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Chairman's initials.. *CGS*

MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Held on Thursday 10 February 2011

Strategic Command Centre, Headquarters, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 4FS

- Those present:** Professor Christopher Guy (Independent Member, Fire Authority) (*Chairman*)
Councillor Andrew Bradley (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Adrian Edwards (Member, Fire Authority)
Mr John Giles (Independent Member, Fire Authority) (*Vice-Chairman*)
Councillor Peter Jones (Member, Fire Authority)
Mr Phillip King OBE (Independent Member, Fire Authority)
Mr Baldev Sian (Independent Named Deputy, Fire Authority)
Mr Jonathan Taylor (Independent Member, Fire Authority)
Mr Ronald Webb (Independent Member, Fire Authority)
- In Attendance:** Caroline Redzikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)
Dave Phillips (Group Manager, Performance Review)
Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer)

Action

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received from Mr Jonathan Taylor (Independent Member).

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received 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 Declarations of Interest received from Officers.

39. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 JULY 2010

Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2010 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

40. RECEIPT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no receipts of announcements made.

Mr Baldev Sian and Mr Jonathan Taylor (Independent Members) and Councillor Andrew Bradley (Member, Fire Authority) arrived at the meeting during the early considerations of the next item.

41. SOUTH EAST CHARTER ON ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer introduced Dave Phillips (Group Manager, Performance Review) and advised that he would be assisting her with the delivery of the Member Development Charter.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised that the South East Employers had now amended the Charter to relate to Fire Authorities.

The Group Manager (Performance Review) took the Committee through his presentation on the milestones, training and commitment to achieve the South East Charter on Elected Member Development with the salient points being;

- South East Employers sought 60% commitment from Members in their development through the Charter
- Milestones would be linked to the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) Strategic Commitments

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer reported that Bracknell Forest Council had been awarded Charter status and was currently working towards achieving Charter Plus status. She reported that Bracknell Forest Council was keen to work in partnership with Royal Berkshire Fire Authority.

The Committee was advised that Steve Buck (Area Manager, Learning and Development) had offered to assist the Clerk and Monitoring Officer and Members through the Charter.

In discussing the Member Development process and milestones, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer gave examples of how the training and development of New Member Councillors to the Fire Authority might be taken forward. She gave examples from a user friendly handbook to the practical demonstration of the PPE (Fire Kit) and appliances.

In answer to a question from the Chairman, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised that the Standards Committee as a body had the authority to examine whether Members had participated in Member Development Training programmes that were compulsory.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer reported of her meeting with the Member Development Champion, Councillor Phillip Bicknell who had expressed his enthusiasm in the proposed strategy of achieving Charter Status.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised that she would extend an invitation again to Bracknell Forest Council, South East Employers, Steve Buck (Area Manager, Learning and Development) and Councillor Phillip Bicknell, Member Development Champion to attend a future Standards Committee meeting.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer confirmed that Member Development training and the process to achieve Charter Status would be funded from the Clerk and Monitoring Officer's budget.

Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be Noted.
- b) That Approval be given to proceed as outlined in the report.
- c) That the Clerk and Monitoring Officer present a revised Member Induction and information session to be Considered by the Standards Committee.

42. FUTURE OF STANDARDS BILL REGIME

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on the future of the Standards Board regime.

CMO
04.04.11

The Committee discussed the importance of the Standards Committee regime and felt it was pertinent for the development of a voluntary Royal Berkshire Fire Authority Standards Committee and Code of Conduct to exist after the implementation of the Localism Bill which was expected to be in early 2012.

Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be Noted.
- b) That the Standards Committee Consider the benefits of the Fire Authority establishing a voluntary Standards Committee after the Standards Board regime is abolished, and that a recommendation be made to the Fire Authority.

CMO
04.04.11

43. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 April 2011 at 5.30 pm in the Strategic Command Centre, Headquarters, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:

Signature



Print Name

CHRIS RUY

Date signed:

6/4/2011