

TAYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD

Minute of Meeting of the Tayside Fire and Rescue Board held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Monday 26 March 2012 at 11.00am.

Present: Angus Council
Councillors J Whyte, R Myles, H Oswald and P Valentine.

Dundee City Council
Councillors C Roberts, M Asif (during Item 3) (substituting for Bailie H Wright), D Bowes, A Dawson, and R McCready.

Perth and Kinross Council
Councillors R Band, A MacLellan, P Mulheron, L Simpson A Stewart and H Stewart.

Also in attendance: S Hunter, A Hay, D Boyle and J Iannetta (all Tayside Fire and Rescue); G Taylor, Clerk, S MacKenzie, Acting Treasurer, and L Brown, Committee Officer (all Perth and Kinross Council); D Sinclair, M Ash, G Sharp and P Reilly (all the Accounts Commission) and M McCabe, Audit Scotland.

Apologies: Councillor D Fairweather (Angus Council); Bailies R Wallace and H Wright and Councillor E Fordyce (all Dundee City Council); Councillor D Scott (Perth and Kinross Council).

Councillor R Band, Convener, Presiding.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of Tayside Fire and Rescue Board of 30 January 2012 was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

COUNCILLOR ASIF JOINED THE MEETING DURING THE FOLLOWING ITEM

3. BEST VALUE AUDIT OF TAYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE

There was submitted a report by the Clerk to the Board (FB/12/06) advising: (1) of the publication by the Accounts Commission of Audit Scotland's report of the Best Value Audit of Tayside Fire and Rescue, and (2) of the findings of the Accounts Commission.

Mr Douglas Sinclair, Vice Chair of the Accounts Commission, provided a summary of the Commission's findings on the Best Value Audit of Tayside Fire and Rescue in which he highlighted areas of good practice and areas for improvement. In concluding, Mr Sinclair advised that once the Best Value Audits of all eight fire and

rescue services in Scotland were complete a national overview report would be published by the Commission on its work on fire and rescue.

Thereafter, Commission Members answered questions from the Board on the Best Value Audit Report and the Commission findings on: (1) the Board's scrutiny and challenge of the service with particular regard to the Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the service, (2) training for Board Members and, (3) how the democratic input by elected members into the new regime will be achieved.

Resolved:

- (i) The findings of the Accounts Commission on the report of the Best Value Audit of Tayside Fire and Rescue be accepted.
- (ii) The development of an Action Plan to address the issues contained within the Best Value Audit report be approved.

4. TAYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD – ANNUAL AUDIT PLAN 2011/12

There was submitted the draft Annual Audit Plan for 2011/12 (FB/12/07) prepared by Audit Scotland, the Board's external auditors and detailing the planned audit activity to be undertaken in the coming year.

In the absence of a representative from Audit Scotland the Board heard from the Acting Treasurer who outlined the responsibilities of the auditors as set out in the summary plan and Appendix A to Report FB/12/07. Thereafter, in response to a question from the Board on future training to be provided to the members, the Clerk advised that the key issues contained within the Audit Report, the Accounts Commission National Overview Report and Police and Fire Reform legislation would be included within the training programme for Board members post-May 2012.

Resolved:

The Board agreed the Annual Audit Plan for 2011/12.

5. TOWARDS A SAFER TAYSIDE 2012/13 – CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

There was submitted a report by the Chief Fire Officer (FB/12/08): (1) advising of the result of the Towards a Safer Tayside 2012/13 consultation document, and (2) requesting that the Board, following consideration of the responses received, agree the action points for inclusion within the Towards a Safer Tayside 2011/212 Action Plan.

Resolved:

- (i) The responses received to the Towards a Safer Tayside 2012/13 consultation document be noted.
- (ii) The action points as proposed within the Towards a Safer Tayside 2012/13 consultation document be included within the Towards a Safer Tayside 2012/13 Action Plan for submission to the next meeting of the Board on 11 June 2012.

6. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FINANCIAL PLAN 2012/13

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Fire Officer and Acting Treasurer to the Board (FB/12/09) proposing a Capital Expenditure Financial Plan for the year 2012/13 and seeking authorisation of the Plan.

Resolved:

The Capital Expenditure Financial Plan for Tayside Fire and Rescue for the year 2012/13 as appended to Report FB/12/09 be approved.

7. PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2012/13

There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Fire Officer and Acting Treasurer to the Board (FB/12/10) providing a summary of the Prudential Indicators and Investment and Treasury Strategies for financial year 2012/13.

Resolved:

- (i) The Prudential Indicators for the financial year 2012/13 as contained in Appendix A to Report FB/12/10 be approved.
- (ii) The Investment and Treasury Strategies as detailed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Report FB/12/10 be approved.

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ACCOUNTS COMMISSION AND AUDIT SCOTLAND LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

THE PUBLIC AND PRESS WAS EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973

P1. REVIEW OF SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

There was submitted a joint report by the Clerk and Acting Treasurer to the Board (FB/12/11) providing an update on the independent advice which had been obtained on behalf of the Board by the Clerk and Acting Treasurer.

The Clerk and Acting Treasurer to the Board answered a number of questions from the Board on the terms of Report FB/12/11.

Motion (Councillors Myles and MacLellan) –

- (i) **The early retirement of the Chief Fire Officer on the grounds of efficiency of the service, in compliance with Rule A14 of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme, be approved with effect from 31 March 2012**
- (ii) **The restructure of the senior management of Tayside Fire and Rescue as set out in Section 3.9 of Report FB/12/11, generating a recurring revenue efficiency saving of £89,000 per annum, be approved.**

Amendment (Councillors McCready and Asif) – The matter be deferred until a further report on the rationale for the management restructure of Tayside Fire and Rescue is submitted for the consideration of the Board.

In terms of Standing Order 36, a roll call vote was taken.

2 Members voted for the Amendment as follows:
Councillors McCready and Asif.

13 Members voted for the Motion as follows:
Councillors Myles, Oswald, Valentine, Whyte, Bowes, Dawson, Roberts, Band, MacLellan, Mulheron, Simpson, A Stewart and H Stewart.

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER AND ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER RETURNED TO THE MEETING.

VALEDICTORY

The Convener paid tribute to Chief Fire Officer Stephen Hunter for his outstanding contribution to the Service over more than 30 years and on behalf of the Board wished him all the best in his retirement. Vice Conveners Roberts and Whyte and Councillor A Stewart echoed the Convener's comments.

Mr Hunter thanked the Board for their kind words and thanked the Board and all at Tayside Fire and Rescue for the support and assistance given over the years.