



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

Held on Tuesday 18th November 2014 at 5.30pm

New BHQ Headquarters, Pincents Kiln, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire,
RG31 7SD

- Members:**
- * Councillor Joginder Bal (from 5.50pm to 7.21pm)
 - * Councillor Christine Bateson (from 6.04pm)
 - (* present) * Councillor Paul Bryant (from 6.44pm)
 - * Councillor Adrian Edwards (*Vice-Chairman*)
 - * Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons
 - Councillor Chris Maskell
 - * Councillor Tom McCann
 - * Councillor Angus Ross (*Chairman*)

- In Attendance:**
- Trevor Ferguson (Deputy Chief Fire Officer, DCFO)
 - Andy Fry (Chief Fire Officer, CFO) (left at 7.10pm)
 - Andy Parsons (Interim Head of Estates, IHE)
 - Linda Pye (Principal Policy Officer, PPO)
 - Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer, CO)
 - Paul Southern (Assistant Chief Fire Officer, ACFO)
 - Nicole Targett (Head of Corporate Communications, HCC)
 - Andrew Vallance (Director of Resources, DR)

Action

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Chris Maskell.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

29. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2014 AND MATTERS ARISING

Resolved that:

The Part I Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2014 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS OF WINDSOR FIRE STATION

Nicole Targett, Head of Corporate Communications (HCC), updated Members of SAMC on corporate communications in respect of Tinkers Lane, Windsor.

The HCC confirmed that the Royal Borough had attended a photo shoot at Tinkers Lane which had taken a front page lead. A press release had been

issued on 13th November 2014 and staff had been updated by Project Heads. An article would also be included in the RBFRS newsletter and photographs sent out to the professional sector and placed on the website. A press tour was also being arranged. Work was ongoing with the Royal Borough in relation to the opening event. No date had yet been agreed as this would be dependent on VIP's but it would be in 2015.

The St. Mark's site had been cleared of useable items and the site was now being prepared for sale. A press release would be issued and staff updated when the site was sold. There seemed to be a lot of press and local community interest around planning permission and again RBFRS was working closely with colleagues at the Royal Borough. Thoughts had been given as to whether a closing ceremony was required but it was felt that this would not be necessary as those members of staff who had worked a long time at the site were no longer there.

Councillor Angus Ross asked if he could be informed as to when the press tour would take place at Tinkers Lane. He also asked for an update in relation to the planning permission at St. Mark's site. It was confirmed that a draft planning application had been submitted and feedback was awaited from the Planning Department on the proposal.

HCC

Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons asked that when the St. Mark's site was sold it should be made clear in any press release that this would be good news for members of the public with the emphasis on nothing being lost in the community.

Resolved that:

The report be noted.

31. 2014/15 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Andrew Vallance, Director of Resources (DR), informed the Strategic Asset Management Committee of capital expenditure against budgets for 2014/15.

Capital expenditure to the end of October 2014 was £429,000 and a detailed breakdown was set out in the appendix to the report. All of the capital projects were forecast to be within budget.

Councillor Pauline Helliar-Symons queried the £75k for enhancements to Wokingham Fire Station and she queried whether the Fire Authority would be able to recoup that expenditure. The DR confirmed that that reimbursement would not be possible as it was for enhancements to the station rather than remedial works.

Councillor Tom McCann noted that less than 25% of the capital programme had been spent and he therefore stressed the need for realistic capital projects to be put forward. Councillor McCann had in the past raised concerns about the allocation of money for Slough Fire Station. It was noted that this project was on hold pending further investigation but it was likely that spend on the drill tower would be reduced. Councillor McCann stated that such uncertainty did not help Members in making timely decisions. Councillor Angus Ross confirmed that at one stage it had been thought that there would be problems with the drill tower which would mean that it went over budget. The Committee had consequently given authority to officers to proceed cautiously. However,

the Fire Authority now had more detailed information in relation to fire stations which would help to ensure that such problems did not occur in the future.

Councillor Adrian Edwards queried the cost of the racking and gym fit out at the new HQ as it seemed to be rather high. The DR confirmed that this was new racking required for the stores and that the Fire Authority would be going out to tender for the gym equipment. Estimates that had been seen indicated that costs would be well under the £142k allocated in the capital programme.

Resolved that:

The report be noted.

32. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 17th March 2014 at 5.30pm – venue to be confirmed. It was suggested that Members might want to visit the new station at Tinkers Lane following which the Committee could meet at another nearby location unless they could be accommodated comfortably in Tinkers Lane.

33. 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.

34. PART II MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2014

The Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35. SHARED PREMISES UPDATE PART II

Andy Parsons, Interim Head of Estates (IHE), informed SAMC Members on the progress of shared premises with other blue light services and public bodies.

Resolved that :

The recommendations be agreed.

36. OPTIONS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF DEE ROAD

Paul Southern (ACFO), updated Members of SAMC on the options for the replacement of Dee Road which had been presented to the IRMP Working Party on 17th November 2014.

Resolved that:

The recommendations be agreed.

37. PROPERTY UPDATE

Andy Parsons, Interim Head of Estates (IHE), informed SAMC Members on the contractual issues relating to the new Headquarters at Newsham Court and Wokingham Fire Station, and the progress of the construction of Tinkers Lane.

Resolved that:

The recommendations be agreed.

(The meeting concluded at 7.37pm)

Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:

Signature

AR

Print Name

A. J. Ross

Date signed

17. 3. 15