

EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY

Report of a meeting of the East Sussex Fire Authority held at Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters at 14.00 hours on Tuesday 23 March 2004.

Members present: Councillors Carden, Dyason, Gadd, Hawkes, Mrs Leigh, Livings, Lock, Murphy (Chairman), Paskins, Pidgeon, Reid, Skilton, Stevens and Theobald.

1. IRMP CONSULTATION

- 1.1 Members of the Way Forward Working Group had previously received a presentation by Mr. Jim Parrott, Fire Brigades' Union Secretary, on his members' concerns in relation to the 2004/05 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and some underlying concerns in relation to the Authority's current risk management arrangements. Immediately prior to the meeting of the Fire Authority, Mr. Parrott made a brief presentation to the Fire Authority and answered questions from Members.
- 1.2 The Fire Authority then considered a non-confidential report of the Chairman of the Urgency Panel relating to the outcome of the consultation and the IRMP Action Plan 2004/05 which the Panel had considered at its meeting on 15 March 2004.
- 1.3 Members were generally supportive of the proposals for road traffic collisions as detailed in the IRMP report and the overall implications of the other proposals, and debated the proposed deployment of only one fire engine to calls from Automatic Fire Detection Systems (AFDs) from Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and residential care premises. Members also discussed the proposals for amendments to the deployment of aerial appliances.
- 1.4 With the removal of national standards of fire cover taking place as part of the Government's modernisation agenda, Members supported proposals for the Fire Authority to continue to use the minimum standards of fire cover as laid down in the 1985 Standards of Fire Cover, with the exception of calls to automatic fire alarms in previously designated 'B' risk areas, until such time as an alternative is adopted by the Authority.
- 1.5 Members resolved to accept the proposals as detailed in the IRMP report and as amended at the meeting. (Appendix A).
- 1.6 Members noted that the IRMP was a living document which would evolve and change over time as risk assessments were carried out. Members also praised the staff who had been responsible for producing the IRMP documents and recorded their thanks to the FBU for their help and support.

2. FIRE SERVICE PAY AND CONDITIONS AGREEMENT – VERIFICATION WORK BY AUDIT COMMISSION

- 2.1 The Fire Authority considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive on the outcome of the Audit Commission's verification work on the Fire Service Pay and Conditions Agreement. The Agreement had set out a five stage pay award over the period 2002 to 2006 and a number of conditions had been placed on the Agreement which included 'the pay award at Stages 2 and 3 ... being subject to verification by the Audit Commission ...'.
- 2.2 The Commission had carried out a study under Section 33 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 to provide this verification and this was considered by the Way Forward Working Group and Urgency Panel on 15 March 2004.

- 2.3 Members discussed the report which had concluded that ESFRS had only made 'some progress' and were advised that this was in the middle of the range of outcomes from the study. Members were concerned that one of the outcomes of the report failed to make adequate provision for progress previously made by ESFRS prior to the Audit Commission's review period due to the national terms of reference.
- 2.4 The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive had met with the Auditors and agreed some amendments to the report and the Auditor assured Members that ESFRS had not been penalised overall. The report served two purposes:- to identify the progress made by the Service at January 2004 and to identify further steps to be taken and the Auditor informed Members that he would take the broader view back to the Audit Commission.
- 2.5 It was also noted that officers would be obtaining reports from other Fire & Rescue Services in the South East in order to share 'Best Practise'.

COUNCILLOR MIKE MURPHY
CHAIRMAN OF EAST SUSSEX FIRE AUTHORITY
24 March 2004

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Appendix A

The following table indicates, in the left hand column, the original policies proposed in the consultation document titled ‘East Sussex Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Annual Plan 2004/05 – A Consultation Document’.

The policies in the right hand column are those that were agreed at the meeting of the Fire Authority on 23rd March 2004. Where there are any differences, these are indicated by italics in the right hand column.

Original Proposals	<u>Agreed Policy Changes</u>
Proposal for responding to AFDs	Proposal for responding to AFDs
Reduce the pre-determined attendance (PDA) from the existing arrangements, to a maximum of one appliance for all AFD calls that are not immediately confirmed as actual fires.	Reduce the pre-determined attendance (PDA) from the existing arrangements, to a one appliance response for all AFD calls that are not immediately confirmed as actual fires.
AFD calls originating from houses of multiple occupation or domestic premises will receive an attendance of 2 pumping appliances.	AFD calls originating from domestic premises, houses of multiple occupation <i>and residential care homes</i> will receive an attendance of 2 pumping appliances.
Note that additional resources will be deployed by Mobilising and Communication Centre (M&CC) staff if further information was received that deemed such action was necessary.	Additional resources will be deployed by M&CC staff if further information is received that deemed such action was necessary.
	<i>A programme of risk assessments to see whether these pre-determined attendances need to be increased, decreased or remain the same will continue.</i>
Proposal for RTCs	Proposal for RTCs
East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service will strive to ensure that the initial attendance to 50% of all RTCs arrives within 8 minutes of being mobilised and 90% within 13 minutes.	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service will strive to ensure that the initial attendance to 50% of all RTCs arrives within 8 minutes of being mobilised and 90% within 13 minutes.

Proposals for Aerial Appliances	Proposals for Aerial Appliances
<p>Only send an aerial appliance to incidents on request from the fire ground / incident scene, once it has been established that there is an actual requirement or if M&CC receive additional information from the caller that indicates the need for an aerial appliance to be mobilised.</p>	<p><i>Between 0600 and 2100 Aerial Appliances will not be sent as part of the PDA to buildings but will be sent if requested from the incident ground – they may also be mobilised at the discretion of M&CC staff on receipt of relevant information from the caller. All aerial appliance crews will therefore be performing community safety duties during the dayshift and the early part of the nightshift.</i></p>
	<p><i>During the nightshift, from 2100 until 0600 the aerial appliances at Hastings, Eastbourne and Brighton will automatically attend incidents that currently attract an aerial appliance as part of the PDA with the Brighton appliance covering the whole city area of Brighton & Hove.</i></p>
	<p><i>This policy will be subject to review following individual risk assessments and if a particular building is found to require an aerial on every attendance, whatever the time of day, then the PDA will be amended accordingly.</i></p>
<p>Keep the current arrangements of primary crewing at Brighton (Preston Circus), Hastings and Eastbourne and re-deploy the current dedicated aerial appliance crews at Hove to other duties including community safety activities. Retain the vehicle at Hove, which will be available if specifically required by recalling the crew from their community safety duties. The aerial appliance at Brighton (Preston Circus) will provide cover for the City and further afield as required.</p>	<p>Keep the current arrangements of primary crewing at Brighton (Preston Circus), Hastings and Eastbourne and re-deploy the current dedicated aerial appliance crews at Hove to other duties including community safety activities. Retain the vehicle at Hove, which will be available if specifically required by recalling the crew from their community safety duties. The aerial appliance at Brighton (Preston Circus) will provide cover for the City and further afield as required.</p>

'Related Issues'	The following matters, listed as 'Related Issues' will be considered and actioned by Officers of the Authority, with appropriate reporting and updating processes for Members.
Define 'core' or essential stations (and/or locations) to improve availability of vehicles and crews, especially during daytime	Define 'core' or essential stations (and/or locations) to improve availability of vehicles and crews, especially during daytime
Consider the benefits that may arise from providing Automatic Electronic Defibrillators on some Fire & Rescue vehicles and training selected crews in dealing with cardiac arrest	Consider the benefits that may arise from providing Automatic Electronic Defibrillators on some Fire & Rescue vehicles and training selected crews in dealing with cardiac arrest
Enable outposting between all shift, day-crewed and retained Fire Stations and personnel	Enable outposting between all shift, day-crewed and retained Fire Stations and personnel
Agree system for recognising and using personnel willing to undertake pre-arranged overtime	Agree system for recognising and using personnel willing to undertake pre-arranged overtime
Ensure widest appropriate pool of personnel are trained to operate 'special' appliances	Ensure widest appropriate pool of personnel are trained to operate 'special' appliances