

Minutes of the meeting of  
the TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND  
RESCUE AUTHORITY held in the  
Fire and Rescue Service  
Headquarters, Barmston Mere on  
MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2012 at  
10.30 am.

**Present:**

Councillor B Heron in the Chair

Councillors Bell, M Forbes, N. Forbes, Gambling, Haley, P Mole, Mortimer,  
Mulvenna, Ord, Padgett, Stephenson, Trueman and Watters.

**Part I**

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ahad  
and Renton.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman reminded members that this was Chief Fire Officer I. Bathgate's last  
meeting of the Authority prior to taking his retirement. He commented that Iain had  
served Tyne and Wear with great integrity over the years and had been an extremely  
dedicated Officer. The Chair conveyed his thanks and gratitude on behalf of both the  
Authority, and also the people of Tyne and Wear

## **Minutes**

70. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the minutes of the meeting of the Authority, Part I held on 23 January 2012, be confirmed and signed as a correct record;
- (ii) the minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Committee, Part I held on 18 January 2012, be noted for information subject to Councillor Haley being recorded as in attendance, and apologies for absence being submitted on behalf of Councillor Ord;
- (iii) the minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Committee, Part I held on 26 January 2012, be noted for information; and
- (iv) the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Performance Committee, Part I held on 30 January 2012, be noted for information.

## **Revenue Budget 2012/2013**

The Chief Fire Officer, Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a joint report to present for consideration and approval by Members, the Revenue Estimates for 2012/2013, and to calculate the 2012/2013 Fire Authority's Council tax Requirement and Precept required to be levied on the District Councils in Tyne and Wear.

The Finance Officer spoke to the report and reminded Members that the formula grant remained unchanged from the Provisional Settlement of £31.096m. This represented a 3.4% cash reduction in funding to that received in 2011/2012.

Referring to section 4.3 of the report, Members were advised of the proposed revenue budget for 2012/2013 of £55.569 million and a Council Tax Requirement of £23.956 million.

The Council Tax Bases and surplus/deficit on Collection Funds had been received from the five District Councils within Tyne and Wear. The Council Tax Base for 2012/2013 was £327,453 and the net deficit on the Collection Fund was £81,298.

It was therefore possible to construct a budget which would allow to freeze Council Tax in 2012/2013 at the same levels as 2011/2012. This resulting in a 'basic' Band D Council Tax of £73.16. Members welcomed this approach.

Members of the Authority again reiterated the discussions they had had at previous meetings relating to the unfairness in the way in which grants had been distributed. Whilst this had already been debated at length, they again enhanced their feelings of great concern.

Members commented that the Authority should continue to lobby their views and asked that a press release be circulated in order that they can convey an appropriate message to colleagues.

71. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the revised estimate for 2011/2012, as summarised at Appendix A be noted;
- (b) the proposed Revenue Estimates for 2012/2013, as summarised at Appendix A be approved;
- (c) the Projected Pensions Account 2012/2013 detailed at Appendix B be noted;
- (d) the position on general and earmarked balances and reserves, the associated risks and their mitigation as outlined at Appendices C, D and E be noted;
- (e) the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2011/2012 to 2014/2015 detailed at Appendix F be noted;
- (f) the Council Tax base of 327,453 (known as Item T) for the year 2012/2013, as notified by the billing authorities within Tyne and Wear under the new regulations be noted;
- (g) the acceptance of the Council Tax Freeze Grant and a Council Tax freeze for 2012/2013 be noted;
- (h) approval be given to the following amounts for the Authority for the year 2012/2013 which represents a Council Tax freeze for 2012/2013, in accordance with Sections 42A to 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended:
  - (i) £62,700,752 - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(2)(a) to (d) of the Act;
  - (ii) £38,744,290 - being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 42A(3)(a) to (b) adjusted for item of the Act;
  - (iii) £23,956,462 - being the amount by which the aggregate at (i) above exceeds the aggregate at (ii) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year, Item R in the formula in Section 42B of the Act;
  - (iv) £73.1600 - being the amount at (iii) (Item R) above divided by the Council Tax Base (Item T), calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 42B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council

## Tax for the year

### (v) Valuation Bands

	£	
A	48.7733	being the amount given by multiplying the amount at (iv) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation and divided by the number which that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 47(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.
B	56.9022	
C	65.0311	
D	73.1600	
E	89.4178	
F	105.6756	
G	121.9333	
H	146.3200	

- (i) under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act, the Authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2012/13 is not excessive in accordance with the principles determined under Section 52ZC(1) of the Act (i.e. no referendum is required).
- (j) in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the billing authorities within the area of this authority be issued with precepts in the amount of £23,956,462 for the financial year beginning 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, the amount of the respective precepts to be issued to each billing authority's area in accordance with Sections 42A to 48 of the 1992 Act.

### **Capital Programme 2012/2013 Including Prudential Indicators for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015**

The Chief Fire Officer, Clerk to the Authority and the Finance Officer submitted a joint report to present to Members the proposed Capital Programme for 2012/2013, including the Prudential Indicators for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015.

Members were referred to the Capital Programme at Appendix A which totalled £4,014,817. Included within this was provision for the following New Starts:- IT Equipment (£1,117,000), Operational Equipment (£62,600), Estates (£300,000) and Estates Development Strategy (£2,000,000).

The Prudential Indicators for 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 were fully set out at Appendix B of the report.

Councillor Haley queried why the Authority did not utilise borrowing powers and was advised that this was to allow maximum flexibility for revenue in future years.

72. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Capital Programme and Vehicle Replacement Programme for 2012/2013 as set out in Appendix A, be approved;
- (ii) the Prudential Indicators for the years 2012/2013 to 2014/2015 as set out in Appendix B, and specifically the Authorised Limit for External Debt of £55.640m and the Operational Boundary for External Debt of £50.640m for 2012/2013, be approved; and
- (iii) the Annual Minimum Revenue Provision Statement set out in Section 3.12 of Appendix 1 be approved.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

73. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it contains exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) or information relating to consultations/negotiations in connection with any labour matter arising between the Authority and employees of the Authority (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 3 and 4).

(Signed)      B HERON  
Chairman

### **Note:**

The above minutes comprise those relating to items of business during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

