridge and also visited the control room to experience how it operated. He had also met with officers in his People Champion role and had been impressed with welfare options available to staff;
- Councillor Derek Mellor had attended the Basingstoke Prince's Trust event and had a very beneficial briefing with the Chief Internal Auditor in his capacity as the Chairman of the Standards & Governance Committee

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<sup>[1]</sup> <https://lga.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=161&MIId=6119&Ver=4>

## 121. BUDGET UPDATE

The Full Authority received a report from the Chief Financial Officer (item 7 in the minute book), which provided updates on the 2022/23 financial monitoring position at quarter 1, the challenges relating to inflation that were affecting the Service and progress on delivering efficiency savings.

It was highlighted that the Authority was not asked to take any action at this stage, as the report only provided an update on assumptions, risks, and potential mitigations related to the Authority's financial position.

After a summary of the report, the following questions from Members were answered:

- Energy use was being closely monitored and bulk purchases were done with partners at a lower rate, meaning that the Authority was below the level to receive any central government support. The next bulk purchase in the new year was currently being looked at by officers;
- Any borrowing would be done against capital after looking closely at the capital programme;
- Any increase in the precept could only be done by central government following a referendum, so was an expensive route and an unlikely source of extra funding

Members thanked the Chief Financial Officer for the report and were reassured by the Chief Fire Officer, who confirmed that the Home Office was aware of how Fire Services across the country were struggling, many of which were not in as strong a position as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service.

### RESOLVED

a) The forecast outturn position for financial year 2022/23 was noted by the HIWFRA Full Authority

b) The forecast impact of current high levels of inflation on the forecast 2023/24 budget was noted by the HIWFRA Full Authority

c) The proposal to closely monitor the in-year and medium term position and use reserve contributions to close any budget gaps in the short term was approved by the HIWFRA Full Authority

## 122. MINUTES FROM THE STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 29 JULY 2022

The Full Authority received the minutes from the Standards & Governance Committee meeting that took place on the 29 July 2022.

123. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The exempt minute was noted without going into exempt session, so the press and public were not excluded from the meeting.

124. **EXEMPT MINUTE FROM THE STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING - 29 JULY 2022**

The Full Authority received the exempt minute from the Standards & Governance Committee meeting that took place on the 29 July 2022.

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Chairman,