

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

Held on Wednesday 12 January 2011

Lecture Room, Ascot Fire Station, Station Hill, Ascot, Berkshire,
SL5 7HF



Those present: Councillor Mrs Pauline Helliar-Symons (Member, Fire Authority) (*Chairman*)
Councillor Mrs Christine Bateson (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Mrs Prue Bray (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Adrian Edwards (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Paul Gittings (Member, Fire Authority)

In Attendance: Lynda Kenyon (Committee Manager)
Caroline Redzikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)
Paul Southern (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)

Observers: Crew Manager Gerald Sharp (Retained)
Watch Manager Alan Battman

Action

68. TOUR OF ASCOT FIRE STATION BY THE ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer, with the assistance of Watch Manager Alan Battman and Crew Manager Gerald Sharp, conducted a tour of Ascot Fire Station, and Members were given the opportunity to view the Station facilities and emergency fire appliance.

69. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Adrian Edwards declared a Personal non Prejudicial Interest in respect to Agenda Items 9 and 13 (Progress Report on Wokingham Fire Station) as his son works for Babcock Infrastructure Services. There were no further Declarations of Interest made by Members or Officers.

71. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2010

Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2010 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised of the South Central Ambulance Service's (SCAS) preferences in terms of lease and tenancy arrangements in respect to the potential for shared site facilities, and of the options currently being considered by SCAS for possible sites. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer reassured Members that SCAS had been advised of the proposed Integrated Risk Management Plan projects. Councillor Mrs Prue Bray reported that, having liaised with Wokingham Borough Council Officers, she had been advised that discussions were already being held with SCAS. (*Minute reference 61 - Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) / Budget Proposals*).

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) agreed to circulate to the Committee Members a breakdown of the additional funding required to provide the water tender ladder appliances in 2010/11 (*Minute Reference 62 - Water Tender Ladder Increase in Capital Funding*).

The Chairman noted that all the actions had been discharged.

72. PROPOSED CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2011/12

The Committee was advised of the proposed Capital programme of works for the financial year 2011/12.

The Chairman **Moved** that:

- a) Subject to the outcome of the Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation and the recommendations of the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party, the Committee supports and recommends the establishment of:
 - i) A Capital Development Fund to enable the Fire Authority to manage the funding of future capital projects;
 - ii) A capital project to assess the options for the ongoing provision of a Brigade Headquarters facility;
 - iii) A capital project to provide a wholetime fire station in the Theale area;and that
- b) Officers be authorised to undertake further works to examine the feasibility of a fire station in the Tywford/Knowl Hill area.

The above Motion was **Seconded** by Councillor Adrian Edwards and **unanimously Agreed**.

The Committee considered each of the presented Project Initiation Documents (PID), and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer provided the Committee with respective updates and responded to points of clarity. General discussion took place with regard to the 'Security Fencing and Gates' PID, and the Committee supported the Chairman's proposal that, at the next meeting, the Committee be provided with the costs and risks aligned to the aforementioned works identified at the Dee Road site; that the Clerk and Monitoring Officer (CMO) advise the Committee of the legal position with regard to the Health and Safety works should they not be carried out; and that the security works for other fire stations should be prioritised over the security works at the Dee Road site.

In response to the Chairman, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer agreed to provide an update and associated timescales for the Premises Strategic Asset Management Plan at the next meeting

The Committee supported the Chairman's proposal that a Business Case for the number of personnel carriers and vans, their usage types and frequency, and their mileage, be presented to the next meeting for consideration.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.
- b) That the Motion (a) and b) above) be Agreed.

ACFO

ACFO
Agenda
(20.04.11)

CMO

ACFO
Agenda
(20.04.11)

ACFO
Agenda
(20.04.11)

73. FIRE AUTHORITY ASSET DISPOSAL

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer invited Members to consider the process for the disposal of assets.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) agreed to follow up on Councillor Mrs Prue Bray's suggestion that he should, initially, ascertain what other Fire and Rescue Authority's procedures were for their respective disposal of assets.

ACFO

74. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Committee was advised of the progress against the Capital Programme 2010/11. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer provided the Committee with further clarity on the tender being sought with regard to the Server Virtualisation capital scheme. It was noted that a delay was likely for the Water Tender replacements in 2010/11 due to the time taken to secure the additional funding for the 4 x 4 capability and other associated price increases discussed previously.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

75. LEASED FIRE APPLIANCES

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer conveyed the Authority Treasurer's apologies for not being able to attend the meeting.

The Committee was advised on the procedure to be followed with regard to the purchase or continued rental of leased fire appliances where leases expire in 2011/12.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

76. PROGRESS REPORT ON WOKINGHAM FIRE STATION

The Committee was advised of the progress for the new fire station in Wokingham.

Resolved:

- a) That the report be Noted.

77. STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee considered its Terms of Reference and, in particular, consideration was given the Committee's remit in respect to capital acquisitions and disposals.

Resolved:

- a) That a further clause be included after CO23 G to now read:
 - Consideration of proposed capital acquisitions and disposals (for capital projects or freehold properties over the value of £100,000 or leasehold properties over a total rental value of £100,000 over the term of the lease) and formulation of recommendations to the Management Committee and/or Fire Authority as appropriate.

and that the Committee's Terms of Reference, as amended, be

recommended to the Management (Mgt) Committee for consideration and ratification, for subsequent presentation to the Fire Authority for approval.

Mgt
Committee/
Fire
Authority

78. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20 April 2011 at 5.30pm at Bracknell Fire Station, Downshire Way, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7AA.

Resolved:

- a) That the subsequent meeting (date to be approved by the Fire Authority at its meeting on 17 February 2011) be held at Caversham Road Fire Station, Caversham Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 8AA.

Committee
Manager

79. 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.

The Chairman conveyed her thanks to Crew Manager Gerald Sharp and Watch Manager Alan Battman for their time taken to show the Members around Ascot Fire Station earlier in the meeting, and they retired from the meeting.

80. PROGRESS REPORT ON WOKINGHAM FIRE STATION - APPENDIX

After due consideration of the Confidential Appendix to the Progress Report on Wokingham Fire Station which detailed the significant Hydrocarbon and Alkaline ground contamination encountered in the area, and which would require licensed disposal, the Committee asked the Clerk and Monitoring Officer (CMO) to seek external advice on the current position, to look at the feasibility of pursuing third parties, and to provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting as to the involved costs of this so as to enable the Committee to take an informed judgement on the way forward.

CMO

Agenda
(20.04.11)

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer confirmed that he would provide Committee Members with update reports on the ground contamination position, as appropriate.

ACFO

Resolved:

- a) That the Confidential Appendix to Agenda Item 8 (Progress Report on Wokingham Fire Station) be Noted.

Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:

Signature

P. Helliar-Symons

Print Name

PAULINE HELLIAR-SYMONS

Date signed:

20/04/11