

## ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING - PART I

Held on Wednesday 7 February 2007

Council Chamber, Wokingham Borough Council, Civic  
Offices, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 1BN



**Those present:**

Councillor Mike Adams	Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson
Councillor Andrew Bradley	Councillor Mrs Prue Bray
Councillor Jeff Brooks ( <i>part meeting</i> )	Councillor Dr Paul Bryant ( <i>Chairman</i> )
Councillor Geoff Findlay	Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten
Councillor John Green	Councillor Jagjit Grewal
Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliar-Symons	Councillor David Howes
Councillor Mrs Vicky Howes	Councillor Peter Jones
Councillor James Mole ( <i>Vice-Chairman</i> )	Councillor Angus Ross
Councillor Alan Ward ( <i>part meeting</i> )	Councillor Miss Emma Webster
Councillor Derek Wilson	Councillor Sean Wright

**In attendance:**

- Olaf Baars (Deputy Chief Fire Officer)
- Iain Cox (Chief Fire Officer)
- Lynda Kenyon (Committee Manager)
- Rosemary Lansdowne (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)
- Simon Smith (Contingency Planning Officer) (*Item 01.10.07*)
- Des Tidbury (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)
- Andrew Vallance (Authority Treasurer)
- David Wallace (Director of Human Resources)

### Action

#### 01.01.07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tom Crisp, Councillor Peter North, Councillor Fred Pugh and Councillor Dexter Smith. Apologies were also received from Councillor Jeff Brooks who would be late to the meeting and from Councillor Alan Ward who stated that he would need to leave the meeting early.

#### 01.02.07 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Having been reminded that in accordance with the Fire Authority's Code of Conduct, Members were required to declare interests which were Personal or Personal and Prejudicial, where appropriate, it was **Noted** that on this occasion there were no such declarations made.

#### 01.03.07 PART I MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2006

Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten proposed an amendment to the second paragraph on page 7, to now read:

- "Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten supported the need to widen the forums' representation to enable inclusive public engagement, and questioned what the increased costs might incur."

The Fire Authority **Agreed** this amendment, and, **subject to this amendment**, the Part I Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2006 were received and **Approved** as a correct record for signing by the Chairman.

#### **01.04.07 PART I MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND OTHER GROUPS**

The Fire Authority was advised of the Part I meetings of the Community Safety Forum, Disciplinary, Appeals and Grievance Committee, Executive Committee, Fire Liaison Group, Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Standards Committee that have taken place since last reported to the Fire Authority on 13 December 2006.

#### **The Fire Authority:**

- **Noted** the Part I Minutes of the Committees, Working Parties and other Groups.

#### **01.05.07 PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 8 AND 9**

**The Fire Authority Noted** that no Petitions or Questions had been received under Standing Orders 8 and 9.

#### **01.06.07 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- The Chairman referred to the recent loss of nine fire appliances from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service following a fire incident, and to the replacement costs and the insufficient insurance cover.
- The Chairman reported that the National Joint Council for Local Authority Fire and Rescue Services had reached agreement on a scheme of Continual Professional Development payments in place of the Long Service Increment awards.
- The Chairman reported that he had recently attended a meeting with the Chief Fire Officer on the provision of Fire Services within Europe. He referred to how shared standards could progress towards integrated working, although he noted that there had been little enthusiasm for a Pan-European Fire Service.
- As this was the last full Fire Authority meeting before the May 2007 elections, the Chairman conveyed his best wishes to Members in the forthcoming elections, and thanked Members for their continued help and support throughout this year.

#### **01.07.07 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10**

**The Fire Authority Noted** that no Questions had been received from the Fire Authority Members under Standing Order 10.

#### **01.08.07 NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 12**

**The Fire Authority Noted** that no Notices of Motion had been received under Standing Order 12.

## **01.09.07 ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROPERTY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Fire Authority was invited to resolve to set up a new Standing Committee, to be known as the Property and Resources Committee, in accordance with the proposed Terms of Reference presented, to enable future considerations of the freehold of two fire houses in Windsor, two fire houses in Newbury and the forecourt to Mortimer fire station, all currently registered in the name of the Fire Authority, and which were currently the subject of proceedings and legal action by The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council respectively. The Fire Authority was also invited to nominate six Elected Members of the Fire Authority to serve on the Committee, the Members of the Committee to be from Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Slough Borough Council and/or Wokingham Borough Council.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised the Fire Authority that she considered that Members from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council should not be on this particular Committee because they would be precluded from speaking or voting on the Committee due to having a prejudicial interest. She stated that to speak or vote in relation to proceedings being instigated by their own Unitary Authorities could amount to a breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer asked the members of the Press present to report any discussions with care in order to protect the tenants of the properties who were not involved or, in any way, responsible for the dispute between the Authorities.

The recommendations presented by the Clerk and Monitoring Officer were considered at length, the salient points as follows:

- Councillor Miss Emma Webster supported the principle of establishing a new Standing Committee, and suggested that nominations from all six Authorities be considered. She considered that Members from West Berkshire District Council should not be precluded from speaking or voting on the issue, notwithstanding the fact that it involved a dispute with her Unitary Authority. She did not accept the Monitoring Officer's advice and felt that she did not have a prejudicial interest in the matter. She stated that, should a Member then have a prejudicial interest, they could withdraw from the meeting. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer stated that there would be a prejudicial interest from any Member representation from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council and, therefore, they would not be able to participate in the discussions or vote. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer noted that it would be difficult to share Counsel's advice with the respective Authority Member.
- Councillor Peter Jones noted that, on occasions, conflicts of interests were to be expected in Authorities where there was dual membership. He felt that the Members from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council should not be Members of this new Committee as they would not be able to speak or vote due to a conflict of interest.
- Councillor Miss Emma Webster raised the issue of who would chair a meeting of the Fire Authority, as the Chairman was a Councillor from West Berkshire District Council, should there be a requirement to consider an item pertaining to the two aforementioned houses.

- Councillor Angus Ross felt that Members were appointed to the Fire Authority to represent the Fire Authority, and Councillor Derek Wilson supported this, stating that there would be no prejudicial interests in this particular issue. Councillor Derek Wilson and Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson considered that there was no conflict of interest in the dispute between their own Unitary and the Fire Authority and that they could be on the Committee and speak and vote on the issue of the two fire houses in Windsor.
- Councillor Mrs Prue Bray felt that Member representatives from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council, if appointed to the new Committee, would be required to declare a prejudicial interest, and would, therefore, not be able to take part in the meetings of the Committee.
- Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten stated that there was no reference, within the report presented, to the Committee being established for a defined period. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer confirmed that the Committee would cease to exist once the current disputes had been resolved.
- Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten felt that the Committee should be established on a totally democratic basis.
- Councillor Geoff Findlay asked whether Members from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council would be able to take part in discussions not relating to their respective Authority. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer stated that the issues and points of law were comparable and, therefore, she felt that Members from both of these Authorities should be excluded from the discussions.
- Councillor Mrs Vicky Howes suggested that the title of the Committee should reflect the issues to be considered. She felt that Members from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council should be excluded from being represented on the Committee.
- The Chief Fire Officer reassured Members that the recommendations of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer were to protect Members against any possible judicial review or report to the Standards Board for breach of the Code of Conduct.
- Councillor Geoff Findlay suggested that the Committee be established as a Task Group. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised that Committee status was required to consider the issues.
- Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson asked why this report had not been considered in Part II of the meeting, as the report referred to the tenants of the aforementioned properties. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the report had been taken in Part I as the Fire Authority was being invited to establish a new Standing Committee, and only the full Fire Authority had the authority to establish the Committee.

**Councillor Jeff Brooks joined the meeting.**

- Councillor Jeff Brooks felt that Members from The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and West Berkshire District Council should not be excluded from the Committee.

He indicated that he did not accept the Clerk and Monitoring Officer's advice on this matter and that West Berkshire District Council Members could speak and vote in relation to the issue of the fire houses at Newbury and Mortimer Fire Station, and, therefore, should be Members of the Committee. He stated that he had spoken to the Head of Legal Services at West Berkshire District Council and did not believe the Clerk and Monitoring Officer's report or advice that there was a dispute over the forecourt at Mortimer fire station. He stated that Head of Legal Services at West Berkshire District Council knew nothing about the matter.

**Councillor Miss Emma Webster proposed the following amendments to the recommendations presented:**

- a) The Fire Authority be invited to set up a new Standing Committee, to be known as the Property and Resources Committee, in accordance with the Terms of Reference presented.

Councillor Derek Wilson seconded this amendment.

- b) The Fire Authority be invited to resolve that the new Standing Committee be dissolved once the current disputes had been resolved.

Councillor Derek Wilson seconded this amendment.

- c) The Fire Authority be invited to nominate one representative from each Authority to serve on the Committee, and that the respective representative be appointed from the Authorities' lead political Party.

**Councillor David Howes proposed a further amendment to c) above, as follows:**

- c) The Fire Authority be invited to nominate one preferred Member representative from each Authority to be appointed to serve on the Committee.

**Councillor Miss Emma Webster withdrew her previous amendment and seconded Councillor David Howes' amendment.**

**The Fire Authority:**

- a) **Resolved by a vote of thirteen votes in favour to three votes against** to set up a new Standing Committee, to be known as the Property and Resources Committee, in accordance with the Terms of Reference presented. (Note - the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mike Adams and Councillor Peter Jones voted against.)
- b) **Resolved unanimously** that the new Standing Committee be dissolved once the current disputes had been resolved.
- c) **Resolved by a majority of twelve votes in favour to four votes against** that one preferred representative from each Authority be appointed to serve on the Committee. (Note - the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mike Adams, Councillor Mrs Prue Bray and Councillor Peter Jones voted against.)

**The following nominations were considered and accepted:**

Bracknell Forest Borough Council:

- Councillor Alan Ward proposed Councillor Mike Adams.  
Councillor Mike Adams accepted the appointment.

Reading Borough Council:

- Councillor Mike Adams proposed Councillor Peter Jones.  
Councillor Peter Jones accepted the appointment.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead:

- Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson proposed Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten.  
Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten accepted the appointment.

Slough Borough Council:

- Councillor Jagjit Grewal proposed Councillor Sean Wright.  
Councillor Sean Wright accepted the appointment.

West Berkshire District Council:

- Councillor Geoff Findlay proposed Councillor Miss Emma Webster.  
Councillor Miss Emma Webster accepted the appointment.

Wokingham Borough Council:

- Councillor Angus Ross proposed Councillor John Green.  
Councillor John Green accepted the appointment.

Councillor Mrs Prue Bray was disappointed that the Members present had not considered a Committee structure which was politically proportional.

**01.10.07 PRESENTATION - 'CONTINGENCY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS'**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer introduced Simon Smith (Contingency Planning Officer) who gave a presentation entitled 'Civil Contingencies - an awareness of how the RBFRS (*Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service*) are dealing with Business Continuity' (*copy available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager*). Simon Smith referred to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which had come into force in November 2005, the seven duties imposed on the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, and the requirements of the Section 2(1)(c) of the Act. He described the impacts to the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Impact and Resource Analysis which had been carried out, and how a Critical Incident would be managed. Simon Smith also briefly described the functions of Crisis Commander, a Web based crisis management and information system, which he was happy to show Members in more detail if they wished to see it.

Councillor Miss Emma Webster felt that it would be useful to include an introduction to Business Continuity during Member Inductions, and to be shown the functions of the Crisis Commander.

The Chairman asked how the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Business Continuity Plans interacted with the crisis plans and management within Local Authorities. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer stated that, locally, co-ordination was managed through the Local Resilience Forum and, regionally, through the Government Office of the South East (GOSE).

The Chairman thanked Simon Smith for his presentation.

#### **01.11.07 BUDGET 2007/08**

The Authority Treasurer invited the Fire Authority to finalise the Budget requirements and set the precept for 2007/08, and took Members through the proposed Budget for 2007/08.

The Authority Treasurer drew Members' attention to the anticipated £592,000 net savings required for 2008/2009, as part of the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review, the proposed reserves of £2,000,000 required to meet the risks presented, and the inflation contingency fund as recommended by the Executive Committee. He referred to the grant received, the collection fund surplus and to the increase in Council Tax base, as detailed in the report presented, noting that the recommended Band D Council Tax of £50.09 was an increase of 4.48%.

Councillor Geoff Findlay felt that a proportion of the inflation contingency fund should be invested in the operational functions, for example the funding of a Rescue Trainer post. Councillor Jeff Brooks supported this principle.

Councillor Jeff Brooks proposed that £50,000 of the inflation contingency fund be allocated specifically for salaries, with £45,000 of the inflation contingency fund allocated to contingent operational reserves, to be reviewed in 6 months, with the contingent operational reserves to be released if the impact to inflation rises allowed. Councillor Geoff Findlay supported Councillor Jeff Brooks' proposal. Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson seconded Councillor Jeff Brooks' proposal.

The Fire Authority then considered the recommendations in their entirety. Councillor Miss Emma Webster proposed that the recommendations presented, with the inclusion of Councillor Jeff Brooks' proposal detailed above, be agreed, and these were seconded by Councillor Angus Ross.

#### **The Fire Authority unanimously Resolved:**

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, that the following amounts be now calculated for the year 2007/08:

1. That the aggregate Council taxbase of the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities had been notified as 322,270.02.
- 2a £32,503,744 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 43(2)(a) to (d) of the Act.
- 2b £1,175,000 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 43(3)(a) to (b) of the Act.
- 2c £31,328,744 being the amount by which the aggregate at (2a) above exceeds the aggregate at (2b) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 43(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year.

- 2d £15,118,000 being the aggregate of the sums which the Authority estimates will be payable for the year in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates and, revenue support grant.
- 2e £68,239 being the net aggregate of the surpluses and deficits on billing authorities' Collection Funds to be received in 2007/08.
- 2f £50.09 being the amount at (2c) less the amount at (2e) above less the amount at (2d) above, all divided by the aggregate Council taxbase at (1) above, calculated by the Authority, in accordance with Section 44(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- 2g The Authority, in accordance with Section 40(2)(a) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007/08 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below,

Valuation Band	£
A	33.39
B	38.96
C	44.52
D	50.09
E	61.22
F	72.35
G	83.48
H	100.18

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (2f) 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 Band divided by the number which in 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.

- 2h The Authority, in accordance with Section 40(2)(b) of the Act, hereby sets the following amounts payable as precepts by the billing Authorities for the year 2007/08:

Authority	Taxbase	Precept	Collection Fund Surplus/ (Deficit)	Net Yield from C Tax
Bracknell Forest	42,100.00	2,108,789.00	5,526.00	2,114,315.00
Reading	51,744.00	2,591,856.96	(14,415.00)	2,577,441.96
Slough	39,804.50	1,993,807.41	0.00	1,993,807.41
West Berkshire	60,883.05	3,049,631.97	80,280.00	3,129,911.97
Windsor and Maidenhead	63,913.77	3,201,440.74	11,146.00	3,212,586.74
Wokingham	63,824.70	3,196,979.22	(14,298.00)	3,182,681.22
Total	322,270.02	16,142,505.30	68,239.00	16,210,744.30

3. That £50,000 of the inflation contingency fund be allocated specifically for salaries, with £45,000 of the inflation contingency fund allocated to contingent operational reserves, to be reviewed in 6 months, with the contingent operational reserves to be released if the impact to inflation rises allowed.
4. The Medium Term Financial Plan, the Capital Programme and the Prudential Indicators, Treasury Strategy and Investment Strategy, as set out in the report presented.

#### **01.12.07 APPROVAL OF CONSULTATION STRATEGY FOR 5-YEAR INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Fire Authority's approval was sought for the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan document and the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan consultation strategy in readiness to commence public consultation on 12 February 2007 for a period of three months.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer took Members through the draft Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan, which he stated was now within its sixteenth draft following discussions, amendments and direction given by Members. He noted that the questionnaire contained within the middle of the document had been developed with Opinion Research Services (ORS) and would, within the final printed document, be able to be removed easily.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer referred to a grammatical error within the third sentence of question nine of the questionnaire which Opinion Research Services had recommended be changed to now read "The average utilisation for a Wholetime fire engine, in **its** own area, during these hours is seven calls per week."

Councillor Mrs Prue Bray felt it would be helpful if the dates of the consultation could be printed at the front of the document and not at the back. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer stated that the dates could be included, subject to space.

Following a point of clarity sought by Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that, subject to the approval of the Fire Authority, the consultation would be conducted from 12 February 2007 until 11 May 2007 inclusive.

Councillor John Green suggested that a return date should be added to Flap B of the questionnaire.

Councillor John Green asked whether larger maps could be provided if requested. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that these could be made available.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson proposed that the second sentence within question nine of the questionnaire be amended to now read:

- "RBFRS has found that the Windsor fire engine has excess capacity since it only attends an average of three **night** calls per week in Windsor during the period 20.00hrs-08.00hrs."

Councillor Derek Wilson seconded this, and Councillor Jeff Brooks also confirmed his support of the amendment.

Councillor Angus Ross was disappointed that previous references to the number of calls out of area attended by the Windsor appliances had been removed.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson felt the wording contained in the fifth sentence within question nine of the questionnaire "Options a) and b) will enable enhancements to be made in areas where improvement is needed" was biased and was a leading statement and should be removed. This was supported by Councillor Derek Wilson. Councillor Jeff Brooks felt that it was helpful to retain this in the questionnaire, and this was supported by Councillor Mrs Prue Bray who noted that all the questions within the questionnaire contained direction.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson asked how quickly additional copies of the document could be produced if required, and that if a request was received towards the end of the consultation period, whether the consultation period could be extended to accommodate this. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the document could be printed in house, and its distribution would be dependent on the numbers requested. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer stated that the Fire Authority could be invited to consider extending the consultation if required. Councillor Jeff Brooks was unsure why Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson had raised this.

Councillor Peter Jones asked if the document could be translated in other languages if requested. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer stated that a translation service could be provided.

Councillor Jeff Brooks commended the Officers and staff involved for all their hard work, and this was acknowledged by Councillor Peter Jones and Councillor Mrs Prue Bray. The Chairman conveyed his thanks to the Members of the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party.

### **The Fire Authority:**

- **Unanimously agreed** to amend the second sentence within question nine of the questionnaire be amended to now read:
  - "RBFRS has found that the Windsor fire engine has excess capacity since it only attends an average of three night calls per week in Windsor during the period 20.00hrs-08.00hrs."
- **Unanimously agreed** to the inclusion of the consultation dates at the front of the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan document and to the inclusion of a return date on Flap B of the questionnaire.
- **Resolved by a majority of ten votes in favour to six votes against** to retain the wording contained within the second sentence of question nine of the questionnaire.
- **Approved** the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan document, **subject to the above amendments**, in readiness to commence a 3-month public consultation process on 12 February 2007.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer took Members through the outline of options and recommendations within the consultation strategy, as presented, noting in particular that the scope of the consultation had been widened to include more Focus Groups,

Stakeholder Forums, a web-based survey and a paper-based survey. A copy of the final draft of the back page of the Council Tax leaflet was tabled (*copy available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager*).

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the previously agreed amendments to the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan document questionnaire would be reflected in the leaflet.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reported that Opinion Research Services had now confirmed that the cost of the paper-based quantitative survey would be £400 per 1,000 surveys returned.

Councillor Miss Emma Webster recommended that the Berkshire Youth Parliament should also receive a copy of the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan document and agreed to provide the contact details.

**The Fire Authority:**

- **Unanimously Approved** the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan consultation strategy in readiness to commence a 3-month public consultation process on 12 February 2007.

**01.13.07 2006/2007 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT AT 31 JANUARY 2007**

The Authority Treasurer tabled a report entitled '2006/2007 Budget Monitoring report at 31 January 2007' (*copy available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager*).

The Authority Treasurer reported that he anticipated a slight underspend at year-end.

**The Fire Authority:**

- **Noted** the 2006/2007 Budget Monitoring report at 31 January 2007.

**01.14.07 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2007**

The Fire Authority was advised of the meeting of the Regional Management Board held on 17 January 2007.

**The Fire Authority:**

- **Noted** the Chairman's report from the Regional Management Board meeting held on 17 January 2007.

**01.15.07 ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS FOR THE THAMES VALLEY REGION - REPORT FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2006**

The Fire Authority was advised of the meeting of the Association of Councils for the Thames Valley Region held on 8 December 2006.

**The Fire Authority:**

- **Noted** the report from the Association of Councils for the Thames Valley Region's meeting held on 8 December 2006.

**01.16.07 DATE OF NEXT FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING (ANNUAL MEETING):**

The next Fire Authority meeting is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday 27 June 2007 at 6.30pm** at Shaw House, Church Road, Shaw, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG14 2DL

**01.17.07 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**The Fire Authority Resolved** that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act indicated, and is exempt information if, and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information:

- Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2006 (Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).
- Part II Minutes of Committees, Working Parties and other Groups (Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7).
- Appointment of Consultant to support the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan (Paragraphs 1 and 3).

**Note: The following is a summary of the items considered in the Part II Agenda:**

**01.18.07 PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2006**

The Part II Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2006 were received and **Approved** as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**01.19.07 PART II MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND OTHER GROUPS**

The Fire Authority was advised of the Part II meetings of the Committees, Working Parties and Other Groups that had taken place since last reported to the Fire Authority on 13 December 2006.

**The Fire Authority:**

- **Noted** the Part II Minutes of the Committees, Working Parties and other Groups.

**01.20.07 APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT 5-YEAR PLAN**

**The Fire Authority:**

- Approved the appointment of the Consultant to support the Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan.