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## AGENDA ITEM 2: MINUTES

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY URGENCY COMMITTEE HELD AT BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS, DEE ROAD, TILEHURST, READING, BERKSHIRE ON MONDAY 17 MAY 1999, COMMENCING AT 6.00PM AND CONCLUDING AT 6.15PM**

**Present: J C G Brooks (Chairman), J J Connolly, B J S Patman**

### **3.05/99 MINUTES: 14 APRIL 1999**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 1999, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman

### **3.06/99 REPLACEMENT OF FIRE COAT AND OVERTROUSERS**

The Urgency Committee considered a report (Agenda item 2 - not reproduced). It had been found that the protective thermal barrier in brigade tunics was suffering progressive degradation through normal wear and tear. As a result many tunics had had to be withdrawn from service and as a result a number of whole-time and retained firefighters now had just one tunic, whereas they should have two, so that there was always a replacement available. An urgent decision was required because of the Health & Safety implications for firefighters.

The proposal, therefore, was to provide one set of fire coat and overtrousers to each firefighter in this financial year and a second set in 2000/01. The replacement sets would conform to British standards and would have some additional features over existing tunics. They would be acquired through Consortium arrangements that comply with the Authority's tendering requirements.

The cost of replacement in 1999/2000 would amount to £160,000, whereas the existing budget for replacement clothing amounted to £88,000 and some of this would be required in any event for other essential purchases.

It was proposed that the sum of £160,000 would be found within existing budget heads as agreed between the Chief Fire Officer and Authority Treasurer.

**RESOLVED:** That on grounds of urgency, the Chief Fire Officer be authorized to purchase up to £160,000 replacement fire coats and overtrousers, this sum to be funded from within existing budgets as agreed between the Chief Fire Officer and Authority Treasurer.

Signed.....

  
Chairman

Date: 15 October 1999

