

## KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

### PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

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MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning and Performance Committee held at Kent Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, The Godlands, Tovil, Maidstone on Tuesday 16 July 2013.

PRESENT: - Mr N J D Chard (Chairman), Mr T G Mason (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Bond, Mr R Brookbank, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr J A Davies, Dr M R Eddy, Mr A V H Gulvin, Mr M J Harrison, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr S J G Koowaree and Mr A Terry.

APOLOGIES:- Mr R J Parry

OFFICERS:- The Chief Executive, Miss A Millington; the Assistant Director, Service Delivery, Mr S Bone-Knell; the Assistant Director, Operational Policy and Resilience, Mr P Flaherty; the Head of Policy and Performance, Mr J Finch; the Planning and Performance Manager, Mr R Stanford-Beale; and the Clerk to the Authority, Mr S C Ballard.

### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

#### 4. **Death of a Firefighter**

Members and officers stood in silence in memory of Firefighter Stephen Hunt of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, who had died while fighting a fire on 13 July.

#### 5. **Membership**

*(Item A1)*

Members noted that Mr Marsh had resigned from the Authority and that Mr J A Davies had been re-appointed to the Authority and to this Committee.

#### 6. **Terms of Reference**

*(Item A3)*

Members noted the amended Terms of Reference for the Committee as approved by the Authority at its meeting on 13 June.

#### 7. **Minutes**

*(Item A4)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 23 April and 13 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 8. **Annual Statement of Assurance**

*(Item B1 - Report by Head of Policy and Performance)*

- (1) Members were advised that the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England required fire and rescue authorities to provide an Annual Statement of Assurance on financial, governance and operational matters. The Committee considered the operational performance element of the Authority's Annual Statement (the financial and governance elements having been considered by the General Purposes Committee).
- (2) In discussing the report, Members expressed concern that the format in which the Government required the Annual Statement to be submitted made the

document difficult for the public to understand and involved a great deal of duplication.

- (3) RESOLVED that the Assurance Statement for Operational Performance, as attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

**9. Operational Assessment and Protocol on Government Intervention**

*(Item B2 - Report by Planning and Performance Manager)*

- (1) The Committee received details of the process for the forthcoming Local Government Association Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge of the Authority planned for early 2014, and a summary of the new Protocol for Government Intervention in the Fire and Rescue Service.
- (2) As an update to the written report, the Planning and Performance Manager advised that the Peer Review of the Authority was expected to take place in the week commencing 31 March 2014 and to be led by the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service.
- (3) RESOLVED that:-
  - (a) the proposed approach and timetable for the self-assessment and Peer Review under the Operational Assessment, as set out in paragraphs 8 to 13 of the report, be endorsed;
  - (b) the new Protocol for Government Intervention in the Fire and Rescue Service, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**10. Margate Task Force**

*(Item C1)*

- (1) The Committee received a presentation from Group Manager Martin Skeet, Agency Liaison Manager of the Margate Task Force, on the work of the Task Force.
- (2) RESOLVED that the progress of the Margate Task Force's work be noted, and the Committee place on record its thanks to Mr Skeet for a very interesting and useful presentation.

**11. Research into Management of Operational Risk**

*(Item C2 - Report by Assistant Director, Operational Policy and Resilience)*

- (1) The Committee received details of the key findings and recommendations from a recent research report entitled 'Fire Fighting – A Risky Business' together with an assessment of the Authority's position against each area.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

**12. Service Delivery Performance Update**

*(Item C3 - Report by Planning and Performance Manager)*

- (1) The Committee received a report setting out how the Authority had performed against its strategic service delivery performance indicators during the first quarter of 2013/14.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

**13. Operational Response to Marine Incidents**

*(Item C4 - Report by Assistant Director, Operational Policy and Resilience)*

- (1) The Committee received details of the Authority's arrangements for responding to marine incidents; an update on the national arrangements; and latest

developments on the project to promote collaboration on marine response with other European fire services.

- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

**14. Members' Information Bulletin**

*(Item C5 - Report by Assistant Director, Service Delivery)*

- (1) Members were advised of the arrangements for publication of the new Members' Information Bulletin.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report, and of the first edition of the Members' Information Bulletin attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

**15. Fire Brigades Union Ballot for Industrial Action**

*(Item D2)*

*The Chairman agreed to take this item as urgent because it involved developments which had occurred since the agenda for the meeting had been published.*

The Chief Executive reported that the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) had given formal notice that it intended to ballot its members about taking industrial action in pursuance of its dispute with Government about changes to the Firefighters' Pension Schemes. Contingency plans were in place in case any industrial action resulted.

**16. Facing the Future – Review by Sir Ken Knight**

*(Item D2)*

*The Chairman agreed to take this item as urgent because it potentially required action to be taken as a matter of urgency.*

The Chief Executive advised Members that, rather than comment on the recommendations in Sir Ken Knight's review, it was proposed to wait until the Government published its proposals for taking the review forward and then respond to those proposals at that stage.