

## MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held on Thursday 13 May 2010

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



**Those present:** Mr John Giles (Independent Member, Fire Authority)  
Professor Christopher Guy (Independent Member, Fire Authority)  
Mr Ronald Webb (Independent Member, Fire Authority) (Vice-Chairman)  
Mr Jonathan Taylor (Independent Member).

**In Attendance:** Lynda Kenyon (Committee Manager)  
Caroline Redzikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)  
Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer)

### Action

In the absence of the Chairman Mr Albert Gregory, Mr Ronald Webb as Vice-Chairman took the Chair for the meeting.

### 13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Albert Gregory (Independent Member, Fire Authority) (Chairman), Councillor Andrew Bradley (Member, Fire Authority), Councillor Adrian Edwards (Member, Fire Authority) and Councillor Peter Jones (Member, Fire Authority).

### 14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

### 15. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2009

#### Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2009 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

### 16. RECEIPT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that Mr Albert Gregory's Term of Office was due to come to an end in June 2010 and that he would not be seeking to continue as a Member of the Standards Committee. On behalf of the Committee he conveyed his thanks to Mr Albert Gregory for his work and support as Chairman of the Committee.

### 17. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee, in reviewing its Terms of Reference, were disappointed that there were no elected Members in attendance at the meeting, and consideration was given, in particular, to the meeting quorum.

#### Resolved:

- a) That the Committee's Terms of Reference be recommended to the Fire Authority for Approval with the inclusion of the following;
  - The quorum of the Standards Committee shall be three to include at least one Independent Member and one Elected Member

CMO



- b) That the Fire Authority might wish to consider appointing named deputies for the Elected Members, but in so doing the respective deputies would all have to receive appropriate training.

CMO

## 18. UPDATE REPORT

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer confirmed that the advertisement for the vacant position for two Independent Members had been placed.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer made reference to the forthcoming Standards For England Conference in October 2010 and Mr Jonathan Taylor and Professor Christopher Guy expressed an interest in attending.

CMO

Following an approach received from Mark Jones, Chief Fire Officer of Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services, a general discussion took place regarding the benefits of establishing joint working arrangements between the Fire Authorities with regards to Standards.

### Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be Noted.
- b) That the Clerk and Monitoring Officer should explore the possibility of some joint working arrangements with Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

CMO

## 19. MEMBER DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

The Committee was informed of the recommendation by the Member Development Champion and the Management Committee to the Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority.

### Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be Noted.
- b) That consideration might wish to be given to inviting a representative from Bracknell Forest Borough Council to a future meeting of the Committee as the Council was the first Authority in the region to be awarded the Charter in May 2006.

CMO

## 20. MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT FIRE AUTHORITY MEETINGS

The Committee was advised of Members' attendance at Fire Authority and Committee meetings for the period of 24 June 2009 to 31 March 2010.

The Committee was pleased to note that there had been an overall improvement in Members attendance since last reported, however the Committee remained concerned that Members were still not finding substitute Members to attend meetings in their absence, nor were they always conveying apologies or offering reasons for their non attendance.

### Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

## 21. MEMBERS' REGISTER OF INTERESTS, INCLUDING GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer made available for inspection the Members' Register of Interests, including gifts and hospitality, and the Declarations of Office. The Committee did not have any further comments to make.



**Resolved:**

- a) That Clerk and Monitoring Officer should prepare the Standards Committee Annual Report in conjunction the Chairman, Mr. Albert Gregory, and that this report would be circulated to all Standards Committee Members prior to its presentation at the Fire Authority Annual meeting on 30 June 2010.
- b) That the report should include the following salient points;
  - An overview of the work of the Standards Committee throughout the year
  - Recommendation of the Committee of its Terms of Reference as previously considered at Item 17.
  - That the Fire Authority might wish to consider appointing named deputies for the Elected Members, but in so doing the respective deputies would all have to receive appropriate training.
  - The Committee's pleasure that there had been an overall improvement in Members attendance since last reported, however the Committee remained concerned that Members were still not finding substitute Members to attend meetings in their absence, nor were they always conveying apologies or offering reasons for their non attendance.

CMO

**23. PROPOSED CALENDAR OF 2010/11 COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Resolved:**

- a) That the Committee's 2010/11 meeting dates be recommended to the Fire Authority for approval at its Annual Meeting on 30 June 2010.
  - Monday 19 July 2010 at 5.30pm (venue to be advised)
  - Thursday 16 September 2010 at 5.30pm (venue to be advised)
  - Thursday 25 November 2010 at 5.30pm (venue to be advised)
  - Monday 7 February 2011 at 5.30pm (venue to be advised)
  - Monday 4 April 2011 at 5.30pm (venue to be advised)

**Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:**

Signature 

Print Name CHRIS GUY

Date signed: 19/10/2010 *19/7/2010*  


