

KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of the Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority held at Kent Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, The Godlands, Tovil, Maidstone on Thursday, 18 June 2015.

PRESENT:- Mr N J D Chard (Chairman), Mr A V H Gulvin (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A Allen MBE, Mr M J Angell, Mr H G R Birkby, Mr D L Brazier, Mr D J Carr, Mr G Cowan, Ms C J Cribbon, Mr D S Daley, Dr M R Eddy, Mr T Gates, Mr P Godwin, Mr M C Heale, Mrs S V Hohler, Mr P J Homewood, Mr S J G Koowaree, Mr R A Latchford OBE, Mr R J Parry, Mrs P A V Stockell, Mr N A Terry and Mr S A Tranter.

APOLOGIES:- Ms S J Carey, Mr J A Davies and Mr S C Manion.

OFFICERS:- The Chief Executive, Miss A Millington; the Director, Finance and Corporate Services, Mr C Kerr; the Director, Operations, Mr S Bone-Knell; the Assistant Director, 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

1. Election of Chairman for 2015/16

(Item A1)

- (1) Mrs Stockell moved, Mr Gates seconded, that Mr Chard be elected Chairman of the Authority.
- (2) There being no other nominations, Mr N J D Chard was declared elected as Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

Mr Chard thereupon took the Chair.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman for 2015/16

(Item A2)

- (1) Mr Chard moved, Mrs Stockell seconded, that Mr Gulvin be elected Vice-Chairman of the Authority.
- (2) There being no other nominations, Mr A V H Gulvin was declared elected as Vice-Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

3. Sir Reginald Doyle CBE QFSM

Members and officers stood in silence in memory of Sir Reginald Doyle CBE QFSM, Chief Fire Officer of Kent from 1977 to 1984, who had died on 7 June.

4. Membership

(Item A3)

- (1) The list of Members appointed by the constituent Councils to serve on the Authority for 2015/16 was noted, and the Chairman welcomed the new Members - Mr Brazier, Mr Carr, Mr Heale, Mr Homewood and Mr Tranter - to their first meeting.
- (2) RESOLVED that the Authority place on record its thanks to its immediate-past Vice-Chairman, Mr Mason, and the other newly-retired Members - Mr Brookbank, Mr Harrison, Mr Shonk and Mr Turpin - for their contributions to the work of the Authority during their periods of office.

5. Minutes - 13 February 2015

(Item A5)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 13 February 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. General Purposes Committee - 16 April 2015

(Item A6)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 16 April 2015 be noted.

7. Planning and Performance Committee - 27 April 2015

(Item A7)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Planning and Performance Committee meeting held on 27 April 2015 be noted.

8. Appointment of Members to Committees and Outside Bodies for 2015/16

(Item B1 - Report by Clerk to the Authority)

- (1) The Authority reviewed its scheme of proportionality as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and then considered various matters relating to the appointment of Members to Committees and outside bodies for 2015/16.
- (2) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) for the purposes of the statutory annual review of proportionality, the existing allocation of Committee places to the political groups, as shown in the Table in paragraph 4 of the report, be confirmed for 2015/16;
 - (b) as in previous years, Hearings Panels, if and when needed in 2015/16, comprise four Members (one drawn from each of the four party groups on the nomination of the group's leader);
 - (c) the Authority continue in membership of the outside bodies to which it belonged in 2014/15, and the allocation of places and voting rights on the LGA General Assembly between the political groups be confirmed for 2015/16 as shown in Part 2 of Appendix 1 to these Minutes;
 - (d) the appointment of Members to serve on Committees and outside bodies for 2015/16, as set out in Appendix 1 to these Minutes, be noted.

9. Performance Update

(Item B2 - Report by Chief Executive)

- (1) Members considered a report, which was updated orally at the meeting, and which described current progress against the Corporate Plan and the Authority's performance targets for 2015/16. The report also set out the latest position on financial performance and budget monitoring.
- (2) Members also received a presentation on the recent major fires at Medway City Industrial Estate, Rochester, and Week Street, Maidstone; the multi-vehicle road traffic collision in London Road, Southborough; and the gas explosion in Oak Tree Road, Ashford.
- (3) RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the proposal to create a new earmarked Workforce Reduction Reserve, and to transfer £2m into it, be approved;

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- (b) the Authority place on record its gratitude and admiration for the efforts of its officers and firefighters, and particularly those who were involved in the recent major incidents described in sub-paragraph (2) above;
- (c) the remaining contents of the report, and the presentation on recent major incidents, be noted.

10. New Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

(Item B3 - Report by Chief Executive)

- (1) The Authority was advised that, following the General Election on 7 May, the Rt Hon Greg Clark, the MP for Tunbridge Wells, had been appointed as Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.
- (2) RESOLVED that an invitation to visit the Authority be extended to Mr Clark.

11. Operational Exercises

(Item C1 - Report by Chief Executive)

- (1) Members received a report detailing forthcoming operational exercises and explaining how they could arrange to attend as observers.
- (2) RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

1. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2015/16

General Purposes Committee

<u>Conservative (8)</u>	<u>Labour (2)</u>	<u>Lib Dem (1)</u>	<u>UKIP (2)</u>
Mrs A Allen MBE	Mr G Cowan	Mr D S Daley	Mr H G R Birkby
Mr M J Angell	Mr P Godwin (Sp)		Mr R A Latchford OBE (Sp)
Ms S J Carey			
Mr D J Carr			
Mr T Gates			
Mr A V H Gulvin			
Mr S C Manion			
Mrs P A V Stockell			

Planning and Performance Committee

<u>Conservative (8)</u>	<u>Labour (2)</u>	<u>Lib Dem (1)</u>	<u>UKIP (2)</u>
Mr D L Brazier	Ms C J Cribbon	Mr S J G Koowaree	Mr M C Heale
Mr N J D Chard	Dr M R Eddy (Sp)		Mr N A Terry (Sp)
Mr J A Davies			
Mr A V H Gulvin			
Mrs S V Hohler			
Mr P J Homewood			
Mr R J Parry			
Mr S A Tranter			

Senior Officer Appointment and Conditions Committee

<u>Conservative (4)</u>	<u>Labour (1)</u>	<u>Lib Dem (1)</u>	<u>UKIP (1)</u>
Mr M J Angell	Mr G Cowan	Mr D S Daley	Mr N A Terry
Mr N J D Chard (Ch)*			
Mr T Gates			
Mr A V H Gulvin			

2. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

LGA General Assembly (*Chairman plus one Member from each of the other three Groups. One corporate vote (on general issues) allocated to Chairman. 17 votes on fire issues allocated between Members on proportional basis. Notional appointments/votes as meetings not normally attended.*)

<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Labour</u>	<u>Lib Dem</u>	<u>UKIP</u>
Mr N J D Chard* (1 'corporate' vote and 10 votes on fire issues)	Mr G Cowan (3 votes on fire issues)	Mr S J G Koowaree (1 vote on fire issues)	Mr N A Terry (3 votes on fire issues)

LGA Fire Commission (*Two Members, both nominated by controlling group.*)

Mr N J D Chard
Mr A V H Gulvin

South East Fire Improvement Partnership Board (*One Member, normally the Chairman.*)

Mr N J D Chard *

(*As Chairman of the Authority)