

## KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

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MINUTES of a Meeting of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority held at Kent Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, The Godlands, Tovil, Maidstone on Tuesday, 18 December 2012.

PRESENT:- Mr B R Cope (Chairman), Mrs A Allen, Mr M J Angell, Mr R B Burgess, Mr A R Chell, Mr L Christie, Mr H J Craske, Mr D S Daley, Mr J A Davies, Mr P Godwin, Mr A V H Gulvin, Mr M J Harrison, Mr W A Hayton, Mr V B Hewett, Mr D A Hirst, Mr P J Homewood, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr J F London, Mr T G Mason, Mr M J Northey, Mrs P A V Stockell and Mr R Tolputt.

ALSO PRESENT:- Mrs J Waghorn, Independent Person.

APOLOGIES:- Mr R E Brookbank and Mr R J Parry.

OFFICERS:- The Chief Executive, Miss A Millington; the Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Mr C Kerr; the Director, Operational Policy and Resilience, Mr S Demetriou; the Director, Service Delivery, Mr S Griffiths; the Assistant Director, Finance, Mrs A Kilpatrick; the Head of Policy and Performance, Mr J Finch; the Monitoring Officer, Mr G D Wild; and the Clerk to the Authority, Mr S C Ballard.

### UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

**29. Minutes - 17 October 2012**

*(Item A3)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 17 October 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**30. Human Resources and Equalities Committee – 8 November 2012**

*(Item A4)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Human Resources and Equalities Committee meeting held on 8 November 2012 be noted.

**31. Planning and Performance Committee – 15 November 2012**

*(Item A5)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Performance Committee held on 15 November 2012 be noted.

**32. Audit and Governance Committee – 20 November 2012**

*(Item A6)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 20 November 2012 be noted.

**33. Channel Tunnel**

*(Item B1 - Report by Director, Operational Policy and Resilience)*

- (1) Members received details of the new contractor who would be taking over the French First Line of Response (FLOR) contract with effect from 1 January 2013, and an update on the negotiations with Eurotunnel on the new contract for the UK FLOR.
- (2) Members also received a presentation from Caroline Wake, Head of UK Delegation, Channel Tunnel Safety Authority (CTSA), on the working arrangements between the CTSA and the Authority.

- (3) RESOLVED that:-
- (a) the previously-agreed variation to the Authority's existing contract with Eurotunnel for the First Line of Response be extended indefinitely, subject to any further contractual changes being reported to Members;
  - (b) the remaining contents of the report be noted;
  - (c) the presentation by Ms Wake be noted with thanks.

**34. Calendar of Meetings and Member Training Events 2013/14**

*(Item B2 - Report by Chief Executive)*

RESOLVED that the proposed calendar of Authority and Committee meetings and Member training events for 2013/14, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

**35. Community Right to Challenge – Draft Service Order**

*(Item B3 – Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Members considered a draft Service Order designed to enable the Authority to respond effectively to any submission made to it under the Community Right to Challenge provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
- (2) As an addition to the written report, the Director, Service Delivery, reported orally that Dover District Council had accepted a nomination under the Community Right to Bid provisions of the Act that the redundant fire station at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe should be listed as an Asset of Community Value.
- (3) RESOLVED that:-
  - (a) the draft Service Order relating to the Community Right to Challenge, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
  - (b) subject to legal advice, an appeal be made against Dover District Council's listing of the redundant fire station at St Margaret's-at-Cliffe as an asset of community value.

**36. Data Transparency – Government Consultation on the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities**

*(Item B4 - Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Members considered a draft response to a Government consultation on the making of Regulations to require local authorities to publish an extended list of data to improve transparency.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
  - (a) the draft response to the Government's consultation on the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
  - (b) the assessment of the Authority's current position against the proposed amendments to the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, and the recent reduction from £500 to £200 of the limit above which details of financial transactions were published on the Authority's website, be noted.

**37. Performance Update**

*(Item C1 - Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Members considered a report which described current progress against the Corporate Plan for 2012/13; provided details of some of the initiatives taken to support the

delivery of key targets; and set out the latest position on financial performance and budget monitoring.

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

**38. Financial Settlement for Fire and Rescue Authorities**

*(Item C2)*

- (1) The Director, Finance and Corporate Services advised Members that the financial settlement was expected to be announced by the Government in the next day or two. An email setting out details of the settlement, and its implications for the Authority, would be sent to Members as quickly as possible after the announcement was made.
- (2) RESOLVED that the position be noted.

**39. Council Tax Benefit Localisation**

*(Item C3 - Report by Chief Executive)*

- (1) Members received a report and a presentation on the latest position relating to council tax benefit localisation, and on the arrangements being put in place to mitigate the financial impact on the Authority.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

**40. Exclusion of Press and Public**

*(Item E1)*

RESOLVED that, under Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**EXEMPT ITEMS  
(Open Access to Minutes)**

**41. Hearings Panel – 6 December 2012**

*(Item E2)*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Hearings Panel held on 6 December 2012 be noted.