



## **BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

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### **REPORT OF BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY FROM ITS MEETING ON 2 MAY 2014 TO CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) held a meeting on 2 May 2014 at Dunstable Community Fire Station. The major issues discussed at the meeting are summarised below:

#### **1. COMMUNICATIONS**

##### **FBU Grievance**

Members of the Executive were appointed to hear a collective grievance from the FBU. It was agreed that there must be three Members of the Executive present for the hearing to be quorate.

##### **Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework and Peer Challenge**

A peer challenge session would be held on 8 July 2014, with the Authority being represented by Councillors Drinkwater, McVicar and Saleem.

##### **Industrial Action**

Members were advised that strike action would take place on Friday, 2 May from 12:00-17:00, Saturday, 3 May from 14:00- 02:00, and Sunday, 4 May from 10:00-15:00. A ban on voluntary overtime would be in place from 15:00 on Sunday 4 May to 12:00 Friday 9 May.

##### **Transformation Fund**

The Chairman of the Authority was delegated to sign off bids, with the Authority's Treasurer, to the Government's Transformation Fund.

#### **2. CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP 8 APRIL 2014**

Members adopted the refreshed Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy and Annual Investment Strategy and Treasury Management Practices.

### **3. SERVICE DELIVERY POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP 9 APRIL 2014**

Members were advised that the new breathing apparatus and associated communications equipment had been rolled out throughout the Service and that the Policy and Challenge Group would receive a demonstration of the new equipment on the morning of its next meeting.

### **4. HUMAN RESOURCES POLICY AND CHALLENGE GROUP 10 APRIL 2014**

The Chair reported that actions were being taken forward as a result of the internal audits on VAT Healthcheck and Key Financial Controls and the health and safety audit on New and Expectant Mothers.

### **5. AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE 15 APRIL 2014**

Arising from a suggestion to restrict paper copies of agendas and reports to those Members specifically requesting them, the Authority's 2013-14 Review of Effectiveness, Members agreed to trial a 'paperless' meeting at the September meeting of the Corporate Services Policy and Challenge Group.

It was noted that the restriction of paper copies would need to be evaluated prior to its implementation and that appropriate software should be made available to Members if they would only be receiving e-copies of agendas and reports.

Hard copies of papers would continue to be provided to the public and press attending meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority at this stage.

### **6. COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP) 2014-2018**

The outcomes of the consultation process on the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2014-18 were submitted. The two proposals that had been included in the consultation, on Senior Officer Rotas and the review of the Retained Duty System, had both received majority support.

The Community Risk Management Plan 2014-18 was approved for publication.

### **7. FIREFIGHTER PENSIONS DISCRETIONS**

Members approved the following discretions arising from reforms to the Firefighters Pension Schemes of 1992 and 2006:

- the discretion to increase the commutation limit be adopted, with individual proposals to be examined on a case by case basis depending on the needs of the Service and agreed by the Chief Fire Officer, on advice from the Director of HR and the Head of Finance.
- abatement will apply in cases of re-employment of members of the 1992 and 2006 schemes, unless a completed non-worsening clause has been submitted.
- temporary promotion and continued professional development payments are treated as additional pension benefit (APB) with a review following

introduction of the 2015 scheme and the comparative information from the LGPS 2014 scheme.

**8. INFORMATION BULLETIN**

An information bulletin detailing incidents of note and letters of appreciation for the period 1 January – 31 March 2014 was received.

Following discussion of the incidents, Members requested that an exception report be presented to the Service Delivery Policy and Challenge Group when Officers used their discretion to deviate from operational policy in exceptional circumstances to affect safe rescue of members of the public.

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