

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

Held on Wednesday 13 March 2013 at 5.30pm

Strategic Command Centre, Royal Berkshire Headquarters, 103 Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire RG30 4FS



**Committee Members:** Councillor Alistair Auty  
\*Councillor Christine Bateson  
\*Councillor Prue Bray  
\*Councillor Adrian Edwards (Part meeting)  
\*Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons  
\*Councillor Paul Gittings  
\*Councillor Chris Maskell  
\*Councillor Angus Ross (*Chairman*)  
\**present*

**In Attendance:** Councillor Colin Dudley (Fire Authority Chairman) (Part meeting)  
Caroline Redzikowksa (Director, Corporate Services)  
Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer)  
Paul Southern (Assistant Chief Fire Officer)  
Andrew Vallance (Director of Resources)

### 207. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alistair Auty.

### 208. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 209. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2013

#### Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2013 be agreed as a true record and approved for signing by the Chairman.

### 210. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT – STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee agreed to the submission of the draft SAMC annual report to the Fire Authority.

**The Chairman requested that the next item (SAMC's Terms of Reference) be deferred until the arrival of the Fire Authority Chairman, Councillor Colin Dudley. He reported that the revised Terms of Reference had clarified the powers and the remit of SAMC and thanked the Director of Resources (DR) and Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) for their work on this.**

### 211. PURCHASE OF EXTENSION OF LEASED APPLIANCES

The DR introduced the report and advised that the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority (RBFA) were required to lease appliances due to burrowing restrictions. He reported that four vehicles lease were due to end (Pinzgauer, two Dennis Sabres

**Action**

and Mercedes Atego) and advised that the figures for the Mercedes Atego would be presented at the next SAMC meeting.

DR reported that the Pinzguarer 6x6 was a light pumping appliance and had been redeployed to Maidenhead Fire Station. The Pinzguarer is used at special events and is 12 years old. He advised that the Dennis Sabres were 12 years old and reported that the Head of Transport and Engineering believed that both vehicles had 2 years useful life and would like to extend their leases for a further 2 years.

In answer to a question from Councillor Chris Maskell, DR advised that after the 2 year extension the RBFA would let the leases of the Dennis Sabres come to an end.

In answer to the Chairman, the DR reported that a further extension to the Dennis Sabres would provide a 14 year life and advised that the Head of Transport and Engineering had maintenance details of each vehicle.

In referring to the Atego 4x4 (different appliance to the Mercedes Atego) which was used for adverse weather conditions and incidents similar to Swinley Forest Fire, the ACFO reported that a Driving Instructor had been recruited and Operational Officers were receiving training to use this appliance.

The Chairman agreed the recommendation as set out in the report and requested that in addition c) be added to include that the lease details of the Mercedes Atego be presented at the next SAMC meeting.

It was unanimously Resolved:

**That the Committee:**

- a) Purchase the Pinzgauer for £16,762.91;
- b) Extend the leases of the Dennis Sabres for 2 years at a total cost of £5,776.25 per annum; and
- c) Consider the lease of the Mercedes Atego at the next SAMC meeting.

DR

**Members agreed to go into the Part II Agenda of the meeting.**

**212. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 30 April 2013 at 5.30 pm at Crowthorne Fire Station (Station 15), High Street, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 7AH.

**213. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

- 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 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.

**214. PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2013**

**Resolved:**

- a) That the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2013 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

The Chairman noted that the actions in the Part II minutes had been discharged.

**215. THEALE CROSS PROJECT UPDATE**

The ACFO gave a presentation on the Theale Cross Tender process.

**The Fire Authority Chairman, Councillor Colin Dudley and Councillor Adrian Edwards arrived during the early considerations of the next item. At this point, the Committee went back into the Part I agenda of the meeting for the final item on the agenda (SAMC's Terms of Reference).**

**216. SAMC'S TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The ACFO took Members through the revised Terms of Reference and reported that the most salient change was the increase of the asset value from £100,000 to £300,000, which would enable SAMC to make a decision on an asset value under £300,000 or leasehold properties under a total rental value of £300,000 over the term of the lease without referral to another committee. He highlighted the link between Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Party (IRMP WP) and Budget Working Party (BWP) with SAMC and advised that the increase of SAMC's remit to £300,000 could make the process more streamlined.

Councillor Gittings reported that Reading Borough Council had moved to a hybrid committee system where there were 3 decision making committees. He stated that the hybrid committee system involved more Members in the decision making process. He suggested that this style of committee system would add more power to committees and there was a chance it would avoid duplication.

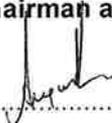
The Chairman requested that the Terms of Reference be brought back to SAMC to endorse at its next meeting.

**ACFO**

The meeting finished at 6.35 pm

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

Signature



Print Name

A. J. Ross

Date signed

30.4.2013

