

**DEVON & SEVERN  
INSHORE FISHERIES AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee  
held on 7 December 2011 at Larkbeare House, Exeter**

**Present:** Elaine Hayes (Chairman)  
Cllr. Eileen Wragg (Devon)  
Cllr. Peter Bryant (North Somerset)  
Paul Gompertz  
John Butterwith  
David Rowe  
Jonathan Bailey (EA)  
Gavin Black (NE)

**Also Present:** Tim Robbins (Chief Officer)  
Angie Sinclair (Finance, DCC)  
Nick Maye (Finance, DCC)

**Apologies:** Cllr. Sam Robinson (Devon)  
Cllr. Sir Simon Day (Devon)

The meeting was assembled to consider the budget for the Devon & Severn IFCA for the next financial year 2012-13. A copy of the budget report compiled by the Chief Officer and Treasurer which formed the basis for the discussion is attached for information.

The report was discussed and the following points were noted:

1. 2k allocated to create a SLA with the Legal Support Services, DCC to support the Chief Officer if required.
2. Inflation figures based on Sept figures published by the Government and though 2% was used for the pay inflation the actual amount would be determined by the national pay negotiations and risk assessment measures have been considered.
3. Proposed new burdens levy for 2012-13 is 12% below the government funding and with an overall increase in 3.8% compared to 2011-12.
4. Due to probable underspend of £100k from 2011-12 £54k will be used to pay for major spend of the crane for the patrol vessel, the rest would be placed in the renewals reserve fund, projection at 2012-13 is £517,830k.
5. Agreed that no capital programme be set at this time until a full review as to the alternative to Drumbeat to fulfil the operational needs and requirements to deliver the services and Authority's objectives is undertaken in spring/summer of 2012. The patrol vessel is currently valued at £100k approximately and to capitalise on this

figure a detailed assessment to create a replacement options plan for when (set date) rather than if Drumbeat ceases to be viable should be undertaken.

6. Concern over staffing levels to cover the North Devon district was expressed with the Chief Officer reassuring that recruitment of a new member of staff, staff secondment from the EA and an increase in joint working with other agencies was budgeted for, in place and on-going.
7. Due to the gradient level of implementation of MCZ's being slower than predicted the funding will not be required next financial year but the quantum of work is still high. Flexibility to cover the increased workload within the budget for work related to MPA's has been taken into account mainly by savings in amount of fuel used by Drumbeat and using the saving to fund this area of work.
8. Legal costs for the byelaw review process are built into the budget. The byelaw review process is being addressed quicker than the planned 4 year timescale. Concern on cutting back on patrolling to target enforcement when the introduction of new byelaws may need extra policing was highlighted.
9. It was considered that the figures were too stringent but no amendments were made.
10. Concern was expressed that the cost of hire of Drumbeat and Enforcer was too low and that 10% should be added to the figures currently being charged.

The following recommendations relating to the Report on the Budget for 2012/13 be put to members of the main Authority for approval are:

1. To approve the Revenue Budget outlined in the report.  
Proposed by Cllr P Bryant, Seconded by Cllr E Wragg – all in favour
2. Recommend the Authority approve the Fees and Charges but subject to an additional 10% to be added to the boat charter cost figures.  
Proposed by John Butterwith, Seconded by Cllr P Bryant – all in favour
3. Review the Assessment of Volatile Budgets at Appendix B and recommend to the Authority that the risks, impacts and mitigations be noted.  
Proposed by Cllr P Bryant, Seconded by David Rowe – all in favour
4. Recommend to the Authority that the projected balances on the Boat Major Repairs and Renewals Reserve is noted.
5. Recommend the Authority that no Capital Programme is set at this time but is considered as part of the assessment of future boat needs to be undertaken during 2012-13.  
Proposed by John Butterwith, Seconded by Cllr P Bryant – all in favour.