

ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



ESSEX FIRE AUTHORITY MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2008 AT 10:00 HOURS

Present:

Councillor B Archibald	Councillor R Pearson
Councillor Mrs S Barker	Councillor J Reeves
Councillor K Bobbin	Councillor C Riley
Councillor L J Double	Councillor J Roberts
Councillor N Edey*	Councillor T C Smith-Hughes
Councillor I Gale	Councillor S M Walsh
Councillor A M Hedley	Councillor E Webster
Councillor Mrs A E Holland	Councillor P Wexham
Councillor M Howard	Councillor D White
Councillor L Lee	Councillor J Young
Councillor S MacPherson	
Councillor D W Morris	

*Substitute in accordance with Standing Order 19

35. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed new Members to the Fire Authority; Councillor I Harrison (Conservative), Councillor P Wexham (Liberal Democrat) and Councillor D White (Conservative).

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION NOTICES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Finn, Harrison and Spencer and from Councillor Walters who was substituted by Councillor Edey.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in respect of items included on the agenda.

38. COUNCILLOR WALSH – STANDING DOWN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

The retiring Chairman Councillor Walsh thanked all ECFRS Officers for their support during what he felt had been an interesting and enjoyable year.

On behalf of the Authority the Vice Chairman thanked Councillor Walsh for his work during the last year.

39. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Councillor Hedley is elected as Chairman for 2008/09.

Councillor Hedley personally thanked his predecessor, Councillor Walsh for his work over the previous year.

40. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Resolved: That Councillor Holland is elected as Vice-Chairman for 2008/09.

41. MINUTES

The Authority received the minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2008.

Resolved:

That the minutes be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. MEMBERSHIP OF SUB COMMITTEES AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/064/08 advised that Southend Borough Council had appointed Councillor P Wexham and Councillor D White to the Authority to replace Councillor C Dandridge and Councillor R Davy and that Thurrock Council had appointed Councillor I Harrison to replace Councillor G Davies.

The report asked Members to confirm membership of the sub committees; EFA (Trading) Ltd; the East of England Regional Control Centre; the Regional Management Board and the Accredited Training Charity; and to make appointments for Lead Members and Community Command Liaison Members where vacancies existed.

Members referred to the arrangements for a joint Standards Committee with Essex County Council (ECC). Members were accepting of the Joint Committee but concerned that no Fire Authority Members were on it, and were of the view that where a complaint was made against a Fire Authority Member one should be co-opted. The Clerk agreed to take the suggestion forward to the ECC Standards Committee; and advised Members that should there be a problem, a meeting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, group spokespersons and Clerk would be convened.

The report invited Members to confirm dates provisionally agreed in September 2007 for meetings of the Authority 2008/09. The Authority was aware that the ECC Community Wellbeing & Older People Policy & Scrutiny Committee had programmed corresponding dates and times; during consideration of the item Members discussed moving the start time of its meetings.

Resolved (by majority vote):

1. That the following dates be agreed.

Fire Authority (at 10:00 hours unless otherwise annotated)

Wednesday 10 Sep 2008

Wednesday 10 Dec 2008

Wednesday 11 Feb 2009

Wednesday 22 Apr 2009

Wednesday 10 Jun 2009

Wednesday 09 Sep 2009 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)

Wednesday 09 Dec 2009 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)

Wednesday 10 Feb 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)

Wednesday 21 Apr 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 09 Jun 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)

Policy & Strategy (at 10:00 hours unless otherwise annotated)

Wednesday 24 Sep 2008
Wednesday 12 Nov 2008
Wednesday 14 Jan 2009
Wednesday 25 Mar 2009
Wednesday 23 Sep 2009 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 11 Nov 2009 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 13 Jan 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 24 Mar 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)

Challenge & Innovation (at 14:00 hours unless otherwise annotated)

Wednesday 24 Sep 2008
Wednesday 12 Nov 2008
Wednesday 14 Jan 2009
Wednesday 25 Mar 2009
Wednesday 23 Sep 2009 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 11 Nov 2009 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 13 Jan 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)
Wednesday 24 Mar 2010 (Provisionally agreed subject to confirmation at AGM 09)

2. That membership of the sub committees and named Authority representatives be confirmed as follows:

Policy & Strategy Committee

Councillor B Archibald	Councillor D W Morris
Councillor K Bobbin	Councillor R A Pearson
Councillor A M Hedley	Councillor T C Smith-Hughes
Councillor A E Holland	Councillor S M Walsh
Councillor L M Lee	Councillor E Webster

Challenge & Innovation Committee

Councillor S Barker	Councillor C Riley
Councillor L J Double	Councillor J Roberts
Councillor C W Finn	Councillor J Spencer
Councillor I A D Gale	Councillor R Walters
Councillor I Harrison	Councillor P Wexham
Councillor M Howard	Councillor D White
Councillor S MacPherson	Councillor J Young
Councillor J Reeves	

Audit & Review Committee

Councillor L J Double
Councillor M Howard
Councillor S MacPherson
2 vacant positions – to be appointed at the next Challenge & Innovation Committee

East of England Regional Control Centre Limited

Directors:

EFA Chairman
EFA Vice Chairman

Alternate Directors:

Councillor L M Lee
Councillor R Pearson

Regional Management Board

EFA Chairman
EFA Vice Chairman

Grievance, Discipline & Remuneration Group for Principal Officers

Councillor S Barker
Councillor K Bobbin
Councillor A E Holland
Councillor D W Morris
Councillor J M Reeves

Councillor R Pearson
Councillor J Roberts
Councillor T C Smith-Hughes
Councillor S M Walsh
Councillor J Young

EFA (Trading) Ltd

EFA Directors (Type A):

Councillor W Archibald
Councillor S Barker
Councillor C Finn
Councillor I A D Gale
Councillor J Roberts
Councillor J Reeves
Councillor D White

Officers (Type B):

DCFO M Jones
ACFO S Thomson

Alternates
ACFO G Hunter
Vacant position

Accredited Training Charity

Non EFA Trustees:

J Foile
Councillor G Isaacs
Mr R Colley
Ms J Keddy
Ms M Cunningham

EFA Trustees:

Councillor K Bobbin
Councillor A E Holland
Councillor R Pearson
Councillor C Riley

Lead Members

Safer Communities

Councillor C Riley (or nominee)

Comprehensive Performance Reviews

Councillor L J Double (or nominee)

E-Government

Councillor S Barker (or nominee)

Equal Opportunities

Councillor M Howard (or nominee)

Health & Safety

Councillor R Pearson (or nominee)

Environmental Champion

Councillor S M Walsh (or nominee)

Risk Management Champions

EFA Vice Chairman
Councillor L M Lee

Community Command Liaison Members

Basildon & Castlepoint	Councillor B Archibald
	Councillor J M Reeves
Chelmsford & Maldon	Councillor Barker
	Councillor T C Smith-Hughes
Colchester & Tendring	Councillor L J Double
	Councillor J Young
Harlow & Epping	Councillor C W Finn
	Councillor E Webster
Southend & Rochford	Councillor A E Holland
	Councillor R Pearson
Thurrock & Brentwood	Councillor I Harrison
	Councillor L M Lee
Uttlesford & Braintree	Councillor S M Walsh
	Councillor R Walters

3. That the Authority noted that a revised Constitution Book would be issued to reflect changes.

43. ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

Report EFA/065/08 by the Chief Fire Officer advised Members of the requirement to authorise activities in order that they be considered approved duties within the confines of the Members Scheme of Allowances. The report also sought approval for members of the Authority to attend a range of national events which appeared annually on the Fire and Rescue Service calendar.

Resolved:

That Members:

1. Approved the attendance of members of the Risk Management committee at the ALARM conference 2008
2. Approved that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and group spokespersons (or their substitutes) attend the LGA conference 2008.
3. Approved that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and group spokespersons (or their substitutes) attend the Fire & Rescue Service conference 2008.
4. Approved that authority be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chairman, to approve the attendance at conference, seminar or any other activity, on those occasions where it has not been the subject of a specific report to the Authority or one of its committees.

44. PERFORMANCE REPORT

Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/066/08 reported on the Service's performance in key Best Value and local performance indicators for the period 1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008. In accordance with the recommendations of the Challenge & Innovation Committee; the data

was placed into context against performance of the previous year and that of the average family group of Fire Services. Members noted the improved graphical presentation and commentaries contained within in the report.

The above and following report was presented by SDO Hardingham. Members thanked SDO Hardingham for his hard work during temporary promotion as Business Excellence Director.

Resolved:

That Members considered and noted the performance information.

45. PARTNERSHIP REGISTER

Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/067/08 informed Members of the Authority's Partnership Register and sought Members' approval for the register to be brought to the Authority on an annual basis.

Resolved:

That Members:

1. Noted the Partnership Register
2. Approved the annual submission of the Partnership Register to the Fire Authority.

46. COLLABORATIVE WORKING WITH KENT AND MEDWAY FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Members received Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/068/08 which set out an agreement to develop greater collaborative working with Kent and Medway Fire & Rescue Authority in order to promote a common approach to joint operational risks, and to proposed development within the Thames Gateway. Members were advised that an extension of joint working on staff training and development was also planned. A draft outline of a memorandum of understanding between the Services was appended to the report.

The Vice Chairman highlighted a recent Networking Women event at Wethersfield as being a good example of partnership working and said that the Chief Fire Officer's PA, Linda Boar had done a great job organizing it.

Resolved:

That Members endorsed the approach outlined in report EFA/068/08.

47. OPERATIONAL RESILIENCE UPDATE

Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/072/08 provided an update on the current position of the significant issues concerning Operational Resilience.

The Authority referred to the potential for further severe flooding. Although Fire & Rescue Services did not have a statutory responsibility to manage rescues during flooding Members were of the view that the public perception was the Fire Service 'sorted it out'; the Authority was concerned that in many ways Fire Services were ill equipped because of the substantial

funding requirement. It was agreed that this was an item for consideration at the Business Planning Workshop Away Days in October 2008.

Members thanked ACFO Hunter for the good and thorough detail of the report.

Resolved:

That Members:

1. Noted the content of the report.
2. Approved the format of the report, a short briefing on significant operational resilience issues to be provided on an annual basis.

48. REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE PROJECT UPDATE

Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/069/08 updated Members regarding the current position of the FiReControl Project.

Resolved:

That Members noted the contents of the report.

48. MINUTES OF REGIONAL MANAGEMENT (RMB) MEETING

The Authority received Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/070/08 which provided Members with the minutes of the Regional Management Board (RMB meeting of 26 March 2008).

49. LEGAL PARTNERSHIP WITH DURHAM & DARLINGTON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Chief Fire Officer's report EFA/073/08 advised Members that ECFRS Legal Services had secured the agreement of Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service to enter into a contract for the delivery of Legal Services. Members noted the report as a good news story.

Resolved:

That Members endorsed the contents of the report EFA/073/08.

50. REPORT TO CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES

That the following items comprise the report to the Constituent Authorities:

- 1 Legal Partnership with Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2 Operational Resilience Update

51. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved:

That the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting during consideration of minute no 52 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

EFA (TRADING) LTD 2007-08 SHAREHOLDERS' REPORT (Paragraph 3)

52. EFA (TRADING) LTD 2007-08 SHAREHOLDER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer EFA (Trading) Ltd's report EFA/074/08 provided the Authority with EFA (Trading) Ltd's annual report 2007-08.

Members were pleased to note that over three years of trading the company had donated over £500,000 to community organisations through ECFRS' charitable trust.

Resolved:

That Members noted the contents of the report.

53. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Fuel

The Chief Fire Officer referred to two issues regarding automotive fuel; Members were aware of a potential strike by lorry drivers, further the Chief Fire Officer drew attention to the financial burden of rising fuel costs; he advised that of necessity the Service would look at ways of applying restrictions on vehicle movements and out duties.

Signed

Chairman, 10 September 2008

