

# ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

Held on Wednesday 29 June 2011

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



**Those present:**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Councillor Mrs Prue Bray                       | Councillor Phillip Bicknell  |
| Councillor Dr Paul Bryant                      | Councillor Andrew Bradley    |
| Councillor Jeff Brooks ( <i>part meeting</i> ) | Councillor David Burbage     |
| Councillor Haqeeq Dar                          | Councillor Mrs Diana Coad    |
| Councillor Ricky Duveen                        | Councillor Colin Dudley      |
| Councillor Adrian Edwards                      | Councillor Paul Gittings     |
| Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliar-Symons          | Councillor David Holtby      |
| Councillor John Lenton                         | Councillor Iain McCracken    |
| Councillor Edward Plenty                       | Councillor Fred Pugh         |
| Councillor Mohammed Rasib                      | Councillor Angus Ross        |
| Councillor Alan Ward ( <i>part meeting</i> )   | Councillor Miss Emma Webster |

**In Attendance:**

- Olaf Baars (Deputy Chief Fire Officer)
- Iain Cox (Chief Fire Officer)
- Mr John Giles (Independent Member, Standards Committee)
- Professor Christopher Guy (Chairman, Standards Committee)
- Mr Phillip King (Independent Member, Standards Committee)
- Caroline Redzikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)
- Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer)
- Mr Baldev Sian (Independent Member, Standards Committee) (*part meeting*)
- Paul Southern (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)
- Sylvia Simmonds (PA to Executive Support)
- Mr Jonathan Taylor (Independent Member, Standards Committee)
- Andrew Vallance (Authority Treasurer)
- David Wallace (Director of Human Resources)
- Mr Ronald Webb (Independent Member, Standards Committee)

**Observers:**

- Officers, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Members of the public and media
- Representative Bodies
- Mr Richard Coates (Horton Parish resident)
- Deputy Chief Fire Officer Colin Thomas (Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service)

## 183. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2011/12 MUNICIPAL YEAR

### Resolved:

- That Councillor Colin Dudley be elected Chairman of the Fire Authority for the 2011/12 Municipal year.

## 184. CHAIRMAN TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Chairman accepted his appointment, and conveyed his thanks to Members for their continued support.

**Action**

He paid tribute to all the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service personnel, and in particular to the Chief Fire Officer and retiring Fire Authority Chairman, Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, who he commended for his dignity and skill during the last 6 years. He also conveyed his thanks to the Representative Bodies for their support.

The Chairman outlined how he intended future Fire Authority meetings to be conducted and advised that per agenda item, Members would be requested to ask a question and / or cast a vote once. Further questions relating to a specific agenda item would be deferred to the next meeting.

#### **185. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2011/12 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

##### **Resolved:**

- a) That Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliard-Symons be elected Vice-Chairman of the Fire Authority for the 2011/12 Municipal year.

#### **186. VICE-CHAIRMAN TO MAKE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

In accepting her appointment, the Vice-Chairman hoped to continue her work with the Fire Authority to realise an effective and efficient Fire and Rescue Service for the ensuing year.

#### **187. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson, Councillor Chris Bowring, Councillor Andrew Cumpsty and Councillor Peter Jones.

#### **188. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Phillip Bicknell, David Wallace (Director of Human Resources) and Caroline Rezikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer) declared a Personal non Prejudicial Interest as the Fire Authority's Directors and Company Secretary respectively on Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Ltd in respect to Agenda Item 23 (Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Ltd Annual Report).

Councillor Angus Ross declared a Personal non Prejudicial Interest as the Fire Authority's representative and Board Member on the South East Fire and Rescue Control Centre Ltd (SEFRCCCL) in respect to Agenda Item 25d) (South East Fire and Rescue Control Centre Ltd).

There were no further Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Fire Authority's Local Code of Conduct. There were no further Declarations of Interest received from Officers.

#### **189. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2011**

##### **Resolved:**

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2011 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

The Chairman noted that the actions from the last meeting had been discharged.

**Councillor Jeff Brooks arrived during the early considerations of the next item. Councillor Alan Ward retired from the meeting during the considerations of the next item.**

## **190. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDERS 19 AND 25**

The Chairman reported that one Question had been received under Standing Order 25 from Mr Richard Coates (Horton Parish resident). At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Richard Coates put his Question.

The Chairman provided a full response to each of Mr Coates' points (*a copy of the Question put and the response given is attached at Appendix 1 to the Minutes*). The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that a copy of the response would be provided to Mr Richard Coates.

Mr Richard Coates asked one supplementary question, and, in referring to an example of where Surrey Fire Authority reversed a decision to reinstate four whole-time stations and placing fire appliances in two others, he requested whether Royal Berkshire Fire Authority could take a similar view in the decision to close Windsor at night.

The Chairman responded by reminding the Authority of the outcome of the Judicial Review regarding the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority's decision to close Windsor Fire Station at night, and he advised that it was not feasible to re-visit the Fire Authority's decision because there had been no change in circumstances since the original decision. The Fire Authority widely supported the Chairman's view.

## **191. RECEIPT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed those new Members appointed to the Fire Authority, namely, Councillor David Burbage, Councillor Andrew Cumpsty, Councillor Haqeeq Dar, Councillor Ricky Duveen, Councillor David Holtby and Councillor Edward Plenty.

The Chairman conveyed his appreciation for the sterling work of the retiring Fire Authority Members during the year, namely, Councillor Chris Harris, Councillor Owen Jeffery, Councillor Mrs Kathy Newbound, Councillor Sean Wright and Councillor Raja Zarait.

The Chief Fire Officer conveyed his personal thanks to the retiring Chairman, Councillor Dr Paul Bryant, for his time, assistance and support in the work of the Fire Authority and the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Miss Emma Webster conveyed her thanks to the retiring Chairman for his help throughout the years as a Member of West Berkshire Council and Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

The Chief Fire Officer welcomed Deputy Chief Fire Officer Colin Thomas from Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting.

The Chief Fire Officer reported of the success of the Members Induction Training Day held at Whitley Wood Fire Station (Royal Berkshire Training Centre) in Reading earlier in the day, the event having been well attended. The Chief Fire Officer thanked the Independent Members of the Standards Committee, Members and fire crews for their participation in the event.

## **192. RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

The Fire Authority considered the Recommendation made by the Fire Authority's Management Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Prue Bray, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that the Corporate Communications Manager would circulate copies of the 2010-11 Annual Report to all Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service partners and stakeholders.

CFO

**Resolved:**

- a) That the 2010-2011 Annual Report be Approved.

**193. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS UNDER STANDING ORDER 30**

There were no Questions received from the Fire Authority Members under Standing Order 30.

**194. NOTICES OF MOTION UNDER STANDING ORDER 44**

There were no submissions of Notices of Motion received under the provisions of the Fire Authority's Rules of Procedure.

**195. MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Fire Authority was informed of changes to the Membership of the Authority. In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Diana Coad, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised that the number of Fire Authority seats was directly related to the number of registered electors and that some boroughs may have a larger population than those that were registered.

**Resolved:**

- a) That the report be Noted.

**196. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES**

The Fire Authority considered its Committee Structure, and appointment of its Committees, in accordance with the Constitution.

**Resolved, unanimously, with no votes against:**

- a) That the rules on political proportionality should apply to the allocation of Committee places;
- b) That the Management Committee, the Strategic Asset Management Committee, the Audit and Performance Review Committee, and the Disciplinary Appeals and Grievance Committee be appointed as Standing Committees, and that the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party be appointed as a Standing Working Party;
- c) That the number of seats on the appointed Standing Committees be determined as 23;

That the seats on those Committees be allocated as below:

| Committee                           | Conservative | Liberal Democrat | Labour   | Total places on Committee |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Management                          | 5            | 1                | 1        | 7                         |
| Disciplinary, Appeals and Grievance | 2            |                  | 1        | 3                         |
| Audit and Performance Review        | 4            | 1                | 1        | 6                         |
| Strategic Asset Management          | 5            | 1                | 1        | 7                         |
| <b>Total per Political Group</b>    | <b>16</b>    | <b>3</b>         | <b>4</b> | <b>23</b>                 |

- d) That the Members be appointed to each of the Committees 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 or Sub-committee be named as alternate Members for the Member or Members of that group who have been appointed to that Committee or Sub-committee;
- f) That the Standards Committee be re-appointed and that four Members be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee, with named Deputies; and
- g) That the Integrated Risk Management Working Party be re-appointed to consist of 7 Members appointed on a politically balanced basis, in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.

#### **197. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE 2011/12 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

##### **Resolved:**

- a) That Councillor John Lenton be appointed as the Fire Authority's representative on The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Strategic Partnership;
- b) That the Chairman of the Fire Authority be appointed as the Fire Authority's representative on the South East Regional Management Board; and that in the event of the Chairman of the Fire Authority not being able to attend, then the Chairman will nominate another Member of the Management Committee to attend the South East Regional Management Board as his substitute, and, in line with the Constitution, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer will notify the Clerk to the Regional Management Board accordingly;
- c) That Councillor Iain McCracken be appointed as the Fire Authority's representative on the Local Government Association;
- d) That Councillor Angus Ross be appointed as the Fire Authority's representative (Director) and Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson be appointed as Substitute Member Representative (Director) respectively on the South East Fire and Rescue Control Centre Ltd (SEFRCCCL); and
- e) That Councillor Phillip Bicknell be appointed as Director on the Board of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Limited.

#### **198. APPOINTMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

The Chairman **Moved** that a further Fire Authority Member Champion be appointed, that being a Communications Champion. The Motion was **Seconded** by Councillor Iain McCracken, and, on being put to the vote, was **unanimously carried**.

##### **Resolved:**

- a) That Councillor Fred Pugh be appointed as the Community Safety Champion;
- b) That Councillor Chris Bowring be appointed as the Environmental Champion;
- c) That Councillor Alan Ward be appointed as the Equality and Diversity Champion (who will act as Chairman of Community, Engagement and Equality Group) (CEEG). (Councillor Mrs Prue Bray also put herself forward as the Equality and Diversity Champion and, having been put to the vote, the appointment of Councillor Alan Ward was **carried** with 7 votes against);

- d) That Councillor Phillip Bicknell be appointed as the Member Development Champion;
- e) That Councillor Alan Ward be appointed as the Health and Safety Champion.
- f) That the Chairman be appointed as the Communications Champion.

#### **199. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY AS CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTY**

##### **Resolved:**

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

#### **200. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was unanimously agreed to hold a Control Working Party and for the nomination of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be deferred until the first meeting of the Working Party on 4 July 2011.

##### **Resolved:**

- a) 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 2011/12 and to conduct the business as outlined on the Agenda.

#### **201. RECOMMENCEMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting of the Fire Authority was recommenced following the conclusion of the meeting of the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party.

#### **202. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

##### **Resolved:**

- a) That the meeting be adjourned for a period of 10 minutes for the convenience of the meeting. At the conclusion of this period, the meeting of the Fire Authority recommenced.

#### **203. SWINLEY FOREST FIRE INCIDENT (MAY 2011)**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer gave a briefing and pictorial presentation from the recent large fire incident at Swinley Forest.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised Swinley Forest covered an area of 3500 hectares of which 300 hectares were involved in the fire and described the nature of the incident, the working conditions, the tactics used, the size of the incident, the involvement with 12 other Fire and Rescue Services, the support provided by London Fire Brigade, the disruption caused to the local community including local school closures, the containment put in place which proved critical to the management of the incident, and the involvement of other agencies including the Forestry Commission, local Councils, other emergency services and voluntary agencies. He was pleased to report that the only injuries suffered were minor.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer also referred to the notable successes, which included containing the fire so that it did not reach a number of local establishments, for example, the Transport Research Laboratory, Broadmoor Hospital, Brookers Row, and local housing, and to some other significant issues relating to local pipelines, gas mains and electrical cabling.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer stated that a full debrief would now take place, however some immediate key learning points identified which would need to be re-examined in more detail included the provision of catering at large incidents, options for off-road capability and the contracted provision for the fueling of off-road vehicles.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that the use of the Police Helitele during the incident proved invaluable, which supported the recent purchase by the Authority of its own Helitele.

The Chief Fire Officer stated that he was extremely proud of the professionalism shown by all those personnel involved in the Swinley Forest fire incident which had ensured the containment and extinguishment of the fire with no loss to human life or property.

In response to the number of Members who paid their individual tributes to Officers and the other personnel involved in the incident, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, on behalf of all Members, expressed their gratitude in how the Brigade managed the incident and in how it had worked with all the other Services and agencies.

The Chairman also made special tribute to Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Area Managers, Gene Ashe (Prevention and Protection), Steve Buck (Learning and Development), Andy Mancey (Response) and Bryan Morgan (Support Services).

In response to the Vice-Chairman, the Chief Fire Officer confirmed that he would be writing to all those involved to convey his thanks and appreciation.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer thanked Colin Thomas (Deputy Chief Fire Officer), Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) for their assistance in the incident and advised of other significant incidents that occurred whilst Swinley was taking place were a 4 pump fire involving a family of four were rescued (Oxfordshire FRS appliances attended this incident).

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer agreed to circulate a Professional article on Swinley Forest Fire to Fire Authority Members.

DCFO

#### **204. 2010/11 REVENUE AND CAPITAL PROVISIONAL OUTTURN**

The Fire Authority was informed of provisional revenue and capital expenditure against budgets for 2010/11 and to approve movements on reserve balances.

The Authority Treasurer advised of the change of reporting cycle and confirmed that the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Statement of Accounts 2010/11 would be presented to the September 2011 Fire Authority meeting. The Authority Treasurer agreed to circulate to Members, by E-mail, a copy of the draft Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Statement of Accounts (2010/11).

AT

#### **Resolved:**

- a) That the provisional revenue and capital outturns for 2010/11 be Noted;
- b) That there was no requirement to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board to fund the capital programme in 2010/11 be Noted; and
- c) That the movement on reserves, including the transfer of the corporate under-spend to the General Fund and the transfer of the pension reserve to set up a development fund be Approved.

## **205. ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE (TRAINING) LTD ANNUAL REPORT**

The Fire Authority was presented with the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Limited draft accounts, the report also addressing the concerns expressed by the Fire Authority at the meeting held on 13 April 2011.

In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs Prue Bray, the Chief Fire Officer assured Members that the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Limited Directors would attend future Fire Authority meetings to present respective Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue (Training) Limited reports.

### **Resolved**

- a) That the report be Noted; and
- b) That the revised reporting arrangements proposed in this Report be Approved.

## **206. 2011/12 BUDGET MONITORING**

The Fire Authority was informed of revenue and capital expenditure against budgets up to the end of May 2011.

The Authority Treasurer advised that, to date, the true cost of the Swinley Forest Fire Incident was not yet known. He reported that only 3 Fire and Rescue Services had submitted an invoice to Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, however a number of Fire and Rescue Services were not expected to submit an invoice for their services.

### **Resolved**

- a) That the report be Noted.

## **207. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, CHAMPIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

The following Annual and Update Reports for 2010/11 were received and Noted:

- a) Professor Christopher Guy - Standards Committee;  
The Chairman of the Standards Committee took the Authority through his report. He made a testament to the high standards of Fire Authority Members due to another year where no complaints had been made and noted the improvement in notice of apologies of absence at Committee meetings. He reminded Members of the need to ensure that any reasons for absence were also advised.  
The Clerk and Monitoring Officer thanked those Independent Standards Committee Members who had attended the Members' Induction Training Day and for their respective feedback received.
- b) Councillor Dr Paul Bryant - Local Government Association (Fire Forum);
- c) Councillor Dr Paul Bryant - Regional Management Board;
- d) Councillor Angus Ross - South East Fire and Rescue Control Centre Ltd;
- e) Councillor Iain McCracken - Audit and Performance Review Committee;
- f) Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliard-Symons - Strategic Asset Management Committee;
- g) Councillor Phillip Bicknell - Member Development Champion;

- h) Councillor Colin Dudley - Health and Safety Champion; and
- i) Councillor Fred Pugh - Community Safety Champion;
- j) Councillor Alan Ward - Equality and Diversity Champion / Chairman of the Community, Engagement and Equality Group.

## **208. MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND OTHER GROUPS**

The Fire Authority received the Minutes of the following meetings of the Fire Authority's Committees:

- a) Standards Committee - 4 April 2011 (not yet approved);
- b) Strategic Asset Management Committee - 20 April 2011 (not yet approved);
- c) Management Committee - 23 May 2011 (not yet approved); and
- d) Audit and Performance Review Committee - 6 June 2011 (not yet approved).

## **209. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- Wednesday 28 September 2011 at 6.30pm in Council Chamber, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 7TD.

Councillor Fred Pugh advised that the date of the next Annual meeting in June 2012 clashed with the Local Government Conference and requested whether consideration could be made to reschedule the date of the Annual meeting.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman agreed to examine the date of the next Annual meeting in June 2012 due to early indications of other Unitary Authority commitments.

**Chairman /  
Vice-  
Chairman**

## **210. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

### **Resolved:**

- a) 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 the 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.

## **211. PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2011**

The Chairman advised that along with Councillor Jeff Brooks and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, a meeting had been arranged to be held on 20 July 2011 to examine the methodology of the procurement process of the Breathing Apparatus Set Procurement.

**Chairman  
/ Cllr  
Brooks /  
ACFO**

### **Resolved:**

- a) That the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**QUESTION AND RESPONSE TO QUESTION RECEIVED FROM  
MR RICHARD COATES TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY MEETING  
OF 29 JUNE 2011**

**QUESTION PUT:**

“There have been 2 local government elections since the initial proposal to close Windsor fire station for 12 hours in every 24hrs.

There are a number of elected members of the fire authority who will not have the full detail or understanding of the subjective reasoning as to why the Chief Fire Officer wishes to partially close a fire station that is answering 1,100 calls a year with the numbers rising.

Given that the original objectives outlined in the Fire Authority IRMP have changed from ‘guaranteed standard’ attendances times to deletion of the word guaranteed, that the recent figures from the authorities own statistics clearly show a decline in the ability of the Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service to meet its own ‘standard’ attendance times agreed by this committee and at a time when other supporting fire stations to Windsor have been closed or are to close, will the chairman allow a fresh one off vote by all members present at this June 2011 meeting on keeping the Windsor Fire Station open 24hrs a day? This will allow members to review the increased operational role played by Windsor Fire Station, to re-consider the decision to close Windsor Fire Station during periods when, in the last 12 months it responded to over 400 emergency calls and think very, very carefully before removing a vital emergency service that has been present and serving Windsor and its surrounding communities for over 154 years?”

**RESPONSE PROVIDED BY THE CHAIRMAN:**

“You raise two related issues. The first is the claimed increase in the number of calls on the Windsor fire station and the second whether there should be a new vote on the previous decision by the Authority to close the Windsor fire station at night.

In your question you refer to 1,100 calls a year with 400 being during the night hours when it is proposed that the fire station be closed. The figures we have do not tally with the figures you have quoted, the data we have is shown below.

Our figures show the total turn outs, wherever the incident, by the Windsor fire station, including standbys, false alarms, exercises and operational incidents are:-

Total turnouts on any fire stations ground by Windsor’s fire appliance, including standbys, false alarms, exercises and operational incidents:

- 2010 - 960 (including 372 standbys)
- 2009 - 1006 (inc. 322 standbys)
- 2008 - 1050 (inc. 342 standbys)
- 2007 - 799 (standby data not available)
- 2006 - 852 (standby data not available)

Number of operational incidents, false alarms and exercises attended by Windsor's appliance on Windsor fire station's own ground:

2010 - 385

2009 - 459

2008 - 518

2007 - 511

2006 - 512

Number of operational incidents attended by Windsor's appliance on any fire station's ground (excluding false alarms, exercises and standbys):

2010 - 156

2009 - 181

2008 - 202

2007 - 230

2006 - 231

Of the 156 incidents in 2010, 124 were on Windsor's ground of these:

20 were dwelling fires (8 between 2000-0800)

10 were RTCs (3 between 2000-0800)

Of these 156 operational incidents for 2010, only 60 were between the hours of 2000-0800 and the remainder (96) between 0800-2000.

Therefore, Windsor's fire appliance attended less than one significant operational incident (dwelling fires or road traffic collisions) per month between the hours of 2000 and 0800, the time during which the appliance will not be crewed.

Your second issue asks whether in the light of the Fire Authority having a number of new Members there should be a new vote on the closure of the Windsor fire station at night. Over the years, the Fire Authority has taken many decisions and to revisit these would not be feasible. The Fire Authority continually reviews its policies and procedures and, where necessary, these matters are brought to the Fire Authority for resolution.

In the case of the closure of the Windsor fire station at night, there has, in my view, been no change in circumstances to warrant revisiting the decisions. Indeed, the 11 significant operational incidents during the planned hours of closure supports the Fire Authority's decision.

However, Members are entitled to raise issues through the Committees. They can also bring Motions to the Fire Authority that would force a debate.

Thus, I am not prepared to revisit the Windsor decision without evidence of a change of circumstances or as a result of Member requests."

End