



## **BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

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### **REPORT OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY FROM ITS MEETING ON 22 OCTOBER 2013 TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) held a meeting on 22 October 2013 at Dunstable Community Fire Station. The major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

#### **1. COMMUNICATIONS**

Members were advised of the launch of the community based publicly accessible defibrillator project which had taken place at Bromham Village Hall on 14 October 2013. Of the initial 40 defibrillators provided with funding from the Fire and Rescue Service and Bedford Borough Council, 27 had been installed with the other 13 in progress.

The proposed strike which had been arranged for 19 October 2013 had been called off as a result of the progress made in negotiations. The point in dispute currently under negotiation related to retirement for fire fighters between the ages of 55-60 as in the 2006 and proposed scheme fire fighters were required to work until the age of 60 to access their full pension.

This issue had been referred by Communities and Local Government to the National Employers, and a meeting of Fire Authority Chief Officers and Chairs had been arranged for 24 October 2013 to consider an 11 point plan.

#### **2. CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP 17 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members were advised that progress was being made on indicators relating to vehicles and property. The Policy and Challenge Group had also scoped its review on service delivery models.

#### **3. SERVICE DELIVERY POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP 19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members noted that dates for the Community Risk Management Plan public forums had been set for 10 (Kempston) and 11 (Luton) December 2013. Members were encouraged to attend.

**4. AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 26 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members approved revised Financial Regulations and Standing Orders. Paragraphs relating to the orders for goods, works and services and the section on contracts had been moved from the Financial Regulations to the Standing Orders and a requirement for the Procurement Manager to be involved in any procurements over £50,000 had been included in the Standing Orders.

**5. 2013/14 REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING REPORT**

Members noted that as at 31 August 2013, the current forecast salary underspend to the year end was £299,000 and the total forecast underspend was £469,000. Any underspend would be transferred to the Transformation Earmarked Reserve at year end to assist with future budgetary pressures.

There were no issues to report in relation to Capital Programme, as all items were on target for completion by year end.

**6. DISPOSAL OF ASSETS UNDER THE SCHEME OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

Members were informed of vehicle assets which had either been redeployed or sold for more than £10,000.

**7. COMMUNITY BASED PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE DEFIBRILLATORS**

Members of Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Councils were asked to pursue match-funding for the provision of defibrillators in their areas at Member level. It was noted that any additional funding provided by the Service may be spent throughout Bedfordshire, as it had in the initial allocation.

**8. VEHICLE FLEET - RESCUE PUMPS**

Members endorsed the action taken by the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Executive Members, to commit the Service to the procurement exercise for the years 2013 to 2016 as part of the Eastern Region Fire Services consortium. The Service did not commit to the procurement exercise for the financial year 2016/17 and beyond at this stage, due to the current and predicted financial uncertainties.

It was noted that, due to the timescales of the project, action had to be taken prior to the meeting of the Authority.

**9. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SHARED SERVICES**

Members received an update on progress in relation to the Information and Communications Technology Shared Service Project being undertaken in collaboration with Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and authorised the

formal Shared Service Agreement to be completed. Both Services had upgraded their server environments and data back-up facilities. This had significantly improved the business continuity arrangements of both Services.

**COUNCILLOR McVICAR  
CHAIRMAN OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**