

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



Held on: Tuesday 15 October 2013 at 6.00 pm

At: Strategic Command Centre, Brigade Headquarters, Dee Road, Reading, Berkshire RG30 4FS

Members: Councillor Christine Bateson
*Councillor Paul Bryant
*Councillor Adrian Edwards (Vice Chairman)
*Councillor Paul Gittings
*Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons
*Councillor Chris Maskell
Councillor Tom McCann
*Councillor Angus Ross (Chairman)

**present*

In attendance: Andy Fry (Chief Fire Officer, CFO)
Andy Mancey (Area Manager, Response, AMR)
Bryan Morgan (Area Manager, Risk Management, AMRM)
Caroline Redzikowska (Director, Corporate Services, DCS)
Carolyn Rowe (Committee Manager, CM)
Paul Southern (Acting Chief Fire Officer, ACFO)
Steve Sprason (Interim Head of Estates, IHE)
Andrew Vallance (Director Resources, DR)

Action

244. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Christine Bateson who was unable to attend the new date. Cllr Pauline Helliar-Symons advised that she would need to leave at 7.15pm.

245. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman and Cllr Paul Bryant each declared a non pecuniary interest as Members of the Sponsoring Group for the Joint Thames Valley Fire Control Service.

246. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2013

Resolved:

That the part I minutes of the meeting held on the 9 July 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

247. UPDATE ON WORKS AT THE NEW BHQ AT THEALE CROSS

The ACFO presented a number of pictures taken at the site showing work undertaken. Currently the completion date is 2 May 2014.

In response to member questions additional points included:

- the move would be phased and two sites would be run for a while;

- options for decision on the sale of the current site would be brought to Members and DR is in liaison with Reading Borough Council;
- an alternative site for Station 3 (Dee Road) was being sought recognising that the £5 increase in Council tax had been predicated on the need for a new station;
- it might be possible to vacate the site in stages if the overall sale had been agreed.

DR advised that a paper would be brought to the next meeting on options for the Dee Road site.

The Chairman requested that it remain as a standing item on the forward plan.

Resolved:

That the verbal update be noted.

248. THERMAL IMAGE CAMERA UPDATE

Area Manager, Response, Andy Mancey (AMR) showed Members a new thermal image camera which had been bought with the support of Members for all frontline pumps. In addition, four had been purchased for use at the Training Centre, making 26 in total.

The cameras were much smaller and lighter than previous equipment, and they continue to be an intrinsic part of how RBFRS operates. Following the incident at Shirley Towers it had been found that this was not the case in all Brigades, which may have been because of the unwieldiness of the earlier types of equipment.

The Chairman requested that a press release be issued, and that a camera be brought to show all members at the next meeting of the Fire Authority.

Resolved

That the verbal update be noted.

249. 2012/13 TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAM UPDATE

DR introduced the report on behalf of the DCFO and apologised that, due to the strike action, the Head of Transport and Engineering (HTE) had been unable to prepare the vehicle profile and replacement report. It was intended to bring this to the next meeting.

DR commented that SAM C had agreed to a range of options for vehicles at the end of their lease period over recent years, including purchasing. A paper on four JCB vehicles would be brought for decision to the next meeting on 21 January 2014.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

250. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

DR introduced the report, and advised that Steve Sprason (IHE) had been in contact with all six Unitary Authorities. The report outlined the position with each.

In answer to Member questions, it was confirmed that larger bids for CIL monies had been successfully challenged - using references to the IRMP, and the size of the Capital Programme, so bids now tended to be for hydrants. The response to requests to comment on developments, should include the incorporation of

DR

CM

AMR/
Comms.
AMR

HTE

DR

sprinklers.

The Chairman requested that he, DR and IHE meet to consider the Capital Programme, and that a paper then be brought to the Committee.

DR/IHE

The CFO commented that RBFRS was a statutory consultee twice during the development process, and added that we should ensure early opportunities to identify common interest were taken to promote the use of sprinklers, which, incorporated early, represented best value, and were therefore more likely to be used.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

251. 2013/14 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

DR introduced the report, and advised the Committee that the first invoices for the new BHQ had now been received. He commented that at the recent Audit and Governance Committee meeting, the auditors had warned of an increase in fraudulent activity in the area whereby false contact details for companies were provided. DR advised that such an attempt had been made at RBFRS on an invoice for the new BHQ, but procedure had been followed and it had been intercepted.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

252. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21 January 2014 at 5.30pm. The meeting will commence with a tour of Pangbourne Station. A lift would be provided to and from BHQ if required. The remainder of the meeting would be held in the Strategic Command Centre at Brigade Headquarters.

CM

253. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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.

254. PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JULY 2013

Resolved:

That the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

255. WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS : WOKINGHAM FIRE STATION

DR introduced the report and following consideration, Members

Resolved:

- a) That the report be noted, and
- b) That the recommendations as set out in the report be Agreed.

(Cllr Helliar-Symons left the meeting at this point)

256. WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS: PREMISES UPDATE

DR introduced the report, and it was

Resolved:

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That the recommendations in the report be Agreed.

257. WINDSOR FIRE STATION PROPOSAL

The IHE presented the report and following consideration Members

Resolved:

That the recommendations as set out in the report be Agreed.

258. PROCUREMENT UPDATE

DR provided a verbal update and it was

Resolved:

That the verbal update on the progress on shared procurement be noted.

259. SHARED PREMISES WITH THAMES VALLEY POLICE UPDATE

DR introduced the report and following consideration it was

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

260. CHANGE CONTROL FOR THEALE CROSS

The ACFO introduced the report, and it was

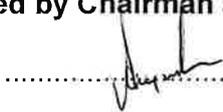
Resolved

That the report be noted.

The meeting finished at 7.55 pm.

Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:

Signature



Print Name

A.J. Ross

Date signed

21.1.14