

**AGENDA ITEM 5: MINUTES****MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS ON THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2004 COMMENCING AT 1030 HOURS AND CONCLUDED AT 1400 HOURS****Present:****Fire Authority Members: Owen E Jeffery, R Webb (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Bateson****Independent Members: P Harris (Chairman), D Distin JP, P Sidwell, G D Mayes****Officers: CMO, CFO, Treasurer, Des Tidbury****1.01/04 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**1.02/04 MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 30 September 2003, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**1.03/04 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Mr Sidwell requested that a detailed break down of Member attendance at all meetings of the Fire Authority be produced for scrutiny of the Committee at its next meeting. Cllr. Webb felt that it was important that this committee monitored attendance levels at meetings of the Fire Authority.

**RESOLVED: That a detailed break down of member attendance of all Fire Authority meetings for 2004 be presented at the next meeting of the Standards Committee for consideration.**

**1.04/04 SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

The Committee received, noted and considered the report of the Clerk & Monitoring Officer [not reproduced here] on this matter. The Fire Authority had adopted a new committee structure in December 2003 and as a result it was anticipated that the Executive Committee would meet considerably more frequently than the other committees. The Committee had been requested to consider and make recommendations on the level of allowances paid to



Members in particular whether the Executive Members should be paid an additional allowance to take into account the additional work. Following a lengthy and detailed discussion it was **RESOLVED to recommend to the full Fire Authority that following allowances be paid annually:**

- a. **The Authority pay an annual basic allowance of £400 to each member of the Authority;**
- b. **The Authority pay annual Special Responsibility Allowances to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Leaders of minority groups Groups as follows:**
  - Fire Authority Chairman £6000**
  - Fire Authority Vice-Chairman £3000**
  - Leaders of bona fide political groups with 3 or more members not holding one of the above positions £1500;**
- c. **The Authority pay all Members on the Executive Committee who are not paid a Special Responsibility Allowance under (b) above a Special Responsibility Allowance of £1000 per annum;**
- d. **The Authority pay the Chairman of the Standards Committee £115.10 per meeting of the Committee attended;**
- e. **The Authority pay the Co-opted Members of the Standards Committee £105.10 per meeting of the Committee attended;**
- f. **The Child Care and Carer Allowance for Members remain at the rate of £6 per hour;**
- g. **All Allowances to be back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2004 (pro rata);**
- h. **The initial increase in all Allowances for 2004/2005 to be the same % as the % increase awarded for local government employees and payable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004;**
- i. **That all allowances should be reviewed annually by the Standards Committee;**

Note: Councillor Owen E Jeffery asked that his vote against items (d) and (e) above be recorded.

#### **1.05/04 PROCEDURE FOR LOCAL STANDARDS HEARINGS**

The Committee received, noted and considered the report of the Clerk & Monitoring Officer [not reproduced here] on this matter. Following discussion and debate, the Committee **RESOLVED to approve and adopt the procedure for Local Standards Hearings as set out in Annex A of the report**



**1.06/04      THIRD ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

It was noted that the third annual Assembly of Standards Committees was to be held 13-14 September 2004 in Birmingham. **It was Agreed that the Chairman of the Committee Mr P Harris should attend the Assembly.**

**1.07/04      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that meetings of this Committee would be on an ad hoc basis due to the main remit of the Committee, namely to hear and determine complaints against the Members of the Fire Authority and it was to be hoped that the Committee would not be tasked to hear such a complaint. It was suggested that the committee should next meet in September/October 2004 if there were matters to be considered and a mutually agreed date could be agreed with the Members of the Committee. **It was AGREED that the Committee would meet on an ad hoc basis but at least once per year.**

Signed:.....  
Chairman



Date: 21 January 2005

