

MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY'S STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 11 January 2012

Maidenhead Fire Station, Bridge Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire
SL6 8PG



Those present: Councillor Mrs Prue Bray (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Adrian Edwards (Member, Fire Authority) (*Vice-Chairman*)
Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliard-Symons (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Edward Plenty (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Angus Ross (Member, Fire Authority) (*Chairman*)

In Attendance: Pat Arthur (Procurement and Facilities Manager)
Mark Deacon (Operations Manager, HUB Professional Services)
Caroline Redzikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)
Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer)
Paul Southern (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)
Andrew Vallance (Authority Treasurer)

Action

130. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson (Member, Fire Authority) and Councillor Fred Pugh (Member, Fire Authority).

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no 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 Declarations of Interest received from Officers.

132. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2011

Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2011 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

Councillor Edward Plenty arrived during the early considerations of the next item.

133. IMPACTS ON ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURE ON OFFICER ATTENDANCE – VERBAL BRIEFING

The Committee were notified of the impacts of the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Restructure on Officer attendance at future Strategic Asset Management Committee meetings.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer informed the Committee that this would be his final attendance at Strategic Asset Management Committee's as Lead Officer due to the restructure to the establishment, commencing 1 April 2012.

As from 1 April 2012, the Committee fell under the Authority Treasurer's Directorate (Director of Finance) for premises and Information Technology related issues and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer (Director Service Delivery) for Transport related matters. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reported that it was proposed that he continue as Lead Officer under the item of Brigade Headquarters and would attend future meetings only in this capacity. He thanked the Committee for their support over the years.

Speaking on behalf of the Committee, the Chairman expressed his gratitude for the advice provided and invaluable effort made in the detail of information provided by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

134. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee were informed of the progress against the Capital Programme 2011/12 with the salient points being;

Drainage Works – The Committee were advised that a 3 phase approach had been implemented and was on target, with phase 1 complete. The Procurement and Facilities Manager reported that works would be carried out to identify the cause of the contaminated land at Bracknell Fire Station.

In response to the Chairman, the Procurement and Facilities Manager confirmed that she would update the Committee at a future meeting once the results from the investigation were known.

PFM

Access Control System Upgrade – A review of access permissions had been completed and where necessary restricted access had been implemented, notably at the Control Centre, as a result of a security review and best practice arising from the Regional Control Centre. New access fobs had now been installed across the whole brigade.

Security Fencing & Gates – Brigade Headquarters security gates were completed and the capital spend was under the anticipated amount.

Design Fees for capital projects in 2012/13 – The Budget Working Party recommendations for these items are to be signed off by the Fire Authority on 8 February 2012 and are the subject of a paper on this meetings agenda.

Self-contained breathing apparatus – Under spent due to collaborative work with Fire and Rescue Services in the South-East. The Committee were advised that positive feedback had been received from firefighters on the new Breathing Apparatus (BA) sets.

Breathing apparatus telemetry equipment – Delayed until 2012/13 due to the possible interference from 4G technology on telemetry bandwidth.

Server Virtualisation – Dictated by the outcome of the Control and new Brigade Headquarters project to be carried forward into 2012/13.

Water Tenders – 2 4x4 tenders scheduled for 2011/12 would be delivered in July 2012 due to production run delays.

Hydraulic Cutting Equipment – As a result of the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) of the Rescue Support Vehicle (RSV) the installation of Boron Steel Cutters would be made to every frontline appliance, resulting in them having similar rescue equipment to the specialist vehicle RSV.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reported that Crews and the Extrication Team found the Boron Steel Cutters satisfactory and advised that it was pertinent to

fill the gap between the skills of the Extrication Team as World Champions and frontline fire-fighters.

In response to a question from the Vice-Chairman, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that feedback had been received from Crews on the difficulty of cutting new vehicles for example with a glass roof forming part of its structural strength.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

135. TOUR OF MAIDENHEAD FIRE STATION

The Procurement and Facilities Manager and Station Manager, Paul Jones conducted a tour of Maidenhead Fire Station. Members were advised that the building/ station was shared with Fire Safety (Protection Department). The station housed two frontline water tender ladder appliances, the Incident Command Unit (ICU), the LP4 and L6P appliances, all of which are crewed by Wholetime and Retained Duty System (RDS) firefighters. The committee congratulated the Station Manager on the local use and flexible improvements being made to the Fire House facility on site which the committee had visited.

136. MAIDENHEAD FIRE STATION CAR PARK SAFE ESCAPE ROUTE

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer updated the Committee on the planning submission received, affecting the car park at Maidenhead Fire Station.

Members were advised that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) had agreed in principle and subject to planning permission for the provision of a safe escape route by the the developer, Shanly Homes, for a number of houses in Badnells Pit.

Three planning applications were submitted by Shanly Homes, one was withdrawn and another, being the recommendation of the Environmental Agency and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Planning Officers, was rejected at the planning meeting.

The Committee were advised that the third application with the relaxation of conditions was approved. Because of the refusal of the second application, the potential capital to RBFRS had been lost, at least temporarily.

Mark Deacon (HUB Professional Services) advised that RBFRS and Shanly Homes lawyers were instructed to wait for a Secretary of State decision before closing the matter. In discussing legal costs, Members were advised that it had been negotiated into the contract that Shanly Homes would cover RBFRS legal costs.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

137. FINAL OUTTURN WOKINGHAM FIRE STATION

The Committee were updated on the final outturn for Wokingham Fire Station.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reported that the figure set out in the recommendation below was submitted by Dawnus on what they believed to be the outstanding amount.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer took the Committee through the unforeseen difficulties that arose during the build and informed Members that some of the

difficulties were reported at a previous Strategic Asset Management Committee held in January 2011 (Agenda Item 13 refers).

The Committee were advised that the final figure would not exceed the sum set out in the recommendation and both RBFRS and Dawnus were working together on the final invoice.

The Chairman **Moved** for an amendment to be made to the proposed Recommendation and it was unanimously agreed.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted; and
- b) That the Management Committee be recommended to authorise the additional expenditure of £137,359 or such sum as is agreed to be the final amount, not to exceed £137,359; and
- c) That the Management Committee consider whether the additional expenditure be taken from revenue or capital budgets and if capital, that they make a Recommendation to the Fire Authority on 8th February 2012 for final approval.

138. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Due to the distance and potential difficulties in locating Lambourn Fire Station, Members were advised that transport would be offered from Station 20 (Whitley Wood Fire Station). Members wishing to take advantage of this transport need to confirm to Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer). The transport will leave Station 20 at 16.30.

Resolved:

- a) That it be Noted that the meeting on Tuesday 17 April 2012 at 5.30 pm be held at Lambourn Fire Station, Newbury Street, Lambourn, Berkshire RG17 8YT.
- b) That dates of future 2012/13 meetings to be agreed at the Fire Authority meeting on 8 February 2012.

139. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved:

- a) That 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 Paragraph 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.

140. PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2011

Resolved:

- a) That the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2011 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

141. SALE OF COOKHAM FIRE STATION – PROGRESS REPORT

An update was made by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer on the sale of Cookham Fire Station.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.
- b) That the actions taken by the Fire Authority Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Strategic Asset Management Committee be endorsed.

142. BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS PROGRESS REPORT / COMMISSIONING BOARD

The Committee were informed of the progress of the Brigade Headquarters project.

Resolved:

- a) That the recommendations in the report be Agreed

143. PROPOSED PREMISES PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer informed the Committee of the projects being submitted to the Budget Working Party, which will form the capital and revenue premises programme 2012/13 if agreed.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*
Print Name ANGUS J ROSS
Date signed 8.2.2012

