

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



Held on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at 6.30pm

Brigade Headquarters, Lynda Kenyon Suite, Newsham Court, Pincents Lane, Calcot, Reading RG31 7SD

- Members:**
- * Councillor Frank Abe
 - * Councillor David Absolom
 - * Councillor Alistair Auty
 - * Councillor Joginder Bal
 - Councillor Christine Bateson
 - * Councillor Phillip Bicknell
 - * Councillor Paul Bryant
 - * Councillor David Burbage
 - * Councillor Anthony Chadley
 - * Councillor Colin Dudley
 - * Councillor Adrian Edwards
 - * Councillor Paul Gittings
 - * Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons
 - * Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge
 - * Councillor John Lenton
 - Councillor Chris Maskell
 - * Councillor Tom McCann
 - Councillor Iain McCracken
 - * Councillor Tina McKenzie-Boyle
 - Councillor Ian Pittock
 - * Councillor Edward Plenty
 - * Councillor Angus Ross
 - * Councillor Ishrat Shah
 - * Councillor Jane Stanford-Beale
 - * Councillor Emma Webster

- In Attendance:**
- Rob Alexander (Committee Officer, CO)
 - Gene Ashe (Head of Learning and Development)
 - Trevor Ferguson (Deputy Chief Fire Officer, DCFO)
 - Moira Fraser (Democratic Services Manager, DSM)
 - Andy Fry (Chief Fire Officer, CFO)
 - Paul Maynard (Acting Area Manager – Response)
 - Dave Phillips (Area Manager – Prevention and Protection)
 - Nikki Richards (Interim Head of Strategic Planning and Programme Management)
 - Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer, CO)
 - Paul Southern (Assistant Chief Fire Officer, ACFO)
 - Nicole Target (Head of Corporate Communications)
 - Andrew Vallance (Director of Resources, DR)
 - Roger Penfold (Independent Person)

- Observers:**
- Officers, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - Members of Representative Bodies
 - Members of the Public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED that Councillor Colin Dudley be elected as Chairman of the Fire Authority for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

2. CHAIRMAN TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The new Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members of the Fire Authority for electing him as Chairman. He welcomed

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new and returning Members to the Fire Authority and stated that it was an rewarding job to represent the people that elect unitary councillors to help run Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS). The Chairman stated that RBFRS had a fantastic group of Directors, Senior Managers, Firefighters and workforce that support this brilliant Service and was proud and honoured to be elected as Chairman of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. He thanked Members again for their confidence.

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Fire Authority for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

RESOLVED that Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Fire Authority for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

4. VICE-CHAIRMAN TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Vice-Chairman read and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked Members of the Fire Authority for electing her as Vice-Chairman. Councillor Helliar-Symons stated that she was very happy to be re-appointed. She considered this role to be one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a local councillor. She was proud to be associated with this excellent service provided by committed and enthusiastic employees.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors Christine Bateson, Chris Maskell, Iain McCracken and Ian Pittock.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the provisions of the Fire Authority's Local Code of Conduct, there were no declarations of non-pecuniary interest from Members present.

The DCFO, ACFO and DR all declared an interest in relation agenda item 29 (Management Restructure).

7. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2015

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDERS 19 AND 25

There was no participation of the public under Standing Orders 19 and 25.

(Councillor Tom McCann arrived at 6.40pm)

9. RECEIPT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

New Members

The Chairman welcomed the following new Members to the Authority: Councillors David Absolom, Anthony Chadley, Carol Jackson-Doerge, Tina McKenzie-Boyle and Jane Stanford-Beale. He presented them each with a Fire Authority named badge and brooch and asked them to wear the items when visiting Fire Stations in the county. He also presented new Members with an access fob key which provides access to all Fire Stations and encouraged them to visit their local station. Prior to visiting Fire Stations, the Chairman urged Members out of courtesy to telephone the Control Room to notify staff when their visit was intended.

Outgoing Members

The Chairman thanked the following outgoing going Members for their contribution to the Fire Authority: Councillors Jeff Brooks, Alan Ward, Debs Absolom, Eileen McElligott and Richard Willis.

He made mention of special thanks to Councillors Jeff Brooks who was a well respected and appreciated and had served the authority for a considerable number of years. Personal thanks were also made to Councillor Alan Ward in relation to his work as Chairman of the Budget Working Party. The Chairman stated that the authority would not be in the financial position it currently was without the efforts of Councillor Ward.

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, and Oxfordshire Fire Authorities agree Memorandum of Understanding

The Chairman reported that agreement had been granted at the last meeting of this Fire Authority to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for greater fire and rescue service collaboration in the Thames Valley. He reported that colleagues in both Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, and Oxfordshire had now similarly agreed to adopt the MoU.

This document set out a clear marker that the political leadership in each of the three counties were committed to sharing resources as a way of ensuring good outcomes were achieved for their constituents, in ways that provided excellent value for money. The authorities would work together to get the best deal in all three county Authorities.

Sprit of Fire Awards 2015

The Chairman reported that the event, organised by the Fire Fighters Charity, would be held on 2 October 2015 in London. He was proud to announce that Sarah Lewis (TVFC Officer) and Andy Grist (Firefighter at Slough) had been shortlisted as Best Newcomers. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service had also been nominated for Best Fire and Rescue Service. The Chairman congratulated Sarah, Andy and all their colleagues across RBFRS for their outstanding efforts.

Members Induction Day – 15 July 2015

The Chairman encouraged all Members to attend the Members Induction Day on Wednesday 15 July 2015 from 1pm at Whitley Wood Fire Station, Reading,

Berkshire RG2 8FS. The purpose of the afternoon was to provide Members with the opportunity to spend time looking in detail at various aspects of the Service's work. He stated that the afternoon would be both informative and enjoyable.

Members Policy Workshop – 20 July 2015

The Chairman was pleased to advise that a joint Member/Officer planning workshop had been arranged to take place at Newsham Court on Monday the 20th of July at 5 o'clock.

Since their introduction, these workshops have proved really successful in enabling Members and senior officers to work more closely together. The event in July would provide Members and Officers with an opportunity to reflect on progress made during the 2014/15 financial year, to examine work being undertaken in the current financial year, and to look forward to 2016/17 and beyond.

The Chairman advised that the Policy Direction was taking shape and he requested Members to make the time to attend the workshop.

Signing In/ Councillors Lanyards

For security purposes, Members and visitors to Newsham Court had been asked to sign in and out at Reception for fire risk and Health and Safety. This was in addition to the Attendance Sheet, Members were required to sign.

Co-Responding Scheme and Hungerford Fire Station

The Chief Fire Officer announced that on the 22 June 2011 the RBFRS launched a Co-Responding Scheme at Hungerford Fire Station. The Scheme was a partnership between RBFRS and South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS).

The personnel from the fire station would respond to Category A medical emergencies and was a positive step forward to broadening the services provided by firefighters. It gave them an opportunity to save lives in a different way and was consistent with RBFA's Strategic Commitments.

The availability of the personnel from that station to provide Co-Responding was good and retained firefighters would add value and might even assist with the recruitment and retention issues.

The Chairman advised that both partners were thrilled with the Co-Responding arrangement and hoped that this scheme would be extended across the county.

10. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 30

There were no questions from Members under Standing Order 30.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 44

There were no Notices of Motion under Standing Order 44.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES

It was noted that agenda item 17 had been recommended from Audit and

Governance Committee at their meeting on 30th March 2015.

13. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

Trevor Ferguson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Monitoring Officer, presented a report which set out the appointments to the Committees of the Fire Authority in accordance with the Constitution and, if applicable, the rules relating to political balance.

It was noted that the Fire Authority had received a report on the size of the membership of the Authority and its Committee Structure on 22nd April 2015 and that the membership for the 2015/16 Municipal year was 25. At that meeting it was also agreed that a review would be undertaken on the size and Committee Structure of the Authority in 2015/16.

The Fire Authority was asked to confirm the appointment of the following standing Committees and Working Parties for the forthcoming Municipal Year:

- Management Committee
- Strategic Asset Management Committee
- Audit and Governance Committee
- Discipline Appeals and Grievance Committee
- Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party

The report set out various options in relation to allocation of seats on Committees depending on whether the rules on political proportionality were applied or not. For the rules not to be applied no member of the Authority could vote against the proposal. Working Parties were not required to be politically balanced and therefore the Fire Authority was free to decide how those seats should be allocated. The DCFO stated that the number of seats on Committees (if proportionality was adopted) was set out in Table 4 on page 20 of the agenda. Guidance was set out in paragraphs 3.9.5 to 3.9.12.

At the Annual meeting in 2012, it had been suggested that each political group should be represented on the Discipline, Appeals and Grievance Committee. In order to achieve this, as was the case in the previous year, it would require the Conservative Group to offer one of their three seats on that Committee to the Liberal Democrat Member following the allocation of seats.

In accordance with the standing orders the Fire Authority unanimously

Resolved that the Fire Authority agree that the rules on political proportionality shall apply to the allocation of Committee places.

and

- (a) That the Committees and Working Parties indicated in paragraph 3.2 of the report be appointed, as Standing Committees;
- (b) That the number of seats on the Appointed Standing Committees be determined;
- (c) That seats on those Committees be allocated
- (d) That Members be appointed to each of the Committees (set out in table 4) in

accordance with the wishes of the political groups;

- (e) That in accordance with, and subject to the exceptions in, SO113 of the Fire Authority's Standing Orders, all Members of each political group not appointed to a committee, sub-committee or working party be named as alternate members for the member or members of that group who have been appointed to that committee, sub-committee or working party.

14. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY AS CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

Resolved:

That the Chairman of the Fire Authority be elected as Chairman pro-tem of the Committees and Working Party.

15. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Resolved:

That the meeting be adjourned to enable the Committees and Working Party appointed by the Fire Authority to meet for the purposes of appointing their respective Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2015/16 and to conduct the business as outlined on the Agenda.

(The meeting was adjourned at 7.05 pm)

16. RECOMMENCEMENT OF MEETING

The meeting of the Fire Authority was recommenced at 7.16pm following the conclusion of the meeting of the Budget Management Working Group.

17. ANNUAL REPORT ON GOVERNANCE

Trevor Ferguson, Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Monitoring Officer, presented the annual report which updated the Fire Authority on matters of governance relating to the Fire Authority and its Committees in the previous twelve months.

The Fire Authority had agreed at its Annual meeting on 28 June 2012 that the Audit and Governance Committee should be responsible for governance, for any complaints against Members and also for the reporting to the Fire Authority on both Member Allowances and Member attendance.

Complaints received against Members:

As was the case in the previous year there had been no complaints received against Members in the current year.

Member Attendance:

The list of attendance of Fire Authority Members for the Municipal Year 2014-15 was shown as Appendix 2 to the report, which included all meetings for the municipal year. Attendance this year had generally been good in so far as no meetings had been inquorate, and all business was able to be conducted. However, it was recognised that the use of substitute Members could be used in a greater capacity to ensure that all party group seats were filled at committee meetings. It was the responsibility of Members to arrange for substitutes where they were unable to

attend meetings and for these to be notified in advance to their relevant Group Leader, if unable to arrange a substitute. Most Members inability to attend a meeting had been the result of apologies due to a meeting clash or holiday, and when received had generally been in good time which had been included on the agenda list when dispatched. For good governance, the Monitoring Officer wished to continue to publish apologies of absence received by Members in advance on the agenda list of each committee meeting in 2015-16.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that he had a 100% attendance record.

Resolved:

It be noted:

- That no Member dispensations had been made or granted since the last annual meeting;
- The Members' allowances received for the period of June 2014 to May 2015 were as set out in Appendix 1;
- The 2014-15 attendance record of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Members was as set out in Appendix 2.

18. APPOINTMENT OF CHAMPIONS FOR 2015/16

Resolved:

- (a) That Councillor Emma Webster be appointed as the Community Safety Champion.
- (b) That Councillor Frank Abe be appointed as the Member Learning and Development Champion.
- (c) That Councillor Carol Jackson-Doerge be appointed as the Safety, Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Champion.
- (d) That Councillor Phillip Bicknell be appointed as the Income Generation Champion.
- (e) That Councillor David Burbage be appointed as the Shared Services Champion.
- (f) That Councillor Pauline Helliard-Symons be appointed as the Organisational Development Champion.

19. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE 2015/16 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Members considered the appointments to Outside Bodies in accordance with the Constitution and, where applicable, the rules relating to political balance.

Resolved that:

- (a) Councillor Christine Bateson be appointed as the representative on the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Strategic Partnership.
- (b) Councillor Iain McCracken be appointed as the representative on the Local Government Association and that Councillor Paul Bryant be appointed as the

substitute representative on this group.

- (c) Councillors Phillip Bicknell and Paul Bryant be appointed as Directors on the Board of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Limited.

20. POLICE AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COLLABORATION IN THE THAMES VALLEY- MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Andy Fry, the Chief Fire Officer (CFO), presented a report to secure agreement from Members for Royal Berkshire Fire Authority to sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), associated with property sharing and co-location of Police and Fire Rescue Services in the Thames Valley.

Members of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority regarded collaboration as a key element in the process of continuing to deliver important outcomes for constituents, whilst balancing the Authority's budget in the face of increasing downward financial pressure. This focus on collaboration had been reflected in the Fire Authority's new policy agenda: *Our Commitments to the People of Royal Berkshire*, which was published in 2014. Commitment 5 - which centred on RBFRS providing good value for money – identified a number of key areas for improvement, which included: *Developing arrangements for sharing buildings with partner organisations – with a particular emphasis on sharing with other blue-light Services*. The CFO valued the pro-active, committed political leadership from Councillors Colin Dudley and Angus Ross in respect of this work.

In order to move this strand of the policy agenda forward, a meeting had been convened between the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, the Deputy Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, the Chairman of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, the Cabinet member with responsibility for Fire and Rescue from Oxfordshire County Council, and the Chairman of Royal Berkshire Fire Authority. The meeting was also attended by Councillor Ross, in his role as Chairman of RBFA Strategic Asset Management Committee, and the Chief Fire Officers from each of the three fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley. At the meeting in question it was agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding should be put in place, to establish a clear commitment to prepare and deliver a programme of work for sharing property and co-locating police and fire and rescue services across the Thames Valley. A copy of the Memorandum that was developed in accordance with this agreement was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Officers were in the process of translating the commitments set out in the MoU into a single programme of work for property sharing and co-location of police and fire and rescue services.

Councillor Emma Webster commented that Anthony Stansfeld's name was spelt incorrectly and would require changing.

The Chairman commented that this work would seek to make efficient use of properties across the Thames Valley which would be good for all the participating organisations and the communities they served.

Resolved that:

- The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding be agreed;
- The document be signed by the Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

21. SCHEME MANAGERS DISCRETIONS – THE FIREFIGHTERS PENSION SCHEME

Andrew Vallance, the Director of Resources (DR), advised the Fire Authority of the scheme manager discretions as contained in The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014 and sought agreement to the policy position on three discretions that required immediate consideration following the introduction of the new pension scheme which was effective from April 2015.

This report had been submitted to the Fire Authority at its last meeting in April. Members had requested that it be resubmitted to this meeting, with further financial information relating to the cost of pensionable CPD payments. This information was now included in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 of the report. He reported that under previous arrangements, the cost of employer's contributions for CPD payments was £26,630. This would fall to £22,884, for current staff, if CPD remained pensionable for the 2015 scheme, saving £3,746. If the Authority did not exercise its discretion to make CPD pensionable, a further saving of £9,060 would be made.

The Authority was planning to recruit 30 firefighters during that financial year. This would cost approximately £3000 in employer contributions. The total financial savings of not allowing CPD payments to be pensionable would therefore be £12,000.

In answer to a question from Councillor John Lenton, the DR explained that members of staff in the 1992 and 2006 schemes were allowed to pay member contributions and employer contributions if they were absent from scheme employment because of illness, injury or because of trade dispute or authorised paid absence. The report was seeking the Fire Authority to determine to extend CPD payments to members of staff in the 2015 scheme.

Councillor Lenton reminded the Authority that the Firefighters pension scheme was unfunded and was an additional liability. He stated that it would not be a large percentage of the pension bill.

Councillor David Burbage felt that that the savings made were relatively small and queried whether money was lost or saved in respect of trade disputes or unauthorised absences.

The DR advised that employer contributions were saved during the recent industrial dispute and the Authority potentially saved over £100,000 in pension contributions.

The Chairman stated that the Authority was being asked to determine in instances where the employee wish to pay contributions following absence from work, they would need to pay employee and employer contributions for the period they were absent. The Fire Authority approval of pensionable CPD payments in the 2015 scheme would maintain parity for those in each scheme (1992, 2006 and 2015 schemes).

The DR reported that an alternative would be that staff would work additional days to make up the pension contribution at the end of their employment and that this would be a more expensive option. This was based on the fact that the authority would then have to pay the employer contributions..

The Chairman moved the recommendation as it was laid out in the report and this was seconded by Councillor Bryant. It was unanimously:

Resolved that:

- The scheme manager discretions contained in The Firefighters' Pension Scheme (England) Regulations 2014 be noted;
- Work be undertaken to ensure that the delegations currently included in the scheme of delegation to officers and outlined in section 3.3. to 3.5 are appropriate and current to address the matter of delegation;
- The continual professional development payments should be considered as pensionable under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015;
- an active member who is absent from scheme employment because of illness or injury and not entitled to receive pensionable pay, or because of trade dispute or authorised unpaid absence, should pay member contributions and employer contributions.

22. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW TRADING COMPANY

Andrew Vallance, the Director of Resources (DR), presented a report which proposed to set up a new trading company, as a Community Interest Company, with wider trading powers than the existing training company.

The new policy direction set by the Authority the previous year included a commitment to ensure that RBFRS provided good value for money. In support of this commitment a number of areas of focus had been identified, which included increasing the profitability of the Authority's trading company. The existing trading company was currently making a small profit, but it was limited by its scope and constitution. It was felt that untapped opportunities existed to increase income by reconfiguring current trading arrangements.

It was noted that Councillor Philip Bicknell and a number of officers had visited Humberside FRS in December 2014 to identify best practice in running a successful, profitable trading company. On the basis of the experience in Humberside, it was clear to Councillor Bicknell and his colleagues that significant benefits could be achieved by establishing a new, more flexible, trading company, offering a wider range of services than just training. A new company with less restrictive articles would be free to tailor its services to the local market, using the skills and talents already available to the service.

It was clear that there would be significant benefits in constituting a new trading company as a social enterprise, such as a Community Interest Company (CIC). Such companies could access grant funding, which a traditional limited liability company could not. In addition, commercial organisations were keen to trade with companies that existed to provide social benefits with their profits, rather than merely increasing shareholder value. This enhanced their Corporate Social Responsibility record.

It was therefore proposed that a project should be set up to create such a company.

Councillor Tom McCann noted that in paragraph 3.8 of the report it stated that the project would be led by a seconded uniformed officer. He queried whether this would be an officer from Humberside or the RBFRS. Officers confirmed that it would be an RBFRS officer. He noted that this would be a secondment opportunity and therefore queried how the substantive role would be filled. Officers explained that, in conjunction with Humberside, they would be compiling a role profile. It was clear that in addition to the brand association with a uniformed officer the individual would also

require entrepreneurial flare. The role would be advertised and the best candidate would be selected to fulfil the role. Once this had happened a decision would be made about filling their substantive role. Options included closing the role down or transferring someone else in to undertake the role. The best course of action could only be determined once the individual had been selected. Councillor McCann stressed the need to get the right officer in post and he therefore felt that it was imperative that Members were kept informed with progress throughout the process.

Councillor Paul Bryant hoped that one of the initiatives that could be taken forward through this project was the installation of fire sprinklers in new buildings.

Councillor Bicknell commented that this was an exciting time for the company and discussions about the product range were ongoing.

In response to a query about the timescales Andrew Vallance explained that once in post the officer would require around six months to get the project up and running. It would probably take around three months to get the officer in post.

Resolved that:

The establishment of a new trading company, as a Community Interest Company, with wide trading powers, be agreed.

23. ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE (TRAINING) LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT

Councillor Phillip Bicknell updated the Fire Authority on the performance of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Limited (RBFRTL) for the year ended 31st March 2015.

In addition to the posted profit of £4,693, RBFRTL paid £62,087 in recharged costs to the Fire Authority. These recharges represented real costs that the Company would face if it were a standalone business. Recharges contributed to the RBFRTS Learning and Development budget and this income would need to be replaced if RBFRTL ceased to trade.

Baker Tilly would produce the RBFRTL statutory accounts for 2014/15 which would fulfil the Directors' duties under the Companies Act 2006. The Company's accounts would be audited by Ernst & Young in July 2015 as part of its audit of the Fire Authority's 2014/15 financial statements. The Company's statutory accounts would be formally approved by the Board after Ernst & Young had completed its audit.

Resolved that:

The report be noted.

24. 2014/15 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN

Andrew Vallance, the Director of Resources (DR), informed Members of the provisional revenue and capital outturns up to the end of March 2015 and advised that the final accounts would be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in September 2015.

In referring to the report, he asked the Fire Authority to note the corporate underspend of £214,000. He outlined that the costs of the industrial action amounted to £895,000. There was a significant underspend in the retained budget and advised

that the IRMP WP would look at this issue in due course.

The DR noted that there had been a reduction in uniformed staff but cautioned that most of the figures had been distorted by the industrial action.

Councillor David Burbage queried how much of the £557,000 employee underspend had been due to the industrial action? In referring to the pension column, he was also unsure why the budget was unpredictable.

The DR reported that the pension column related to an error made 8 years ago, where the Fire Authority had claimed for a DCLG grant for injury payments and it appeared that it should not have done. Neighbouring brigades had also claimed for injury payments and the monies the Fire Authority had put aside were for when the DCLG requests for the payment of the grant to be returned. In addition, he reported that the £557,000 in the Uniformed column had been spent mostly on Retained.

In answer to a question from the vice-Chairman, DR reported that he would include the pension contributions in the costs of the industrial action that amounted to £895,000.

The DR reported that the remedial works at Wokingham Fire Station had been running to time and budget, and the majority of the non-uniformed costs were the result of hiring crews for the industrial action.

The DR advised that he would circulate the dual running costs to the Fire Authority, which came in below budget due to the later than anticipated move to Newsham Court.

Councillor Webster stated that she had hoped that some of the corporate underspend would be spent on the recruitment of firefighters later in the year.

Councillor Ross felt that 3.2 of the report hid the cost that could not be quantified in the time and preparation of the industrial action.

The Chairman added that the cost of the industrial action was not only financial and he was thankful that it had not resulted in any fatalities.

Councillor McCann expressed his concern regarding the corporate underspend and felt it was disappointing that the Fire Authority were doing this in the current financial climate.

Resolved that:

- The corporate underspend of £214k be noted;
- The transfer of the surplus into the Development Fund be agreed;
- The Reserves position as shown in Appendix E be agreed.

25. FORWARD PLAN

Councillor Emma Webster noted that the IRMP refresh listed for the 10th September had been rescheduled for the 08th September 2015.

Resolved:

That the Forward Plan be noted, subject to the inclusion of the amendment to the IRMP refresh date.

26. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 6.30pm at Brigade Headquarters, Pincents Lane, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 7SP

27. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following Agenda Items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 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.

28. PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2015

Resolved:

That the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2015 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

The Committee considered an exempt report.

Resolved:

- That the recommendations as set out in the exempt report be agreed.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm