

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



DCISION & ACTION SUMMARY

WEDNESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2001

1 MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY

Noted that Councillor P Love had replaced Councillor D Parker on the Fire Authority

CA to amend Notice of Meetings and Attendance Lists accordingly

David R Weller (CA)
(0118) 932 2288

2 PART I MINUTES: WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2001

Approved as a correct record

CA to Forward Signed Copies to County Archivist

David R Weller (CA)

3 PART I MINUTES OF SUB-GROUPS

Received and Noted

4 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

None

5 PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDERS 8 & 9

None received

6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 10

None Received

7 NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 12

None received

8 DISTRICT AUDIT – MANAGEMENT LETTER TO MEMBERS

Donald Illingworth (AT)
(0118) 932 2284

-AT to take any further action necessary

Report Noted

9 BUDGET 2002/2003

Donald Illingworth (AT)

2002/2003 Budget agreed as follows:

AT to notify Constituent Authorities accordingly

Capital Programme as set out in Appendix G
Estimate of net expenditure of the Authority be £23,890m

Mike Clement-Green (CFO)
(0118) 932 2225

CFO to give high priority to SD4 (Positive Pressure Ventilation) in the event that there is sufficient flexibility within the £46,000 to be used on identified Category 2 Bids

- 10 **2001/2002 BUDGET MONITORING**
Revenue and Capital Expenditure against Budgets to end of October 2001 Noted.
Virement of £100,000 from this year's Capital Programme approved
Present further report to Fire Authority in March 02
HFS to arrange for £100,000 of this year's Capital programme to be vired from Enhanced Rescue Equipment to Planned Maintenance
Andrew Vallance (HFS) (0018) 932 2251
Andrew Vallance (HFS)
- 11 **COMBINATION OF BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN, ANNUAL SAFETY PLAN AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN**
Resolution approved
CFO/CFSM/APM to arrange for Draft Plans to be presented to appropriate Fire Authority Panels on January 21 2002 and present the final approved Combined Plan to Fire Authority in March 2002
Mike Clement-Green (CF0)
Alex Bennett (CFSM) – 2272
Peter Boardman (APM)
(0118) 932 1679
- 12 **FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEME**
Resolution approved
AT to appoint firm of Actuaries as indicated and report back to future Fire Authority Meeting if deemed necessary
Donald Illingworth (AT)
- 13 **PROPERTY STRATEGY AND PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**
Principles of proposed Property Strategy and Property Asset Management Plan approved
ACFO/CFM to action as necessary and report back to future Fire Authority Meeting if deemed necessary
Iain Cox (ACFO) – 2228
Pat Arthur (CFM) – 2281
- 14 **PROPOSED WATER SAFETY STRATEGY**
Resolution 2 approved.
Resolution 1 approved amended as follows:
“That with the exception of Stage 3 the Water Safety Strategy be adopted in principle.
New Resolution 3: That any decision on the purchase of a boat
Note decision and implement accordingly
Note decision and proceed with Stages 1 and 2 of Water Strategy if deemed appropriate
Olaf Baars (DCFO) (0118) 932 2226
Olaf Baars (DCFO) – 2226

be deferred and the CFO be asked to present a report on the anticipated boat activities in including location and intended attendance times together with options for using alternative types of boat by utilising those owned by external agencies such as Thames Water and the Environment Agency etc

Olaf Baars (DCFO) - 2226

DCFO to present report as requested to Fire Authority at its meeting in March 2002 or if approved by the FA Chairman to an Urgency Committee on a date to be determined

15 INSTALLATION OF SMOKE DETECTORS IN BEDROOMS AND FIRE SUPPRESSING SPRINKLER SYSTEMS FOR DOMESTIC BUILDINGS

Clive Williams (CMO)
(0118) 932 2284

CMO to make further approach to Unitary Councils as indicated and also DTLR regarding an amendment to the appropriate Building Regulations as set out in the report

Resolution Approved

Clive Williams – (CMO)

CMO to provide Councillor Gregory and Wilson with copy of letter sent to their respective Chief Executives

16 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL APPLIANCE BEST VALUE REVIEW: PROGRESS REPORT

Olaf Baars (DCFO) - 2226

Present further progress reports to future Fire Authority meetings as deemed necessary

Report Noted

17 NEW YORK FIREFIGHTERS 9-11 APPEAL

Mike Clement-Green (CFO) –
2225/Olaf Baars (DCFO) -2226

CFO to relay Chairman's thanks and congratulations to all staff

Report Noted

18 TRANSFER OF REDUNDANT L4P FIRE APPLIANCE TO THE FIRE CADET UNIT AT STATION 15 CROWTHORNE

No further action

Report Noted

**19 PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF SLOUGH
FIRE STATION – UPDATE**

Report Noted Present reports to future Fire Authority meetings as Olaf Baars (DCFO) - 22276 deemed appropriate

**20 INTEGRATED PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEM**

Report Noted Present reports to future Fire Authority meetings as Steve Sheikh (BTO) (0118) 932 2231 deemed appropriate

21 REPORT ON SONNING FIRE STATION

Report Noted Present reports to future Fire Authority meetings as Iain Cox (ACFO) - 2228 deemed appropriate

**22 PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMON SENSE
PROGRESS REPORT**

Report Noted Circulate timetable to Fire Authority Members when David Wallace (DHR) (0118) 932 2227 finalised and present reports to future Fire Authority meetings as deemed appropriate Dave Phillips (STO) - 2270

**23 HALF YEARLY REPORT FOR MEDICAL
RETIREMENTS, WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS AND
SICKNESS ABSENCES**

Report Noted DHR/BPM to present next half yearly report to Fire David Wallace (DHR) – 2227 Authority at its meeting on Wednesday 19 June 2002 Pat Abbott (BPM) - 2257

24 FIRES, INCIDENTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

Report Noted CCM to present report to next Fire Authority Nicole Targett (CCM) – meeting in March 2002 (0118) 932 2283

25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

CA to confirm accommodation and book David Weller (CA) refreshments

Noted that next Fire Authority meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13 March 2002 at the Frank Hutchings Memorial Hall, Thatcham commencing at 6.30pm

26 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

-

27 PART II MINUTES: WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2001

Approved as a correct record CA to Forward Signed Copies to County Archivist David Weller (CA)

28 PART II MINUTES OF SUB-GROUPS

Report Noted

-

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



Headquarters · 103 Dee Road · Tilehurst · Reading · Berkshire · RG30 4FS
Telephone Reading (0118) 945 2888 Facsimile (0118) 959 0510

Your reference:

My reference: RBFA/DRW
(please quote on all correspondence)

When calling ask for: David R Weller
Direct Line: (0118) 932 2288
Date: 12 December 2001

Dear Member

AGENDA FOR MEETING OF ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

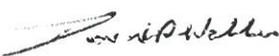
I have pleasure in attaching your Agenda for the meeting of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority to be held on Wednesday 19 December 2001 in the Council Chamber at Wokingham District Council, Shute End, Wokingham commencing at 6.30pm. A buffet will be provided in the Council Chamber.

The District Council Offices are situated in Shute End located between the A329 Reading Road and Broad Street. Access to the Offices is from Shute End and car parking is at the rear of the building as is the entrance to the Council Suite. A map showing the venue is reproduced overleaf.

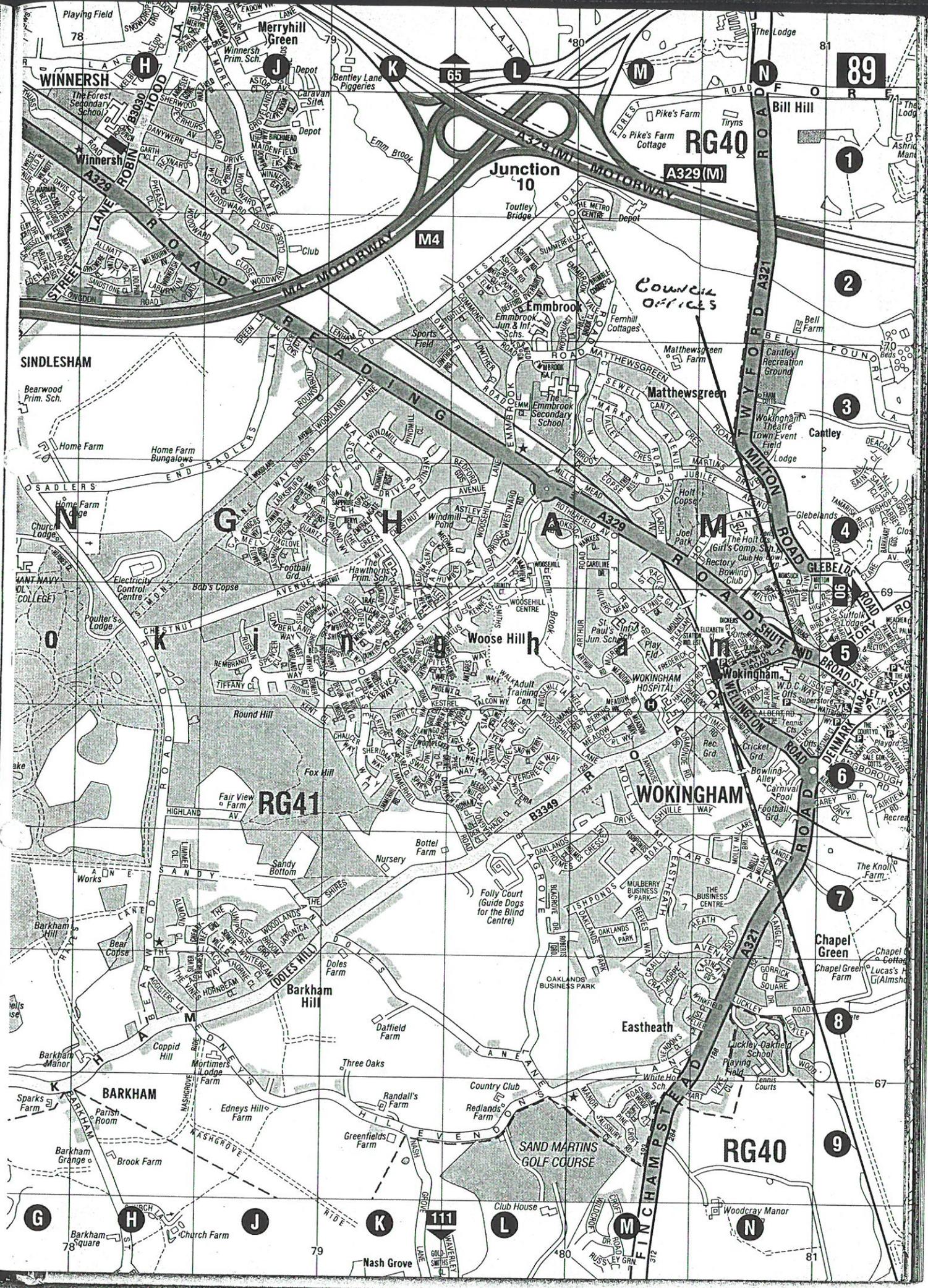
For Members travelling from the west of the County it is suggested that you use the M4 Motorway and leave at Junction 10 and join the A329 (M) Motorway following signs to Wokingham and Bracknell. Leave the A329(M) at the Coppid Beech Flyover and take the third exit off the roundabout onto the A329 London Road (Signposted Wokingham). Follow the A329 London Road into Wokingham and continue into Peach Street, passing through the Market Place into Broad Street. Continue down Broad Street which then becomes Shute End and access to the District Council Offices is located on the left hand side just before the mini-roundabouts.

With the exception of those Members travelling from Bracknell who can use the A329 London Road from Bracknell to Wokingham, it is suggested that Members travelling from the east should also use the M4 Motorway and leave at Junction 10 joining the A329 (M) Motorway and then following the directions referred to in the previous paragraph. For Members travelling by train the Council Offices are situated at the top of Station Road.

Yours sincerely


David R Weller
Committee Administrator

To: All Members of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority



WINNERSH

Merryhill Green

Junction 10

RG40

89

SINDLESHAM

M4

Council Offices

Emmbrook

Matthewsgreen

G

H

A

M

Woose Hill

WOKINGHAM

RG41

G

H

J

K

L

M

RG40

9

Nash Grove

81

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



Headquarters · 103 Dee Road · Tilehurst · Reading · Berkshire · RG30 4FS
Telephone Reading (0118) 945 2888 Facsimile (0118) 959 0510

MEETING: Royal Berkshire Fire Authority

DATE AND TIME: Wednesday 19 December 2001 at 6.30pm

VENUE: Council Chamber, Wokingham District
Council, Shute End, Wokingham, Berkshire

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above meeting at the time and date indicated, when it is proposed to deal with the business set out in the attached Agenda.

D C H Williams
Clerk to the Authority

To: MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

J C G Brooks (Chairman), B J S Patman (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Bateson, T Bucknell, T P Dredge, R A Flood, E L Glasson, A Gregory, J P Green, E E Herbert, P Hingley, Mrs V Howes O E Jeffrey, D W Liddiard, P Love, C Maskell, T D McCann, D McCarthy, D Morgan, T Mills, J E R Mole, Mrs J Orton, M Pritchett, A J Ross, D Wilson

Briefing Meetings:

Conservative Group: 5.30pm – Restaurant Area - Basement
Labour Group: 5.30pm – Committee Room 4 - Basement
Liberal Democrat Group: 5.30pm – Committee Room 6 – Basement

**For Further Information regarding this meeting, please contact:
David R Weller (0118) 932 2288**

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY
WEDNESDAY 19 DECEMBER 2001



AGENDA

PART I AGENDA

PAGE NO.

CONSTITUTIONAL ITEMS

✓ 1	Apologies for Absence	-
✓ 2	Membership of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	1
✓ 3	Part I Minutes: Wednesday 19 September 2001 (Copy attached)	2
✓ 4	Part I Minutes of Sub-Groups (For Information)	12
✓ 5	Chairman's Communications (if any)	-
6	Petitions and Questions from the Public Under Standing Orders 8 & 9	-
7	Questions from Members under Standing Order 10 (if any)	-
8	Notices of Motion under Standing Order 12 (if any)	-

ITEMS FOR RESOLUTION

✓ 9	District Audit – Management Letter to Members	13
10	Budget 2002/2003	-
	<i>For Members ease of reference the Budget Report and associated Appendices is attached to the Agenda as a separate document</i>	
✓ 11	2001/2002 Budget Monitoring	22
12	Combination of Best Value Performance Plan, Annual Plan and Community Safety Plan	26
13	Firefighters' Pension Scheme	28
14	Property Strategy and Property Asset Management Plan	33
15	Proposed Water Safety Strategy	40

16	Installation of Smoke Detectors in Bedrooms and Fire Suppressing Sprinkler Systems for Domestic Buildings	43
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ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

17	Implementation of Special Appliance Review: Progress Report	45
18	New York Firefighters 9-11 Appeal	48
19	Transfer of redundant L4P Fire Appliance to the Fire Cadet Unit at Station 15 Crowthorne	50
20	Proposed Redevelopment of Slough Fire Station – Update	52
21	Integrated Personal Development System	54
22	Report on Sonning Fire Station	57
23	Partnership for Common Sense Progress Report	59
24	Half Yearly Report for Medical Retirements, Workplace Accidents and Sickness Absences	63
25	Fires, Incidents and Issues of Interest	67
26	Date of Next Fire Authority Meeting	-

To note that the next Fire Authority meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 13 March 2002 in the Frank Hutchings Memorial Hall, Bradley Moore Square, Thatcham commencing at 6.30pm.

27	Exclusion of the Public	73
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PART II AGENDA - CONFIDENTIAL

28	Part II Minutes: Wednesday 19 September 2001 (Copy attached)	74
29	Part II Minutes of Sub-Groups	76

**AGENDA ITEM 2: MEMBERSHIP OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AUTHORITY**

To: Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
Date: 19 December 2001
Officer Contributing: Clerk & Monitoring Officer

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Members of a change in the representative membership of the Fire Authority.

B PROPOSED ACTION

The Authority is invited to NOTE the report.

C FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

D CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

There is no contribution to the Strategic Plan.

E SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Fire Authority has been advised of the following change in its Member representation:

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Councillor P Love replacing Councillor D Parker (Conservative)

F BACKGROUND PAPERS

Notification of change from Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

Contact Officer: David R Weller (0118) 932 2288

AGENDA ITEM 3: MINUTES

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH ON WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2001 COMMENCING AT 6.30PM AND CONCLUDED AT 8.38PM.

Present: J C G Brooks (Chairman), B J S Patman (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Bateson, T P Dredge, R A Flood, E L Glasson, John P Green, A Gregory, O E Jeffery, C Maskell, T D McCann, T Mills, J E R Mole, D Morgan, Mrs J Orton, A J Ross

Apologies: E E Herbert, P Hingley, D W Liddiard, M Pritchett

At the commencement of the meeting Members stood in silent tribute in memory of those people who had lost their lives in Pennsylvania, Washington and New York on Tuesday 11 September 2001.

3.01/01 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Councillor C Maskell (Reading Borough Council) as a Member of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

On the invitation of the Chairman, the Chief Fire Officer updated Members on the fund raising activities taking place within the Brigade and the United Kingdom to raise money for the families of the many fire-fighters who had lost their lives in New York. The DTLR had asked CACFOA to establish an official fund and for the interim period the Authority Treasurer had set up a holding bank account.

3.02/01 MINUTES: 10 JULY 2001

The Part I Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 10 July 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following comments in respect of Minute 2.16/01 (Effect of LGA 2000 on Members' Allowances as Related to Combined Fire Authorities):

The Clerk reported that he had now received a Consultation Paper from the DTLR proposing that Combined Fire Authorities be empowered to pay Responsibility Allowances to Members together with travel and subsistence allowances. The final details of any scheme are to be determined by the Fire Authority. The closing date for responses is 26 October 2001. Members' approval was therefore sought to a suggestion that the proposal agreed at the

last meeting be supported and sent to the DTLR as the Fire Authority's official response.

The Clerk confirmed that the Fire Authority will need to debate the manner of the scheme to be established at a future meeting. In response to a request the Clerk agreed to circulate a copy of the Consultation Paper to all Fire Authority Members. It was therefore proposed that the decision made at the last meeting be adopted as the Fire Authority's response to the DTLR. The proposal having been seconded was put to the vote and carried by 14 votes for with none against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That the decision made at the last meeting be adopted as the Fire Authority's formal response to the DTLR.

3.03/01 PART I MINUTES OF SUB-GROUPS

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 3 – not reproduced) of the Performance Review and Audit Panel and Fire Liaison Group meetings that had taken place since the last meeting in July 2001. Members were advised that copies of the Part I Minutes were available on request from the Committee Administrator (0118) 932 2288.

NOTED

3.04/01 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman had nothing further to report.

3.05/01 PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Authority noted that no Petitions or Questions had been received from the Public under Standing Orders 8 and 9.

3.06/01 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

The Authority noted that no questions had been received from Members under Standing Order 10.

3.07/01 NOTICES OF MOTION

The Authority noted that no Notices of Motion had been received from Members under Standing Order 12.

3.08/01 EFFECT OF COST OF HOUSING IN BERKSHIRE

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 8 – not reproduced) of the adverse effect upon recruitment and retention of Wholetime staff which the high cost of housing in Berkshire is having upon the Brigade and were requested to approve a future course of action.

Members viewed a video of an extract from a recent documentary by Meridian Television, which highlighted the problems being faced by Fire-Fighters in Berkshire. In addition a copy of an article from The Independent Newspaper highlighting the problems being experienced in the south and south-east was tabled at the meeting (not reproduced).

In introducing the report the Chief Fire Officer advised that currently the Brigade does find itself in a very difficult position with so many staff leaving. The cost to the Authority of recruiting and training a new recruit is estimated at £15,000 and whilst they are only required to give one month's notice of their intention to leave, it takes approximately six months to recruit a replacement. A copy of the National payscale for Fire-Fighters together with information from property agents and developer information showing the price of housing within Berkshire compared with other areas in the Country was presented as Annex 1 and 2 respectively (not reproduced).

In noting the contents of the report Members attention was drawn to the detailed costs of rationalising inner fringe and full London Weighting Allowances presented in Appendix A (not reproduced). In supporting the proposed action as set out in Section B of the report, Members agreed to the insertion of a new Resolution requesting the Chief Fire Officer to present a detailed report on the implications of introducing the London Inner Fringe Allowance to all Brigade personnel.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Fire Authority:

- (i) seek for Her Majesty's Government to fund a regional plusage to Brigade's staff similar to that made to Police in the Thames Valley area.**
- (ii) make representations to Her Majesty's Government of the need for the SSA to more adequately reflect the higher costs arising in areas such as the Royal County of Berkshire.**
- (iii) Continue to liaise with the six Constituent Authorities to include the Brigade within their own schemes for the provision of affordable accommodation for key workers.**

2. That the Chief Fire Officer be requested to present a detailed report on the financial implications of introducing the London Inner Fringe Allowance to all Brigade staff to the Budget Working Party to be considered as part of the 2002/2003 Budget process.

3.09/01 SOUTH EASTERN FIRE SERVICE GROUP – CONSTITUTION

The Authority's approval was sought (Agenda item 9 – not reproduced), in principle, to the proposed Constitution for the South Eastern Fire Service Group together with a suggestion that the Group be authorised to accept minor amendments to the Constitution on the Authority's behalf.

Over the past two years the Fire Authorities in the South East of England have held Liaison Meetings between their respective Chairmen and Chief Fire Officers. Members representing the Authorities on that Group consider that more could be achieved if the Group were formally constituted. A copy of the Draft Constitution, which has been developed and refined into a final draft, was presented as Appendix 1 (not reproduced).

Representation on the Group will be the Chairman accompanied by the Chief Fire Officer with the Vice-Chairman and Deputy Chief Fire Officer acting as substitutes.

RESOLVED: That the Constitution be approved in principle, and representatives of the Group be authorised to accept minor amendments to the Constitution on the Authority's behalf, subject to reporting these to the subsequent Fire Authority meeting.

3.10/01 FINAL ACCOUNTS – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2001

The Authority's approval was sought to the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001 which had been produced in accordance with Part III of the Local Government Finance Act 1982 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996.

In speaking to the Statement of Accounts, a copy of which had been circulated with the Agenda (not reproduced), the Authority Treasurer drew Members attention to the External Audit process as set out in paragraph 4 of the report (not reproduced). Fire Authority approval of the Statement of Accounts is required before they are submitted to the District Auditor.

The Audit of the Final Accounts will be followed by the Management Letter meeting, which is likely to take place in late November/early December 2001.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Fire Authority, wished to place on record his thanks to Donald Illingworth and Andrew Vallance for their overall management of the Budget but more especially for the very small end of year underspend.

RESOLVED: That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2001, as presented, be approved.

3.11/01 REPORT ON THE LAND AND PROPERTY OF THE AUTHORITY – SONNING FIRE STATION

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 11 – not reproduced) of potential developments at Sonning Fire Station and approval was sought to the formation of a Partnership Project Board to advise the Authority on the best course of action.

Members were advised that although Sonning Fire Station is operated by the Authority on land owned by the Sonning Volunteer Fire Brigade Trust, the building is small and outdated and cannot accommodate a full sized appliance. There are however four key factors that will influence the development of Sonning Fire Station as summarised in paragraphs 2-4 of the report (not reproduced).

It would therefore be inappropriate to make plans until the nature of the operational/community fire safety response for the area has been identified from the emergency cover review, and the outcome of the property condition survey is known. The principle of this process is to provide the most effective service to be carried out within this Authority by investing in the premises in the most appropriate and cost effective way.

RESOLVED: That the formation of a Partnership Project Board to advise the Fire Authority on the best course of action be endorsed.

3.12/01 2002/2003 BUDGET

The Authority was informed (Agenda item 12 – not reproduced) of the:

- Preliminary indications of Budget requirements for 2002/2003 and the prospect for 2003/2004 – Appendix A.
- Budget Pressures
- Government's Comprehensive Spending Review 2000
- Best Value and Efficiency Savings
- Service and Financial Planning
- Standard Spending Assessments and Government Expectations – Appendices B and C.
- Budget Process and Timetable – Appendix D.

and approval was sought to the presentation of future reports and the proposed Budget process and timetable for future meetings of the Budget Working Party.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 Officers be asked to submit a report on detailed Budget requirements to the Budget Working Party on the implications of setting a Budget at**

the following overall levels:

(a)	£22.87m	(2001/2002 Budget plus 2%)
(b)	£23.32m	(2001/2002 Budget plus 4%)
(c)	£23.77m	(2001/2002 Budget plus 6%)

- 2 Any proposal for Budget growth or contractions must incorporate a defined link to the Strategic Plan priorities and be prioritised.
- 3 A forecast of the likely Budget requirements for 2003/2004 and 2004/2005 be produced.
- 4 The proposed Budget process and timetable as set out in Appendix D be approved and adopted.

3.13/01 FINANCING FIRE PENSIONS

The Authority was informed (Agenda item 13 – not reproduced) of discussions at national level relating to the financing of Police and Fire Pensions and approval was sought to the Draft response to the letter from the South Eastern Fire Service Group as presented in Appendix D together with the Authority Treasurer's 'without prejudice' views as set out in Appendix E (not reproduced).

In supporting the draft response as an indication of the way forward, Members approved the insertion of a new Resolution 2 requesting the Chief Fire Officer/Authority Treasurer to make representations to Local MPs, Chief Executive's and Leaders of the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire.

RESOLVED: That the:

- 1 Draft response and Authority Treasurers' 'without prejudice' views as set out in Appendices D and E respectively be supported as an indication of the way forward.
- 2 Chief Fire Officer and Authority Treasurer be requested to make representations to Local Berkshire MPs, Chief Executives and Leaders of the Unitary Authorities in Berkshire seeking support to the Fire Authority's response as set out in Appendix E.

3.14/01 POLICY ON STAKEHOLDER PENSIONS FOR RETAINED FIRE-FIGHTERS

It was reported that since the publication of the Agenda further advice had been received from the DTLR on the provision of Stakeholder Pensions based on information received from the Department for Work and Pensions which Fire

Authorities have been asked to consider. In view of this it was **RESOLVED: That any decision on this matter be deferred and that the legal and other implications of the further information received be investigated with a report on the outcome of that investigation being presented to the Fire Authority at its meeting in December 2001.**

3.15/01 2001/2002 BUDGET MONITORING

The Authority was informed (Agenda item 15 – not reproduced) of the Revenue and Capital expenditure against budgets up to 31 July 2001 as presented in Appendices A and B respectively (not reproduced) together with details of the costs of preparing for industrial action as detailed in the Bill received from the Home Office and presented as Appendix C (not reproduced).

Compared with the original estimate of £45,000 the final bill received from the Home Office was £22,639. The saving together with the contingency sum of £15,000 gives a balance of £37,639 which may be used to part-fund the additional recruit training required as a result of the settlement of the industrial dispute.

The Chief Fire Officer advised Members that a report on how the balance will or could be spent will be presented to the Fire Authority at its meeting in December 2001.

NOTED

3.16/01 UPDATE ON PREMISES CONDITION SURVEYS

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 16 – not reproduced) of progress on the condition survey authorised by the Performance Review and Audit Panel at its meeting on Tuesday 3 July 2001.

The condition surveys started on 22 August 2001 and reports will be presented to the Brigade's Contracts and Facilities Manager (CFM) by 30 September 2001. Once the report is received and validated the CFM will commission works within the existing budget. Growth bids will be prepared for essential items that cannot be accommodated in the current budget. A full report, detailing the work undertaken, will be presented to a future Fire Authority meeting.

NOTED

3.17/01 IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIAL APPLIANCE REVIEW – PROGRESS REPORT

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 17 – not reproduced) of the progress made by the Chief Fire Officer on the implementation of the outcomes of the Special

Appliance Best Value Review following the resolution of the recent industrial dispute as agreed by the Fire Authority and Fire Brigade's Union (FBU).

In addition, it was agreed that a prioritised Fire Cover Review would be undertaken and in respect of this, proposals for undertaking this review had been put to the FBU who would be commenting on them by the end of September.

In response to a request from the Chairman, the Chief Fire Officer took Members through the report highlighting progress that had been made since the report was published. In response to a question, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer confirmed that the appointment of Members to the Joint Working Party would be achieved by seeking nominations from Party Leaders.

The Chief Fire Officer also reminded Members that the operation of Co-responder schemes was now the subject of a Trade Dispute with the FBU and would be presented to a meeting of the Personnel (Disputes) Committee for determination on a date to be arranged. A report on the outcome of the Personnel (Disputes) Committee deliberations would be presented to the Fire Authority at its meeting in December 2001.

NOTED

3.18/01 EISEC (ENHANCED INFORMATION SERVICE FOR EMERGENCY CALLS)

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 18 – not reproduced) that the Enhanced Information Service for Emergency Calls (EISEC), previously a Capital Project for 2001/2002, may not offer the advantages previously thought as a result of advances in technology.

Members were reminded that EISEC had been developed by BT and is offered to Brigades as part of their Control Room equipment. Protracted trials with West Midlands Ambulance Service (NHS Trust) resulted in an average reduction of 30 seconds in call processing time. However, the Chief Fire Officer advised that due to different call handling techniques between Fire and Ambulance Services, comparable time-savings would not be achievable within the Brigade. He further advised that recent research has shown that EISEC information can only be delivered on BT customer lines so as the trend in use of mobile phones, cable and wireless and NTL customer landlines increase the effectiveness of EISEC will decrease.

A maximum of 25% of all incoming emergency calls into the Control Room at Dee Road will be able to carry EISEC information at present and as such it will not have a significant impact on emergency call handling times within Berkshire at this moment in time. The available technology will however be kept under review in order to progress this matter when improvements in technology across other networks is available.

The Chief Fire Officer was therefore of the opinion that EISEC was not felt to be cost effective to pursue at this moment in time. Members felt however that any reduction in call handling time would be of benefit to the Brigade. It was therefore proposed that the Chief Fire Officer be requested to continue with the project as originally defined. The proposal having been seconded was put to the vote and carried by eight votes in favour with three against and no abstentions.

In addition Members agreed to the insertion of a new Resolution relating to the seeking information from Cable Companies on the number of emergency calls made from Mobile Phones.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1 **The EISEC system be approved and implemented in the current financial year.**
- 2 **Further technical information be sought from Cable Companies, on a confidential basis, on the number of emergency calls made from Mobile Telephones together with the feasibility and financial implications of introducing a similar system with a report on the outcome of this investigation being presented to the Fire Authority at its meeting in March 2002.**

3.19/01 STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Authority was advised (Agenda item 19 – Appendix 1 – not reproduced) of the staff achievements for the period ending 31 August 2001 including the award of the Chief Officer's Certificate of Congratulations and the Chief Officer's Commendation as summarised in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the report (not reproduced).

In noting that this report would be produced on an annual basis in the future, Members wish to place on record their congratulations to all staff for their achievements.

NOTED

3.20/01 FIRES, INCIDENTS AND ISSUES OF INTEREST

The Authority received a report (Agenda item 20 – not reproduced) summarising some of the incidents attended by the Brigade during the period 1 June to 31 August 2001.

The Vice-Chairman took the opportunity to reflect on his recent attendance, together with the Chairman, Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Officer, at the Fire 2001 Conference when the issue of regionalisation had been raised with the Minister.

3.21/01 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next Fire Authority meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 19 December 2001 in the Council Chamber, Wokingham District Council, Shute End, Wokingham commencing at 6.30pm.

3.22/01 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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:

	Agenda item	Paragraph
23	Part II Minutes – Tuesday 10 July 2001	1, 8 & 9
24	Slough Fire Station – Potential Relocation and Redevelopment	8 & 9

(Note: The following is a summary of the items considered in the Part II Agenda of the Fire Authority Meeting held on Wednesday 19 September 2001)

3.23/01 PART II MINUTES: 10 JULY 2001

The Part II Minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 10 July 2001 were received and approved as a correct record.

3.24/01 SLOUGH FIRE STATION – POTENTIAL FOR RELOCATION AND REDEVELOPMENT

(At the commencement of this item the Clerk and Monitoring Officer declared an indirect pecuniary interest under Standing Order 20(b) arising out of his membership of the Airways Housing Board, who own land adjoining Slough Fire Station but with the approval of Members was permitted to remain in the meeting during consideration of the report.)

The Authority was advised of preliminary discussions that may lead to the potential to relocate/redevelop Slough Fire Station.

AGENDA ITEM 4:**PART I MINUTES OF SUB-GROUPS**

To: Royal Berkshire Fire Authority
Date: 19 December 2001
Officer Contributing: Clerk & Monitoring Officer

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise Members on meetings of the Personnel Committee, Urgency Committee, Performance Review and Audit Panel Community Fire Safety Panel and the Fire Liaison Group that have taken place since the last meeting of the Fire Authority in September 2001.

B PROPOSED ACTION

The Authority is invited to NOTE the report.

C FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

D SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1 The following meetings have taken place since the last Fire Authority meeting in September 2001:

Performance Review and Audit Panel	Wednesday 7 November and Monday 3 December 2001
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Personnel Committee	Tuesday 9 October 2001
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Community Safety Panel	Monday 1 October 2001
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2 Copies of the Part I Minutes (if available) can be obtained from David Weller on (0118) 932 2288) – E-Mail address: wellerd@rbfrs.co.uk

E BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda's and Minutes for the above mentioned meetings

Contact Officer: David R Weller (0118) 932 2288