

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING - PART I

Held on Wednesday 28 June 2006

Council Chamber, Bracknell Forest Borough Council,
Easthampstead House, Town Square, Bracknell
Berkshire RG12 1AQ



Those present:

Councillor Mike Adams	Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson
Councillor Andrew Bradley	Councillor Mrs Prue Bray
Councillor Jeff Brooks	Councillor Dr Paul Bryant
Councillor Geoff Findlay OBE	Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten
Councillor John Green	Councillor Jagjit Grewal
Councillor David Howes	Councillor Mrs Vicky Howes
Councillor James Mole	Councillor Peter North
Councillor Fred Pugh	Councillor Dexter Smith
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)
- Tracey Mitchell (Health and Safety Manager) (*item 02.25.06*)
- Des Tidbury (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)
- Andrew Vallance (Authority Treasurer)
- David Wallace (Director of Human Resources)

02.01.06 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN 2006/2007

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer requested nominations for the position of Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority for the ensuing year (2006/2007).

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson proposed Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, and this was seconded by Councillor James Mole.

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved** that Councillor Dr Paul Bryant be elected Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority for the ensuing year (2006/2007).

Councillor Dr Paul Bryant in the Chair.

02.02.06 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2006/2007

The Chairman requested nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority for the ensuing year (2006/2007).

Councillor Jeff Brooks proposed Councillor James Mole, and this was seconded by the Chairman.

Action

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved that** Councillor James Moles be elected Vice-Chairman of the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority for the ensuing year (2006/2007).

02.03.06 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Jones, Angus Ross, Mrs Pauline Helliar-Symons and Alan Ward.

02.04.06 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

Members were reminded that they were required to sign the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

02.05.06 MEMBERSHIP OF FIRE AUTHORITY

The Fire Authority was advised of the District/Borough Council appointments to the Fire Authority.

The Chairman reported that Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten had now been appointed as a Member of the Fire Authority in the place of Councillor Simon Werner.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Andrew Bradley (Conservative, Wokingham District Council), Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten (Liberal Democrat, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead), Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliar-Symons (Conservative, Wokingham District Council), Councillor Peter Jones (Labour, Reading Borough Council) and Councillor Sean Wright (Independent, Slough Borough Council) as the newly appointed Members of the Fire Authority.

The Chairman conveyed his thanks to Councillor Ms Christine Borgars, Councillor David Maclsaac, Councillor Barrie Patman, and Councillor Rob Stanton as retiring Fire Authority Members.

The Chairman conveyed his congratulations to Councillor David Maclsaac on his appointment as Mayor of Slough Borough Council.

Councillor Jeff Brooks asked if a letter of thanks and appreciation could be sent to Councillor Barrie Patman in recognition of his service and commitment to the Fire Authority. The Fire Authority **supported** this request.

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) reported that a training and induction day would be arranged in the near future for the newly appointed Members.

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the Membership of the Fire Authority.

**Chairman /
CFO**

02.06.06 PART I MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2006

The Part I Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 8 February 2006 were received and **Approved** as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

02.07.06 PART I MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND OTHER GROUPS

The Authority was advised of the meetings held since the last Fire Authority meeting of the Fire Authority's Standing Committees, Working Parties and other Groups.

The Fire Authority:

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

02.08.06 PETITIONS AND QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDERS 8 AND 9

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson delivered a petition entitled 'Hands Off Our Fire Station'. The Chairman stated that the petition could not be debated at this meeting of the Fire Authority because it had not been received in time and in accordance with Standing Order 8, but would be taken into consideration during future deliberations on this issue.

Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten delivered a petition entitled 'Save Windsor Fire Station'. The Chairman stated that the petition could not be debated at this meeting of the Fire Authority because it had not been received in time and in accordance with Standing Order 8, but would be taken into consideration during future deliberations on this issue.

The Chairman reported that 2 Questions had been received from members of the public under Standing Order 9, as follows:

- a) Question received from Mr Richard Coates (Resident of Horton) (question was read out by Mr Richard Coates):

"In the event that the fire station in Windsor is closed and the fire appliance transferred to either Bracknell or Wokingham, what firm guarantee will the Fire Authority give to the residents of the Parishes of Horton, Datchet, Colnbrooke and Poyle, for attendance times, in number of minutes from time of call, for fire appliances to attend fires in dwelling, industrial and commercial premises and to road traffic collisions within those Parishes?"

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer provided a response as follows:

"Should the response standards for dwelling fires and road traffic collisions be agreed by the Fire Authority tonight, those standards will apply equally to the parishes of Horton, Datchet, Colnbrook and Poyle, as they will to the rest of Berkshire.

Local Standards for industrial and commercial buildings have not yet been worked up. However, by default, the old national standards can still be used in such circumstances. In this case, Horton, Datchet, Colnbrook and Poyle were all classified as 'D' risk. This standard required one fire appliance in 20 minutes.

However, the reality is somewhat different. Over the last 2 years the average attendance time in the following areas has been:

	First Appliance	Second Appliance
Horton	= 8 minutes	11 minutes
Colnbrook	= 6 minutes	9 minutes
Poyle	= 8 minutes	11 minutes
Datchet	= 5 minutes	7 minutes

To put this into context, it is necessary to understand which fire appliances are sent into these areas, and in what order. The order of attendance for each of these parishes is:

Poyle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Langley 2. Staines 3. Slough 4. Egham
Horton	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Langley 2. Slough 3. Slough 4. Egham
Colnbrook	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Langley 2. Slough 3. Slough 4. Heathrow
Datchet	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Langley 2. Windsor 3. Slough 4. Slough"

Mr Richard Coates felt that, given the real time incident occurrences in the last 12 months, there was ample evidence that response times could not be met, and asked how these response times could be improved upon.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer stated the response times for the key risk areas, i.e. dwelling fires and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs), were evidence based, and that the proposals for consideration were to improve the performance for the whole of Berkshire. He accepted that there would be some areas within Berkshire where the optimum and standard response times could not be met.

- b) Question received from Mr David J Burbage (Resident of Maidenhead) (question was read out by Mr David J Burbage):

"If there were no fire station in Windsor, would residents, businesses and visitors be at additional risk?"

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer provided a response as follows:

“The proposals contained within the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) are aimed at providing a more flexible approach to emergency cover provision, giving greater priority to life risk. The result of these proposals will mean that 2,400 people in the Windsor area will wait slightly longer for a fire appliance, as compared to 13,800 people in the Wokingham area who will benefit from a quicker response. Thus, resulting in improved emergency cover to 11,400 Berkshire residents.”

Mr Burbage asked, with respect to the amount paid by the Windsor residents to the Fire Authority precepts, if the retention of Windsor Fire Station could be considered.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer stated that the Officer recommendations were constrained by Council Tax capping and that there was a requirement to achieve efficiency savings.

02.09.06 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman did not have anything to report.

02.10.06 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.

02.11.06 NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 12

The Chairman reported that one Motion had been received from Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson:

- “The Authority recognises that given the annual 4 million visitors to the Castle, to Legoland and to the Town of Windsor, and, given traffic levels and access difficulties from nearby towns, and, given the importance of locally based services for local people, that the Authority resolves that the Authority shall maintain its permanent presence in Windsor, and, as this is not compatible with options currently available in the Risk Management Plan, Officers be asked to produce revised proposals that do not include removal of Fire Station facilities from Windsor.”

The Chairman proposed that this Motion be more appropriately considered under Agenda Item 19 (Integrated Risk Management 5-Year Plan) after the presentation on the 5-Year IRMP Plan. He suggested that the Motion may benefit by being taken as an amendment to Resolution 2d) of the aforementioned Agenda Item. Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson supported the proposal that the Motion be considered under Agenda Item 19, and stated that she would consider the Motion being taken as an amendment to Resolution 2d). It was **Agreed** that Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson's Motion be formally dealt with under Agenda Item 19.

02.12.06 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES - POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY

The Fire Authority was invited to consider the total number of Committee places, the size of each Committee and the allocation of Committee places between political groups.

The Chairman recommended the continuation for 2006/2007 of the decision made by the Fire Authority at its annual meeting in 2005 for a Committee structure which did not comply with the rules of political proportionality, as detailed in Table 1 of the report presented.

Councillor Mike Adams proposed that the Chairman's recommendation be supported, and this was seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved** that the total number of Committee places be set at 15.
- **Resolved** that the size of each Committee be the same as that approved for 2005/2006, with 6 Members on the Executive Committee, 6 Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and 3 Members on the Disciplinary, Appeals and Grievance Committee (DAG).
- **Resolved** that the allocation of 15 Committee places for the municipal year 2006/2007 be as follows:

Committee	Conservative	Liberal Democrat	Labour	Total
Executive	3	2	1	6
Overview and Scrutiny	2	2	2	6
DAG	1	1	1	3
Total	6	5	4	15

02.13.06 RE-APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES, STANDARDS COMMITTEE, COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM AND INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKING PARTY

In accordance with the decision made at the previous item, the Fire Authority was invited to re-appoint its Standing Committees (Executive Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Disciplinary, Appeals and Grievance Committee (in name only)), Community Safety Forum (CSF) and the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party. The Fire Authority was also asked to appoint 3 Elected Members to the Standards Committee.

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved** that the Executive Committee be re-appointed for the ensuing year, with the following membership:

Councillor Mike Adams	Councillor Dr Paul Bryant
Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson	Councillor James Mole
Councillor Jeff Brooks	Councillor Angus Ross

- **Resolved** that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be re-appointed for the ensuing year, with the following membership:

Councillor Mrs Prue Bray	Councillor John Green
Councillor Tom Crisp	Councillor Jagjit Grewal
Councillor Geoff Findlay	Councillor David Howes

**Party
Leaders**

- **Resolved** that the names of the Standing Deputies on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be forwarded to the Committee Manager by the Party Leaders.
- **Resolved** that the names of the Members on the Disciplinary Appeals and Grievance Committee be forwarded to the Committee Manager by the Party Leaders and that the Clerk and Monitoring Officer may request any Member to serve on this Committee during the year when required and as appropriate. It was **Noted** that attendance would be subject to availability.
- **Resolved** that the Community Safety Forum be re-appointed for the ensuing year with the following membership:

Councillor Mrs Prue Bray
Councillor Chris Maskell

Councillor Sean Wright

The Chairman reported that the names of the 3 Conservative Members on this Forum would be notified in due course to the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

Chairman

The Fire Authority did not consider the appointment of a Chairman of the Community Safety Forum (CSF).

- **Resolved** that the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party be re-appointed for the ensuing year with the following membership:

Councillor Mike Adams

Councillor Jagjit Grewal

Councillor Jeff Brooks

Councillor Miss Emma Webster

Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten

Councillor Derek Wilson

Chairman of the CSF

- **Resolved** that the following Members be appointed as the Elected Member representatives on the Standards Committee:

Councillor Andrew Bradley

Councillor James Mole

Councillor Mike Adams reported that the name of the one Labour Member on this Committee would be notified in due course to the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

**Councillor
Adams**

02.14.06 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS AND CHAIRMAN TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Fire Authority's approval was sought to the appointment of 3 new Independent Members of the Standards Committee with effect from 28 June 2006 for a period of 3 years and to the appointment of a Chairman of this Committee.

The Chairman acknowledged the work of the 3 Independent Members, namely Mr Peter Harris, Mr Geoffrey Mayes and Mr Paul Sidwell, whose term of office had now expired.

The Chairman reported that, following the interviews for the 3 applicants, namely Mr John Quinton, Mr Albert Gregory and Mr Peter McGuigan, he commended to the Fire Authority the appointment of the aforementioned to the Standards Committee.

Councillor Miss Emma Webster asked that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Mr Peter Harris, Mr Geoffrey Mayes and Mr Paul Sidwell.

Councillor Geoff Findlay proposed the appointment of the 3 new Independent Members and this was seconded by Councillor Miss Emma Webster, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Approved** the appointment of Mr John Quinton, Mr Albert Gregory and Mr Peter McGuigan as Independent Members of the Standards Committee for a period of 3 years, with effect from 28 June 2006. It was **Agreed** that the Committee would appoint its own Chairman at its first meeting.

02.15.06 APPOINTMENT OF FIRE AUTHORITY MEMBERS TO THE SOUTH EAST REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD (2006/2007)

The Fire Authority's approval was sought to the re-appointment of the Fire Authority's representative and substitute Members to the South East Regional Management Board (RMB).

Councillor Jeff Brooks asked if the substitute representatives had a right to attend the meetings of the Regional Management Board (RMB). The Chairman stated that the RMB would welcome their attendance. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the RMB pre-meetings were open to all Fire Authority Members, and that respective attendance would be as an observer.

Councillor Miss Emma Webster proposed that the recommendations be resolved, and this was seconded by Councillor Geoff Findlay, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved** that the Chairman, Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, be appointed as the Fire Authority's representative on the South East Regional Management Board.
- **Resolved** that Councillor James Mole and Councillor Mike Adams be appointed as the Fire Authority's substitute representatives on the South East Regional Management Board.
- **Resolved** that in the event of the Chairman, Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, Councillor James Mole or Councillor Mike Adams not being able to attend, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer/Committee Manager be authorised to approach other Members of the Executive Committee and appoint a substitute to attend the South East Regional Management Board meeting and, in line with the Constitution, notify the Clerk to the Regional Management Board accordingly.

02.16.06 APPOINTMENT OF FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) (2006/2007)

The Fire Authority's approval was sought to the appointment of its representative on the Local Government Association for 2006/2007.

The Chairman acknowledged the work of Councillor Barrie Patman during his appointment as the Fire Authority representative to the LGA.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson proposed that the Chairman be appointed as the Fire Authority representative to the LGA and this was seconded by Councillor Dexter Smith.

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved** that the Chairman, Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, be appointed to represent the Fire Authority to the Local Government Association for the ensuing year.

02.17.06 APPOINTMENT OF FIRE AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS FOR THE THAMES VALLEY REGION (ACTVaR) (2006/2007)

The Fire Authority's approval was sought to the appointment of its representative to the ACTVaR for 2006/2007.

Councillor Emma Webster proposed that Councillor Andrew Bradley be appointed as the Fire Authority representative to the ACTVaR, and this was seconded by the Chairman.

Councillor Jagjit Grewal proposed that Councillor Mike Adams be appointed as the Fire Authority representative to the ACTVaR, and this was seconded by Councillor Jeff Brooks.

Councillor Jeff Brooks felt that the Fire Authority's representation on the ACTVaR should be reviewed annually, and the Chairman proposed that the Executive Committee consider this.

Executive
Committee

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved**, by a majority of 9 votes to 8 votes in favour, that Councillor Andrew Bradley be appointed as the Fire Authority's representative and Councillor Mike Adams be appointed as the Standing Deputy to Association of Councils for the Thames Valley Region (ACTVaR) for the ensuing year.

02.18.06 REVIEW OF FIRE AUTHORITY MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Fire Authority was invited to consider the representation by the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Officers on the 6 Berkshire Local Strategic Partnerships in which it is a partner, to consider whether to continue with its current Fire Authority Member representation on the Wokingham and Windsor/Maidenhead Local Strategic Partnerships, and to appoint Members to these 2 Local Strategic Partnerships, if considered appropriate.

Consideration was given to views of the LSPs in respect to membership and what the best option would be in terms of representation. The Chief Fire Officer felt that representation by Officers should continue on all the LSPs, and that attendance by Members be when considered appropriate.

Councillor Jeff Brooks proposed that the current representation arrangements should continue, and this was seconded by Councillor Geoff Findlay, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Resolved** that current representation arrangements should continue, and that Councillor James Mole be the Member representative on the Windsor and Maidenhead LSP, and that Member representation on the Wokingham LSP be decided outside of this meeting.

Chairman

02.19.06 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT 5-YEAR PLAN (IRMP)

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) gave a presentation entitled 'IRMP 5-Year Plan' (*copy available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager*). He provided a brief summary of the history, context, drivers for change and the impact of the IRMP Year II on the 5-year plan. He described the proposals, including the re-deployment of the Incident Command Unit (ICU), and the consideration given to the location of the Chemical Incident Unit (CIU). He referred to the other Year III reviews, noting that work was still ongoing. He then described what the planning assumptions had been based upon, and explained the optimum and standard response standards for dwelling fires and attendance at Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).

The ACFO then went onto outline the key strategies for:

- Cookham Fire Station,
- Sonning and Wargrave Fire Stations,
- Windsor and Bracknell Fire Stations,
- Wokingham Fire Station,
- Crowthorne and Camberley Fire Stations,
- Dee Road and Caversham Road Fire Stations,

and presented a mapping exercise of the output areas for various options, which included comparison data for first pump response times and the impact to the local populations. He described the opportunities for re-investment, and financial costs associated with each strategy, noting that the strategies presented optimised the current available resources, and highlighted the Cadcorp revised turnout area comparisons.

The ACFO stated that any efficiency savings would be re-invested to support public and/or firefighter safety.

The ACFO stated that in respect to the recommendations for Windsor Fire Station, 2,400 people in the Windsor area would wait longer than 10 minutes for a fire appliance, as compared to 13,800 people in the Wokingham area who would benefit from a quicker response (within 10 minutes), which would result in improved emergency cover to 11,400 Berkshire residents.

The ACFO stated that the Inner Distribution Road (IDR) would have very little effect on the proposals for Dee Road Fire Station and this had now been confirmed through the modelling process.

The ACFO referred to the Summary sheet circulated in respect to the Station by Hour analysis for Retained Crews only (*copy available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager*). This highlighted the poor availability at Sonning, Wargrave and Wokingham, although it was confirmed that Wokingham's crewing had improved since Service Delivery had re-deployed personnel to bring the crewing back to established levels. This short-term measure, however, was not seen as being sustainable.

The Chairman invited questions from Members, the salient points as follows:

- Councillor Jagjit Grewal asked, in relation to Heathrow Airport, what the impact would be if Windsor Fire Station was to close.

The ACFO stated that Heathrow Airport came under the jurisdiction of London Fire Authority, and that it was well provided for in terms of emergency cover, however should there be a major air disaster, fire appliances would be sent from a number of areas to support the incident. He confirmed that, although all scenarios had been considered, the priority risk area in terms of life risk was dwelling fires and road traffic collisions, and hence the response standards had been based, and resources optimised, against these incidents.

- Councillor Dexter Smith was concerned with how the recommendations would impact on attendance response times and coverage within the Slough area, particularly with regard to the commercial developments in the area.

The ACFO reinforced that Slough Fire Station was a key location and that appliances would be moved, as appropriate, to ensure cover was maintained. He noted that life risk was not as great in commercial buildings as it was in dwellings, due to the required fire precautions and many other factors in place within these types of building. The ACFO also reminded Members that on a risk assessed basis, although the severity of these larger incidents was no doubt greater, the likelihood of them happening was, thankfully, far less.

- Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson asked what fire coverage and crewing levels there were currently at Windsor Castle.

The ACFO stated that Windsor Castle, at the current time, did not have any fire appliances or fire crews. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer (DCFO) confirmed that Windsor Castle, since the serious fire a number of years ago, had significantly improved their fire precautions and had active fire protection measures in place.

- Councillor Vicky Howes felt that the estimated financial figures quoted in the presentation in respect to the sale of Windsor Fire Station and to the sale of Dee Road Fire Station were somewhat low, and asked when more up-to-date figures would be available. The CFO stated that the planning figures were provisional and were subject to the ongoing planning applications and the securing of full planning permission for these sites, and that more definitive figures would be available once this was known. The ACFO confirmed that the Dee Road site only included the Fire Station and not the entire site.
- Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten referred to the 2 residential properties located next to Windsor Fire Station in terms of expected revenue. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer clarified that Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten was referring to

numbers 38 and 40 St Marks Road, and then confirmed that these properties were privately owned, and, as such, the Fire Authority would not receive a capital receipt in respect of any sale of these properties.

- Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten asked if data to support response times for each of the 6 Unitary Authorities within the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority area was currently available, and which areas would benefit from improved response times.

The ACFO stated that he could not give definitive figures for each Unitary Authority, but was able to confirm that the evidence provided suggested that the proposals would result in a better level of cover across the whole County. However, it was clear that the proposals would slightly decrease the ability to meet the standards in the Windsor area, but with a greater opportunity to improve the situation in the Wokingham/Bracknell area.

- Councillor Derek Wilson was concerned about response times being achieved during peak traffic times, and in particular in respect to the Windsor/Slough relief road. He asked what the worse response time had been in terms of Slough Fire Station appliances being utilised.

The ACFO stated that, based on a selection of 71 random calls, the worse time recorded for Slough appliances had been 11 minutes, which had been in response to a call to the Dedworth area. The Chief Fire Officer reiterated that each set of data for response times should not be considered in isolation but with a view to what could be achieved from a wider perspective, for example, although there would be reductions in certain areas, there was also the opportunity for greater improvements elsewhere.

- Councillor Peter North asked what fire cover would be provided to the Crowthorne area if the Pinzgauer fire appliance was moved to Cookham.

The ACFO confirmed that the vehicle concerned was a specialist off road fire appliance and that this would not have a detrimental effect on response standards for dwelling fires or RTCs, as the pumping appliance would still remain in Crowthorne. In fact, the removal of this vehicle would mean that the number of firefighters at Crowthorne would be focussed on crewing one frontline appliance instead of one frontline and one support vehicle.

- Councillor Peter North asked what the practical value would be of the trial into the use of Camberley's fire pumps into the southern part of Crowthorne's ground.

The DCFO stated that the trial would assist in validating the data to support response standards. The ACFO added that this trial was focused on testing whether a better service to the public could be achieved in the Sandhurst area.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson **withdrew** her Motion previously submitted.
Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson **moved a Motion**, as follows:

- **The new Resolution 2 be exactly the same, apart from Agenda Item 19(2)(d) to now read:**

“That future arrangements for operational response in the Windsor area be explored so that the Authority continue its permanent presence in

Windsor, and that Officers be tasked to provide revised proposals that do not include the removal of fire station facilities from Windsor.”

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson supported the Chairman’s suggestion, as a preamble to the above Motion, that the Fire Authority be asked to consider the Motion given the annual 4 million visitors to the Castle, and Legoland and town of Windsor, given traffic levels and access difficulties from nearby towns, given the importance of locally based services for local people and as maintenance of a fire station at Windsor is not compatible with the current resolution.

The **Motion was seconded** by Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten.

The above Motion was accepted as the substantive Motion.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson spoke to her Motion, the salient points as follows:

- Concerns in respect to the access routes into Windsor, congestion areas particularly around the local relief roads, and the route that fire appliances from Langley would need to take to reach Windsor.
- Concern that the optimum and standard response times to areas surrounding Windsor, for example Dedworth, would not be achieved.
- Concern regarding the additional risk associated with the number of visitors to Legoland.
- Some of the available data provided early in the IRMP process for attendances by Slough fire appliances to Windsor during peak times may not have given an entirely accurate picture, as the data included Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holiday attendances.
- Concern regarding the number of listed and old buildings within Windsor.
- Consideration should be given to the additional fire risks associated with the number of visitors and tourists to Windsor.
- If Windsor Fire Station was closed, this would be inconsistent with other towns of a similar size to Windsor in Berkshire who had a Fire Station.
- Concern that there would be a delay in attendance if Egham Fire Station’s only fire appliance had to be sent to an incident in Old Windsor.

Councillor Derek Wilson felt that, if Windsor Fire Station was closed, there would be a significant adverse affect on Windsor residents, particularly in respect to, for example, the large number of guest houses, bed and breakfast accommodation and Victorian houses. He stated that the proposal to close Windsor Fire Station should not have been included within the proposals.

Councillor Derek Wilson felt that in the event of a serious incident such as an air disaster or terrorist attack, the deployment of appliances would have a devastating effect to residents local to Windsor and surrounding areas.

Councillor Derek Wilson did not accept the 11-minute response time to Dedworth, as previously reported by the ACFO.

Councillor Jeff Brooks recognised the huge amount of work that had been conducted by the Officers in the preparation and consideration of the recommendations contained within the report presented, and he conveyed his thanks to them. To ensure that an effective level of emergency cover was provided to Windsor, he noted that consideration might need to be given to this provision from an alternative location within Windsor.

Councillor Jeff Brooks felt that the consultation framework should be re-visited, and proposed that the timetable be put back by 3 months to enable the change programme to be achieved effectively. This was supported by Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson.

Councillor Dexter Smith felt that there was insufficient data to support the impact to Slough in relation to the response times. He supported the improved response times, however did not want these to be to the detriment of the residents of Windsor.

Councillor Dexter Smith referred to the increase in population figures for the Slough area, and was concerned about the associated wider implications in terms of fire risk, and asked that these be considered. This was supported by Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson.

Councillor Mrs Mary Rose Gliksten stated that Windsor residents did not want to see the closure of the Fire Station at Windsor.

The Chairman proposed that Resolution 2, as amended, be considered prior to Resolution 1, and the **Fire Authority supported** this. Each recommendation was put to the vote, by a show of hands, and Members requested that votes would be recorded for those Members who wished to have their respective vote recorded.

The Fire Authority considered, and voted on, each recommendation in Resolution 2, as identified below as a)-c), d) (amended), and e)-f), with the precept:

- * **That the following recommendations require further detailed work to be conducted.**
- * **The outcomes of which to be brought back to the Executive Committee, a special meeting to be convened if required, and subsequently to a full Fire Authority, prior to public consultation.**
- * **That no decisions would be made prior to the further detailed work being concluded.**
- * **That the final decisions would be taken by the full Fire Authority.**
- a) **Endorsed that the Mercedes Sprinter and Pinzgauer appliances are transferred to Cookham Fire Station to replace the pumping appliance. This then becomes a specialist unit.**

The endorsement to recommendation a) was carried, with no abstentions, and

the following Members wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson - voted in favour.
- Councillor Andrew Bradley - voted in favour.
- Councillor Dexter Smith - voted in favour.
- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.
- Councillor Derek Wilson - voted in favour.

b) Endorsed that Sonning Fire Station is closed with the crew being offered opportunities for re-deployment in preference to redundancy.

The endorsement to recommendation b) was carried, with no abstentions, and the following Member wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.

c) Endorsed that work be progressed to secure a site for a new Fire Station at Twyford in readiness to transfer the unit from Wargrave to this preferred location.

The endorsement to recommendation c) was carried, with no abstentions, and the following Members wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson - voted in favour.
- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.
- Councillor Derek Wilson - voted in favour.

d) Endorsed (as amended) that future arrangements for operational response in the Windsor area be explored so that the Authority continue its permanent presence in Windsor, and that Officers be tasked to provide revised proposals that do not include the removal of fire station facilities from Windsor.

The endorsement to recommendation d) (as amended) was carried, with one abstention, and the following Members wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Mike Adams- abstained.
- Councillor Christine Bateson - voted in favour.
- Councillor Andrew Bradley - voted in favour.
- Councillor Jeff Brooks - voted in favour.
- Councillor Dr Paul Bryant (Chairman) - voted in favour.
- Councillor Mary Rose Gliksten - voted in favour.
- Councillor John Green - voted in favour.
- Councillor Jagjit Grewal - voted in favour.
- Councillor David Howes - voted in favour.
- Councillor Vicky Howes - voted in favour.
- Councillor James Mole - voted in favour.
- Councillor Fred Pugh - voted in favour.
- Councillor Dexter Smith - voted in favour.
- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.
- Councillor Derek Wilson - voted in favour.

- e) **Endorsed that Dee Road Fire Station is closed with the pump being moved to Caversham Road (crewing with 5 or 4 depending on role).**

The endorsement to recommendation e) was carried, with one abstention, and the following Members wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Christine Bateson - voted in favour
- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.
- Councillor Derek Wilson - abstained.

- f) **Endorsed that efficiency savings to be utilised to achieve either two 7-crewed shifts giving cover for 12 hours per day backed up by Retained Duty System (RDS) firefighters, or full 24-hour shift cover at Wokingham.**

The endorsement to recommendation f) was carried, with no abstentions, and the following Members wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Mrs Prue Bray - voted in favour
- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.

- g) **Endorsed that a trial is commenced to utilise Camberley's two 24 hour crewed pumps in the Crowthorne area.**

The endorsement to recommendation g) was carried, with no abstentions, and the following Members wished to record their respective vote:

- Councillor Miss Emma Webster - voted in favour.
- Councillor Derek Wilson - voted in favour.

Resolution 1 was considered next. Councillor Jeff Brooks proposed that Resolution 1 be approved, and this was seconded by Councillor James Mole. A vote was taken and **Resolution 1, as detailed below, was unanimously Approved:**

- a) **The response standards set for dwelling fires and Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs).**
- b) **The Incident Control Unit be transferred to Maidenhead Fire Station and crewed by Retained Duty System (RDS) firefighters from Maidenhead and Cookham.**
- c) **The Chemical Incident Unit remains at Whitley Wood Fire Station but that a further review into the viability of this unit is undertaken in the Year IV Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).**

02.20.06 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06

The Fire Authority's approval was sought to the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 as submitted, the Statement of Internal Control included within the Accounts, that the underspend be transferred to earmarked reserves and that the pensions provision be released and transferred to a pensions reserve.

The Authority Treasurer confirmed that the draft Statement of Accounts 2005/06 presented had now been finalised.

Councillor Jeff Brooks asked if a breakdown for the pension reserves and profile for the last 2 years could be provided to the Executive Committee. The Authority Treasurer stated that the Sub Committee (2007/2008 Budget) established by the Executive Committee would be undertaking a zero based budget exercise as part of the 2007/08 budget process.

The Authority Treasurer reported that the Auditors would provide a report to the Fire Authority at its meeting in October 2006.

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Councillor Peter North felt that the Executive Committee should consider the contribution to reserves. The Authority Treasurer confirmed that the Executive Committee would be considering this, as too would the Executive Committee's Sub Committee (2007/2008 Budget).

Councillor Miss Emma Webster proposed that the recommendations be resolved, and this was seconded by Councillor Geoff Findlay, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Approved** the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006, as submitted.
- **Approved** the Statement of Internal Control included within the Accounts.
- **Approved** that the underspend be transferred to earmarked reserves.
- **Approved** that the pensions' provision be released and transferred to a pensions' reserve.

02.21.06 ANNUAL TREASURY REPORT

The Fire Authority was invited to note the Annual Treasury Report and to approve the 2005/2006 actual prudential indicators. The Authority Treasurer provided a summary of the report presented.

Councillor Dexter Smith proposed that the recommendations be resolved, and this was seconded by Councillor Geoff Findlay, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the Annual Treasury Report.
- **Approved** the 2005/2006 actual prudential indicators.

02.22.06 ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION POLICY

The Authority was invited to approve the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

The Fire Authority:

- **Approved** the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

02.23.06 STANDING ORDERS 19 AND 20

The Fire Authority's approval was sought to the amendments made to Standing Orders Numbers 19 and 20 to reflect the new Code of Conduct, as recommended by the Executive Committee at its meeting held on 13 March 2006, as contained at Appendix 1 of the report presented.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer reported that the Members' Handbook was currently being updated.

Councillor Peter North asked what the process was for amending Standing Orders. The Clerk and Monitoring Officer confirmed that if a Member wished to propose a revision, this would be considered by the Executive Committee, for subsequent recommendation, if appropriate, to the Fire Authority for ratification.

Councillor Miss Emma Webster proposed that the amendments be resolved, and this was seconded by Councillor Geoff Findlay, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Approved** the amendments made to Standing Orders Numbers 19 and 20.

02.24.06 CORPORATE PLAN 2006/2007

The Fire Authority was invited to adopt the Corporate Plan, as recommended to the Fire Authority for adoption by the Executive Committee at its meeting on 15 May 2006.

A copy of the Corporate Plan will be available, from 30 June 2006, on the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's website at www.rbfrs.co.uk (RBFRS Quick Links).

Councillor Dexter Smith proposed that the Corporate Plan 2006/07 be adopted by the Fire Authority, and this was seconded by Councillor Mike Adams, and unanimously carried.

The Fire Authority:

- **Adopted** the Corporate Plan 2006/07.

02.25.06 ANNUAL REVIEW OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

The Authority was invited to note the progress made on Health, Safety and Welfare Objectives for 2004-2006 and to endorse the proposed Health, Safety and Welfare Objectives for 2006-2008.

The Director of Human Resources introduced Tracey Mitchell (Health and Safety Manager) who provided an outline summary of the progress made on Health, Safety and Welfare Objectives for 2004-2006 and the proposed Health, Safety and Welfare Objectives for 2006-2008.

Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson felt that it would be helpful to translate the accident data and uniformed/non uniformed percentage references into numbers of staff.

DW

Councillor Jeff Brooks acknowledged the objectives as a good direction of travel, and this was **supported** by the Fire Authority.

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the progress made on Health, Safety and Welfare Objectives (2004-2006).
- **Endorsed** the proposed Health, Safety and Welfare Objectives (2006-2008).

02.26.06 2006/2007 BUDGET MONITORING

The Fire Authority was invited to note the 2006/2007 budget monitoring report presented.

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the 2006/2007 budget monitoring report.

02.27.06 RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON THE GOVERNANCE OF REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRES

The Fire Authority was invited to note the response to the Department for Communities and Local Government (*previously known as the Office of Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)*) Consultation on the Governance of Regional Control Centres (RCCs) as agreed by the Executive Committee.

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the response to the Department for Communities and Local Government Consultation on the Governance of Regional Control Centres.

02.28.06 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON EXTRAORDINARY REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the Chairman's Report on Extraordinary Regional Management Board.

02.29.06 ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILS FOR THE THAMES VALLEY REGION (ACTVaR) - REPORT FROM MEETING HELD ON 10 MARCH 2006

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the report from the ACTVaR meeting held on 10 March 2006.

02.30.06 HALF-YEARLY REPORT ON MEDICAL RETIREMENTS, WORKPLACE ACCIDENTS AND SICKNESS ABSENCES

The Fire Authority was invited to note the number of medical retirements, workplace accidents and sickness absences during the period October 2005-March 2006.

Councillor Jeff Brooks was concerned that there might be a worrying trend developing in terms of sickness levels, particularly those associated with duty days lost through accidents. Director of Human Resources was hopeful that there would be a reduction in the total long-term absences in the coming months.

Director of Human Resources acknowledged the hard work conducted to produce the detailed statistics.

Councillor Mrs Prue Bray asked that the percentage of days lost be shown in future reports.

DW

Councillor Peter North suggested that a detailed breakdown of the musculoskeletal disorders be produced, to include whether work related or other, and that the Executive Committee consider the findings.

The Fire Authority:

- **Noted** the report detailing the half-yearly report on medical retirements, workplace accidents and sickness absences.

02.31.06 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Authority meeting is scheduled to take place on:

- **Wednesday 11 October 2006 at 6.30pm**
Bracknell Forest Borough Council

Councillor Peter North conveyed his apologies, in advance, for the next meeting.

02.32.06 EXCLUSION OF 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 8 February 2006 (*Paragraphs 4 and 5*).
 - Part II Minutes of Committees, Working Parties and other Groups (*Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3*).

Note: The following is a summary of the items considered in the Part II Agenda of the Fire Authority's meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2006:

02.33.06 PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 FEBRUARY 2006

The Part II Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 8 February 2006 were received and **Approved** as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

02.34.06 PART II MINUTES OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND OTHER GROUPS

The Fire Authority was advised of the Part II Executive Committee meetings that had taken place since the last meeting of the Fire Authority on 8 February 2006, and that no other Part II Committee, Working Party or other Groups' meetings had taken place since the last meeting of the Fire Authority. The report was **Noted**.