

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY**Report of a meeting of the****East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 10.30 hours on Thursday 9 July 2009.**

Members present: Councillors Carden, Fawthrop, Freebody, Healy, Kemble (Chair), Kenward, Livings, Marsh, Pidgeon, Rufus, Sparks, Thomas and Waite.

1. FIRE AUTHORITY BUDGET MONITORING AND PROJECTED OUTTURN 2008/09

1.1 The Fire Authority has considered a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and the Treasurer. The draft outturn for 2008/09 matched the agreed Revenue Budget after the transfer of £0.333m from balances as previously agreed to meet a number of commitments, and the budget balanced within existing resources. The approved capital programme for 2008/09 was £3.911m, and the position at outturn was £2.941m. Slippage was being carried forward into 2009/10 of £0.834m and savings of £0.136m could be used to offset the 2009/10 capital programme. These were principally due to vehicle manufacturing delays and rescheduling of building works due to unforeseen circumstances.

1.2 RESOLVED - that

- 1) the draft outturn position for the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2008/09 be noted;
- 2) the funding of unfulfilled commitments totalling £30,000 from balances, be approved; and
- 3) the transfer of £91,000 from balances to support the expenditure on the Marlie Farm Investigation and related activities during 2008/09, in accordance with previous authorisation from the Fire Authority, be approved.

2. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2008/09 AND CHANGE IN STRATEGY FOR 2009/10

2.1 The Fire Authority has considered a report of the Treasurer that set out a summary of the strategy that had been agreed for 2008/09, the economic factors affecting the strategy during 2008/09, the Fire Authority's treasury activity during the year on borrowing and short term investments, the Prudential Indicators which relate to the Treasury function and compliance with limits, and a change to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2009/10.

2.2 The Treasurer advised that under the current strategy, all lending other than to the Government Debt Management Officer must be on a daily basis. It was now felt that the risk of lending for longer periods (up to 3 months) to the existing limited range of high quality banks eligible for Government Credit Guarantee Scheme and to money market funds was acceptable and would generate higher returns.

2.3 RESOLVED - That

- 1) the Treasury Management performance for 2008/09 be noted; and
- 2) the change in the Treasury Management strategy for 2009/10 be approved.

3. REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD ISSUES

- 3.1 The Fire Authority has considered the minutes of the meeting of the South East Regional Management Board held on 1 April 2009. The SE RMB has appointed Councillor Cope (Kent) as Chair for 2009/10, and Councillor Mrs Heathcoat (Oxfordshire) as Vice-Chair. The RMB has considered progress against the regional business plan 2008/11 and noted the indicative savings of £670k generated from the South East Fire Improvement Partnership (SEFIP) spend of £474k, and were pleased to note the savings accrued from collaborative working in the region.
- 3.2 Five of the fire & rescue authorities in the SE RMB had achieved Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government and the RMB had entered into the national Equality & Diversity awards for Fire & Rescue Services leadership category. The RMB continues to promote the installation of sprinklers wherever they may save life or reduce risk to the community, and have discussed involvement of local authority planning and development staff to attend stakeholder events on this issue.
- 3.3 The RMB has considered an update on the Regional Control Centre (RCC) Project. A Project Director had been appointed. Legal support was to be delivered separately to the Project. A working group had met and developed a strategy and action plan to address those tasks that were not related to mobilising and incident management or would not be done by the RCC. The RMB received an update on the Firelink project; whilst members were concerned about the proposed charging mechanisms for Firelink although it should be possible to predict costs prior to cut-over and manage the use of the system to control costs prior to FRAs having to pay them. The RMB has also considered the CLG staffing model for SEFRCC 'go-live'.
- 3.4 **RESOLVED** – To note the report.

4. CORPORATE EQUALITY SCHEME

- 4.1 The Fire Authority has considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive that presented a Corporate Equality Scheme that covered all six equality strands and other hard to reach groups. The scheme demonstrates a corporate commitment to mainstreaming equality and diversity at every level and connected with corporate plans and performance management. Local partnerships, stakeholders and staff contributed to the final version of the Scheme during a consultation period.
- 4.2 **RESOLVED** - that
- 1) the draft Corporate Equality Scheme and associated action plans be approved; and
 - 2) the Chair inform the Clerk of the names of the two Councillors to act as Lead Members to chair the new Equality & Diversity Steering Group (Service Delivery) and the Equality & Diversity Steering Group (Service Employment).

5. STATION OPEN DAY PROGRAMME FOR 2009/10

- 5.1 The Fire Authority has noted the dates for station open days and the 2009 Emergency Services Display at Eastbourne (11-12 July), and details are attached as an Appendix.
- 5.2 **RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

COUNCILLOR TED KEMBLE
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
10 July 2008

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY – STATION OPEN DAYS 2009/10

ARRANGEMENTS AS AT 4 June 2009 – remaining dates from July

Will Members of the Fire Authority please advise the Clerk on 01323 462062/66/70 if they are attending any Open Day. It would be most helpful if this could be done at least three days in advance, particularly if they also wish for any special arrangements to be made for their public consultation purposes.

	STATION	DATE & TIME	
JULY	24 – Herstmonceux	4 th July	Coincides with Village Fete
	07 – Seaford	5 th July	10.00 – 16.00 Coincides with Family Fun Day at Downs LC
	11 – Eastbourne	11 th – 12 th July	11.00 – 17.00 999 Event – Western Lawns
	13 – Crowborough	11 th July	10.00 – 16.00 at Goldsmiths Ground
	15 – Wadhurst	18 th July	10.00 – 16.00
	19 – Broad Oak	26 th July	12.00 – 16.00
AUGUST	06 – Newhaven	15 th August	10.00 – 16.00
	08 – Bohemia Road	22 nd August	10.30 – 16.00
	04 – Preston Circus	29 th Aug	10.00 – 16.00
	05 – Roedean	29 th August	10.00 – 16.00 Brighton Marina
	20 – Rye	30 th August	13.00 – 16.00
	23 – Pevensey	30 th August	10.00 – 15.00
	17 – Burwash	31 st August	13.00 – 16.00 Burwash Fair, Swan Meadow
	21 – Heathfield	31 st August	10.00 – 15.00 Coincides with La Marche event
SEPTEMBER	18 – Battle	12 th September	10.00 – 16.00
	14 – Mayfield	19 th September	10.00 – 15.00 in conj with Mayfield Festival
	22 – Bexhill	26 th September	10.00 – 16.00

