

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH FIRE AUTHORITY
POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE: MINUTES

Date: 25th April 2019

Time: 10.30 am – 11.30 am

Place: Fire and Rescue Services HQ, Hinchingsbrooke Cottage, Brampton Road, Huntingdon.

Present: Councillors: S Bywater, D Over (Vice Chairman), T Rogers M Shellens and M Smith.

Officers: Matthew Warren – Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Deb Thompson – Scrutiny and Assurance Manager, Jon Anderson – Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Shahin Ismail – Monitoring Officer and Tamar Oviatt-Ham – Democratic Services Officer.

93. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors D Giles, M Jamil, L Nethsingha and K Reynolds.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

95. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 DECEMBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

96. ACTION LOG

The Committee noted that Matthew Warren would now own action 101 on the action log, on page 13 of the papers. The remainder of the actions on the action log were noted.

97. MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2019

The minutes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held 10 January 2019 were noted.

98. NATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS' COUNCIL BENEFITS REPORT

The Committee received a report that gave an overview of the benefits that could be achieved by the Service continuing to subscribe to the Chief Fire Officers

Association (CFOA) and in doing so supporting the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and its workstreams.

In presenting the report Officers explained that every UK Fire and Rescue Service paid a 'Professional Partnership' fee to the CFOA which was determined by the NFCC's requirements and the operating costs of the charity. The fee for 2019/20 had been set at £50,000 excluding VAT. Officers clarified that membership of the NFCC brought considerable benefits to the Service through;

- Advising and influencing through a collective effort meaning all Fire Authorities were represented with one voice.
- Developing solutions and tools for helping Fire Authorities overcome common challenges across all functions.
- Responding to incidents, events and issues that went beyond County boundaries and where a joined-up approach made more sense.

Officers gave examples of where the collective effort had been beneficial recently including the response to Grenfell Tower which was co-ordinated nationally by the NFCC and the development of the National Operational Guidance for dealing with operational incidents.

Arising from the report

- A Member questioned if there had been any negative feedback on the payment of the fee in the past. Officers clarified that there had been no negative feedback to date.
- Members queried how the funding mechanism had been established including, if all Fire Authorities paid the same amount and if the Police had a similar system. Officers explained that the funding mechanism had been established when the Fire and Rescue Service moved to the Home Office. All Fire Authorities regardless of size paid the same amount. Officers explained that the Police have the National Police Chief's Council.
- A Member questioned the amount of money that the NFCC received annually and what the Service was getting for its contribution. Officers explained that there was a Chief who led the NFCC and a structure which sat under this. Without this structure all Fire and Rescue Services would have to work individually and would not have a mechanism to come together and share best practice and respond to major incidents collectively. Officers clarified that the Service had received £10,000 pay back from the NFCC last year as they had lead on some of the national procurement programmes.
- A Member queried whether the Service would be bidding for more work in the future. Officers explained that the Chief Fire Officer was a member of the Board and that the Service had a role in shaping the future of the national procurement strategy. He also had a significant role in making the

Services voice heard in terms of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Service was involved in developing enhanced medical training with the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

It was resolved by majority to:

- Approve continued subscription to and therefore support of the CFOA and the NFCC.
- Note the contents of membership benefits detailed in appendix 1 of the report.

99. FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INSURANCE MUTUAL - UPDATE

The Committee considered a report that gave an update on the progress made by the Fire and Rescue Service Insurance Mutual.

Members noted:

- That the Mutual had been running for three years and in the last financial year made a surplus of £226K across all members.
- Membership of the mutual had remained consistent and two new members Buckinghamshire and East Sussex had joined on 1 April 2019.
- There was an ongoing ambition to grow and attract new members.
- There was a collective management of risk including the installation of CCTV and dashcams on all vehicles.
- Regus managed the fund and had been the winning bidder appointed to manage the fund for the next three years.

Arising from the report:

- Members discussed whether the Police were doing anything similar. Officers clarified that they were not currently seeking to set up a mutual but if they did it would be separate to the Fire and Rescue Service Mutual.
- A Member queried if there was a get out clause if there was a decision to terminate the mutual. Officers explained that there was a termination provision and the Service would have to give 12 months' notice.
- A member queried what happened to the surplus on an annual basis. Officers clarified that the money stayed in the pot and that there was an accumulating fund which would be aggregated depending on when members joined the mutual. Officers explained that Members would be kept up to date with the accumulated fund and would make decisions on if any short term investments were made.

It was resolved unanimously to note the contents of the report.

100. STRATEGIC RISK AND OPPORTUNITIES MANAGEMENT REGISTER – MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a report giving an update on the Strategic Risks for the Service as at April 2019.

Members noted:

- The five highest risks were now scored at 20, four of which related to the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (run by the Home Office). The Service was still awaiting a timetable for ESMP from the Home Office.
- There were ongoing mitigations in place around the risk in relation to changes to pensions and pay resulting in a high turnover of staff. These measures included ensuring that the appropriate resources were in place for training and that a competency framework was in place and managed appropriately.
- The risk in relation to the current training centre was still ongoing but alternative ways to upgrade the facilities had been investigated. Planning permission had been given for the Monkswood site but a final decision was awaited following the judicial review process.

Arising from the report

- Members queried the timetable for terminating ESMP as the timetable was still unclear and technology was changing constantly. Officers explained that this was not within their gift and that ultimately Government would have the final say on this. It also affected the Police and Ambulances Services.
- A Member questioned why a final decision had not been made on the new training facilities. Officers reiterated that once the outcome of the judicial review was known an update on the position would be given to the Fire Authority Board.
- A Member queried why the score for the Brexit risk was so high. Officers explained that this related to uncertainty regarding fuel prices and that there had been difficulties procuring new vehicles as the car industry were concentrating on producing parts and not manufacturing new vehicles.
- A Member enquired if there were any risks coming up the scale. Officers explained that there was a potential for the risk to increase in relation to staff turnover particularly in relation to Professional Support Services. Following the equal pay audit the Service had seen a higher turnover in this area as individuals had found higher paying jobs in the surrounding area. It was noted that this may have an impact in the future and that this would need to be reviewed alongside any changes in relation to the aging

population.

- A Member queried when the last time a new risk had been added to the register. Officers explained that the register was due to be reviewed again as a whole in early May and that the register would be brought to the next Fire Authority Board meeting with any new risks identified. **ACTION**

It was resolved unanimously to:

Review and note the strategic risk report and the risk distribution at appendix 1 of the report.

101. FIRE AUTHORITY PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT – MONITORING REPORT

The Committee received a report giving an update on projects for 2018/19

Members noted:

- The replacement for ICCS and Mobilising Solution was out to tender and the first round of bids was expected by 1 May. There had been a good amount of interest so far. The contract would be awarded in September with an implementation period of 12 months.
- The Asset Management software had been installed and this work was now business as usual so would be removed from the projects list
- The VDI upgrade had taken longer than anticipated and was not performing as expected in terms of log on times. Testing was ongoing and a new version of windows was being installed which would resolve the issue.
- The On Call Project was currently looking at 13.5 meter ladders and the crewing of alternative appliances. There was also a focus on recognising employers that were releasing staff and an Employers Recognition Award was being developed. There was also a move towards phased response and an update from the supplier was awaited.
- The Cambridgeshire Public Services Network CPSN contract had been awarded in March and was being implemented.

Arising from the report:

- Members raised concerns in relation to the log in time issues and queried why this had taken so long to resolve. Officers explained that they had only been given short notice in relation to the withdrawal of the old system and ideally the upgrade to the latest version of windows would have taken place before the new VDI system was installed. This had caused the log in delays. There was a condition in the new contract that the Service would always have the most up to date version of the software and that more notice would be given by the new supplier in relation to withdrawal of systems. The

supplier was testing over the next couple of weeks and it was anticipated that the issue would be resolved by mid May. An update on progress would be given in the overall Programme Monitoring report taken to the next Fire Authority Board meeting **ACTION**

- A Member questioned what rope rescue involved. Officers explained that rope rescue involved a specialist team trained to rescue from height or below ground using a series of ropes. Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service were currently used as a back-up in this area. Training exercises had been undertaken for rescues from wind turbines.
- A Member queried the use of body cameras and where this was being looked into. Officers explained that this work was part of a national programme and was rolled into the project overseeing the use of recording devices and governance. The Service would review once the outcome from the national programme was known. Officers highlighted the challenges in relation to controlling and handling the data produced and what it could be used for. An update on the project would be given in the overall update to the next Fire Authority Board meeting. **ACTION**

It was resolved unanimously to:

Note the Programme Status Report, as at March 2019, at appendix 1 of the report.

102. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

No additions were made to the work programme. The work programme was noted.

103. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 18 July 2019.

It was noted that Councillors Shellens and Rogers would be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for 10 October. Attendance would be reviewed to ensure the meeting could go ahead and the meeting would be moved if required. **ACTION**

The meeting closed at 11.30 am.

Chairman