

KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Planning and Performance Committee held at Kent Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, The Godlands, Tovil, Maidstone on Thursday 6 November 2014.

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

APOLOGIES:- Mrs S V Hohler.

OFFICERS:- The Director, Major Projects and Resilience, Mr S Demetriou; the Assistant Director, Policy and Performance, Mr J Finch; the Assistant Director, Service Delivery, Mr M Adams; the Assistant Director, Training and Development, Mr P Flaherty; the Area Manager, Technical Fire Safety, Mr J Robertson; the Planning and Performance Manager, Mr R Stanford-Beale; and the Clerk to the Authority, Mr S C Ballard.

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. Election of Chairman for 2014/15

(Item A1)

- (1) Mr Gulvin moved, Mr Harrison seconded, that Mr Chard be elected Chairman of the Committee
- (2) There being no other nominations, Mr N J D Chard was declared elected as Chairman of the Committee for 2014/15.

Mr Chard thereupon took the Chair.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman for 2014/15

(Item A2)

- (1) Mr Chard moved, Mr Parry seconded, that Mr Mason be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee.
- (2) There being no other nominations, Mr T G Mason was declared elected as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for 2014/15.

3. Membership

(Item A3)

The Membership of the Committee for 2014/15 was noted.

4. Minutes

(Item A5)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 May 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5. Kent Resilience Team

(Item B1 - Report by Director, Major Projects and Resilience)

Stuart Beaumont, Head of Community Safety and Emergency Planning, Kent County Council, attended the meeting and spoke on this item.

- (1) The Committee received an update on the progress and achievements of the newly-formed Kent Resilience Team (KRT), a multi-agency team based at The Godlands and comprising staff from the Authority, Kent County Council and Kent Police, and considered the priorities for the KRT work plan up to April 2015.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the priorities for the KRT work plan up to April 2015, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report, be approved;
 - (b) the remaining contents of the report be noted.

6. Urban Search and Rescue - Audit of Kent Team and Government Efficiency Review of National Capability

(Item B2 - Report by Assistant Director, Training and Development)

- (1) The Committee considered proposed principles to form the basis of the Authority's response to the expected consultation as part of the Government Efficiency Review of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR). Members were also advised of the initial outcome of the National Resilience Assurance Team's recent audit of the Authority's USAR Team.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the proposed principles for the future of the Authority's USAR capability set out in paragraph 9 of the report be approved as the basis of the Authority's response to the expected Government consultation;
 - (b) the initial report by the National Resilience Assurance Team on its audit of the Authority's USAR Team, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

7. Second Review of Emergency Response Provision (RERP2)

(Item C1)

- (1) The Committee received a presentation from the Assistant Director, Policy and Performance, and Bob Cherry, Group Manager, Business Intelligence, on the latest review of the Authority's Emergency Response Provision, which had recently started.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be noted.

8. Marine Operations Update

(Item C2 - Report by Director, Major Projects and Resilience)

- (1) The Committee received a report giving an overview of recent developments relating to marine operations and setting out plans for the ongoing management of marine response within the Authority.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the Committee place on record its thanks to Mr Demetriou for his longstanding contribution to maritime safety in his role as the Chief Fire Officers' Association's national Lead Officer for Marine Operations, which will come to an end on his retirement in February 2015;

- (b) the contents of the report be noted.

9. Performance against Service Performance Targets - April to October 2014
(Item C3 - Report by Assistant Director, Policy and Performance)

- (1) The Committee received a report showing how the Authority had performed against all its strategic service delivery indicators during the first half of 2014/15.
- (2) An update showing performance up to 31 October 2014 was tabled at the meeting.
- (3) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

10. Operational Assessment and Peer Challenge - Progress Update
(Item C4 - Report by Assistant Director, Policy and Performance)

- (1) The Committee received an update on progress made against the Action Plan, agreed at the last meeting of the Committee (Minute 26), arising from the report of the Peer Review team on the Operational Assessment of the Authority carried out in April 2014.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

11. Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme
(Item C5 - Report by Assistant Director, Training and Development)

- (1) The Committee received an update on the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme and on the replacement communications system for use by the emergency services, the Emergency Services Network.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

12. Planning for Severe Winter Weather
(Item C6 - Report by Assistant Director, Training and Development)

- (1) The Committee was advised of the actions taken as a result of the lessons learned from the flooding incidents last winter and received an update on the preparations for severe weather over the coming winter, including the community safety campaigns for vulnerable people being planned in liaison with Kent County Council and Public Health.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

13. Technical Fire Safety - Focus on Business Update
(Item C7 - Report by Assistant Director, Service Delivery)

- (1) The Committee received an update on three aspects of the work of the Technical Fire Safety team: the introduction of the new Business Engagement team; the Primary Authority Partnership with Shepherd Neame; and a case where the Authority had taken formal enforcement action and prosecuted for fire safety contraventions following a serious fire in the Margate area.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the Committee place on record its thanks to those staff involved in the recent successful prosecution for fire safety contraventions;
 - (b) the contents of the report be noted.

14. Industrial Action by Fire Brigades Union (FBU)

(Item C8)

- (1) The Director, Major Projects and Resilience, reported on the recent four-day strike called by the FBU as part of its dispute with the Government over pensions, and on the arrangements made within the Authority to maintain a fire and rescue service during the strike period. The Director also reported that the Government had now laid before Parliament its proposed Regulations relating to firefighters' pensions.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Committee place on record its thanks for the outstanding commitment of those staff who worked during the strike in order to maintain fire and rescue cover in Kent and Medway.