



MINUTES

LONDON FIRE & EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY

DATE	Thursday 22 June 2017	TIME	2.00 pm
VENUE	City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2ALL		

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority held in City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2ALL, on Thursday 22 June 2017

Present:

Dr Fiona Twycross AM (Chair)	Unmesh Desai AM	David Kurten AM
Councillor Tony Arbour JP, AM	Andrew Dismore AM	Councillor Oonagh Moulton
Gareth Bacon AM	Councillor Susan Hall	Councillor Caroline Russell AM
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Sarah Hayward	Councillor Martin Whelton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Leonie Cooper AM	Councillor Jack Hopkins	Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs

The Chair asked everyone present to stand in silence for one minute in memory of the victims of the Grenfell Tower fire and the recent attacks in London.

GRENFELL TOWER FIRE

At the invitation of the Chair, the Commissioner made a short statement updating the Authority on the fire at Grenfell Tower. She expressed her sympathy for the victims of the fire and paid tribute to the bravery and professionalism of the firefighters.

The Chair then made a statement and extended the thoughts of the Authority to the community, victims, and the bereaved and with those who had lost their homes. She paid tribute to the leadership of the Commissioner and her senior team and how the Authority could be proud of all the firefighters and LFB staff involved. The Chair drew attention to the legal advice received by Members guarding against raising issues that might prejudice any outcome of the investigation, inquest or inquiry. However, she felt it would be useful for the Authority to establish a working group to consider issues that could be fed into the Mayor's forthcoming London Plan consultation.

Gareth Bacon AM spoke and also paid tribute to the work of the firefighters, the leadership of the Commissioner and her team.

The Chair invited Paul Embery, FBU, to say a few words. He acknowledged what had been said and spoke of the impact the incident had had on the firefighters involved. He also stated he was glad that the work of the Control Room staff had been acknowledged.

Resolved - that the Authority place on record its thanks to the Commissioner and all the firefighters and LFB staff involved in the incident, the actions of whom had saved lives. The Authority also recorded its thanks to the other brigades who supported the rescues and

recovery, notably Kent and Surrey, and to neighbouring brigades whose mutual aid agreements supported LFB in tackling the fire.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mehboob Khan and Councillor Emma Dent Coad MP.

2. Minutes

The motion was made by the Chair – that the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 20 April 2017 be signed as a correct record.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton, put and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chair.

3. Minutes of Appointments and Urgency Committee

The motion was made by the Chair – that the minutes of the Appointments and Urgency Committee meeting held on 30 March 2017 be signed as a correct record.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton put and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

The minutes were thereupon signed by the Chair.

4. Special Announcements by the Chair and reports by the Chair or the Clerk to the Authority of any Communications

The Chair congratulated Cllr Emma Dent Coad on her election as MP for the constituency of Kensington and stated that, as a consequence, Cllr Dent Coad had, today, resigned from LFEPA. The Chair undertook to write on behalf of the Authority to Emma Dent Coad MP in respect of the challenges she was immediately facing, as MP for the area, in dealing with the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire.

The Chair congratulated Cllr Susan Hall on her appointment as a Member of the London Assembly.

The Chair announced that at a meeting of the Authority's Appointments and Urgency Committee on 14 June 2017, Dany Cotton had been appointed permanently to the post of Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade.

The Chair also congratulated Watch Manager Michael Nicholas on being awarded a MBE for services to the fire and rescue services and the BME community in London and Malcolm Stanton (Acting Head of Protective Equipment Group) on being awarded a MBE for services to the safety of firefighters and the protection of the public.

The Chair reported, that on Monday 17 April, the Brigade were called by the police to an incident where chemicals that had been thrown at people within a nightclub in Warburton Road, Hackney. Two fire engines, a hazardous materials specialist officer and the Rapid Response Team, who specialise in CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) incidents, were immediately mobilised, along with four other specialist appliances. On arrival, it was clear that a number of casualties were on the floor being treated by the London Ambulance Service (LAS) using burns packs. Crews were informed by the police that there had been a deliberate release of an unknown chemical within the night club located at basement level. As well as assisting LAS crews in administering first aid, the Rapid Response Team were deployed and used Detection, Identification and Monitoring equipment to ensure that there were no further elevated readings of chemical substances. A total of 12 people were injured at this incident and over 600 evacuated.

The Chair reported that, on Saturday 6 May, the Brigade received multiple calls to smoke issuing from the roof of a building in Long Acre, Covent Garden. Initially, two fire engines and a turntable ladder were mobilised. The fire was located in the roof cavity above the fourth floor. Access was particularly challenging due to the roof construction. A total of twelve fire engines plus specialist vehicles were used to deal with this incident. The shops below the fire were evacuated and the police were needed to deal with the crowds of people in the vicinity. Crews were at the scene for a total of 8 hours. No persons were injured at the incident.

The Chair reported that, on Sunday 21 May, whilst travelling to Uckfield, East Sussex, the Commissioner came across a road traffic collision that had taken place around 20 seconds beforehand. A car had pulled out into the path of a motorcyclist. The Commissioner was first on the scene; she parked her car in a position to protect the motorcyclist, ensured an ambulance had been called and rendered first aid. The motorcyclist was a Bulgarian man who had severe leg injuries; he was in significant pain and had signs of severe shock. The man remained conscious throughout and as well as reassuring him until the ambulance arrived, the Commissioner contacted his girlfriend who lived nearby. The Commissioner remained in attendance, assisting paramedics until the man was removed to hospital. He underwent seven hours of surgery on his leg and has since contacted the Commissioner to thank her for what she did.

The Chair reported that on Saturday 3 June, just after 10pm, the Brigade started receiving calls to a van in collision with pedestrians on London Bridge. She stated that it was now known that this was a terrorist attack in which seven people died and many sustained serious injuries. Within minutes of the first calls, the Duty Inter Agency Liaison Officer and Brigade Control officers were communicating with police to establish and confirm details, and coordinate a rapid and safe response. The Brigade sent specialist resources to an RVP, and then to a forward command point to assist LAS with casualty treatment and undertake specific tasks to assist the multi agency response. LFB crews assisted with casualty treatment around London Bridge and Borough High Street, ensured properties in the area were safe from fire as many had left cooking unattended when they evacuated, and assisted the police with making vehicles and the scene safe. At the height of the incident, and in addition to the specially trained officers attending, six fire engines, a command unit and 30 firefighters were positioned in a safe area to assist with evacuation and undertake first aid. On behalf of the Authority, the Chair thanked all those involved for their work.

The Chair reported that on Monday 19 June just after 02.00, the Brigade was called to Seven Sisters Road in Finsbury Park following reports of a vehicle in deliberate collision with pedestrians. Specially trained firefighters and officers supported colleagues from the Metropolitan Police and London Ambulance Service in treating casualties and making the scene safe following this terrorist related incident. On behalf of the Authority, the Chair thanked all those involved for their work.

5. **Disclosures of Interests and Dispensations**

Resolved – That the details of membership of the GLA, other functional bodies and London Boroughs, as attached as an appendix to the agenda, be noted. No further disclosures were made.

6. **Authority - Summary List of Actions**

It was noted that there were no outstanding actions arising from previous meetings of the Authority.

7. **Mayor Budget Guidance - FEP 2733**

Report by the Director of Finance and Contractual Services, which had been circulated under cover of Supplementary Agenda No.1.

Andrew Dismore AM suggested that, if as a result of recent events, it was found that additional resources were needed for the Fire Brigade, there should be the opportunity for the Authority to submit a funding request to the Mayor.

The Chair moved that the report be noted.

The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair, put and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

8. **Response to Consultation on the Ultra Low Emission Zone - FEP 2734**

Report by Director of Finance and Contractual Services, which had been circulated under cover of Supplementary Agenda No.2.

Discussion took place over two opposing views from Members, one supporting the proposal to introduce the ULEZ early in central London on 8 April 2019 and the other making a case for a twelve month dispensation for the London Fire Brigade (LFB) fleet in order to reduce the cost to the Fire Brigade of modifying its non-compliant vehicles.

Gareth Bacon AM proposed a motion which sought to request a one year dispensation for LFB non-compliant vehicles. The motion was seconded by Tony Arbour AM, put and, upon a vote being taken, was declared lost (by 5 votes for and 9 against) .

The Chair then moved the motion – That the Authority:

Notes the report and authorises officers to draft a response to the consultation saying that it supports ULEZ but will work with Transport for London to identify precisely how it will comply with the earlier implementation and a full update, including the financial implications for the Authority, will be provided at a later date.

The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair, put and, upon a vote being taken, agreed (by 9 votes for and none against).

Resolved – accordingly.

9. LFB Enterprises Ltd (LFB e) - FEP 2735

Report by Director of Finance and Contractual Services.

The Chair moved the motion – That the Authority:

- (a) Receives Mayoral direction (MD2130) (attached as Appendix 1 to the report) revoking the direction given under MD1517, so as to enable LFB e and the Authority to consider ethical trading issues within Mayoral policy;
- (b) Notes that the LFB e business plan will be submitted to September's Authority meeting;
- (c) Approves the amendment of LFB e's Articles of Association to enable a non-executive director, who is not an employee of the Authority, to chair the LFB e board; and
- (d) Notes the progress in appointing such a chair and approves the extension of the indemnity and insurance arrangements, currently offered to existing directors, to such director and any directors subsequently appointed.

The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair, put and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

10. Appointment of Independent Person - Extension - FEP 2736

Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Chair moved that the Authority:

Agrees to extend the appointment of Suzanne McCarthy and Anthony Moss, as the Authority's Independent Persons under Section 28(7) of the Localism Act 2011, until 31 March 2018.

The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair, moved and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

11. LFEPA Local Pension Board - FEP 2737

Report by the Clerk to the Authority.

The Chair moved that the Authority:

Suspends paragraph 2.4 of the terms of reference for the LFEPA Local Pension Board and agree that the employer's side continue to chair the Board until the expected abolition of LFEPA in 2018.

The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair, put and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

12. Draft Programme of Authority and Committee Meetings October 2017 - March 2018 - FEP 2738

Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

The Chair moved that the Authority:

Agrees the draft programme of Authority and Committee meetings for the period October 2017 until end of March 2018 (as set out in Appendix 1 of the report).

The motion was seconded by the Vice Chair, put and agreed.

Resolved – accordingly.

13. Questions from Members (in accordance with Standing Order 20) – 22 June 2017 – FEP 2739

Questions from Members for the meeting on 22 June 2017, published in the order received in accordance with standing Order 20, are set out below with supplementary questions and the Chair's/Commissioner's replies:

Questions received:

Question 478	From Andrew Dismore AM
What discussions have senior officers had with TfL, RMT and TSSA, over safety and below minimum staffing levels at TfL tube stations, given LFB's enforcement responsibilities under the 2005 and 2009 Regulations?	
Commissioner's written response Article 10(2) of The Fire Precautions (Sub-surface Railway Stations) (England) Regulations 2009 states: 'The periods of duty of members of staff must be so arranged as to secure that not less than two of them are present on duty in the premises at all times when members of the public have access to the premises'. An exemption can be given on this Article where a fire and rescue authority is satisfied	

in respect of any particular station premises that compliance is inappropriate, unnecessary or not reasonably practicable.
LFB officers are in regular communication with TfL with regard to fire safety matters. Officers have not had discussions with TfL about staffing below minimum staffing levels and consequently officers of the LFB have not discussed this with staff side representatives such as RMT or TSSA direct.

Andrew Dismore AM : Thank you for the answer. I've met the unions myself actually and I think it would be helpful if officers at the relevant level and job description would meet the unions to discuss one or two of the concerns they have.

Commissioner: Agreed.

Question 479 | **From Unmesh Desai AM**

In light of the Westminster and London Bridge attacks, what lessons can we learn about collaborating with the Police and Ambulance Service?

Commissioner's written response: LFB has worked inclusively with colleagues in MPS (firearms and counter terrorism command) and LAS for many years, jointly planning and training to ensure a co-ordinated multi-agency response to terrorist attacks. Some of this collaboration has been unique, and is considered best practice across the UK and overseas.

For every incident such as the Westminster and London Bridge attacks, emergency services undertake internal as well as multi agency debriefs to consider operational, tactical and strategic command and actions. The debriefs for the Westminster incident were completed prior to the London Bridge attack on 3rd June. Immediate learning from Westminster was considered, and some operational procedures had already been amended prior to the London Bridge attack to improve multi agency co-ordination and response.

The multi-agency response on 3rd June to London Bridge and Borough Market saw a dynamic, cohesive and effective response by London's emergency services. Years of joint planning and training paid dividends, as well rehearsed mobilisation and response protocols were implemented without any undue delay. The response to RVPs and Forward Command Points (FCP) close to the attack scene ensured that emergency response was co-ordinated, rapid and undoubtedly saved many lives.

As with the Westminster incident, further internal and multi-agency debriefs will be undertaken for the London Bridge incident. Again, learning will be reviewed, and changes made if necessary to further amend response and operating models. The collaboration agenda across London's emergency services is progressing well, and opportunities for collaboration are being actively pursued.

Chair: Unmesh Desai AM was very apologetic for missing the meeting. He has agreed with officers that they would do some follow up on this as required.

Question 480 | **From Léonie Cooper AM**

Has there been any progress on making dealing with flooding a statutory responsibility? If yes, has this included discussion of additional resources, especially equipment and training? Or should the LFB be able to re-charge water companies?

Commissioner's written response: The Scottish and Welsh fire and rescue services have a statutory responsibility for flooding but the English fire and rescue service does

not. There are currently no plans within Government to amend this.

The LFB are committed to improving water and flooding safety for the public and are currently examining initiatives that will educate the public on the dangers. We are also working to increase our capacity and capabilities to respond to local and regional flooding events. Work is already underway with water authorities and other partners to improve the advice given to businesses and communities to help mitigate the effects of flooding. In addition to our prevention activities, the LFB aim to procure 1 km of reusable flood barriers that can be set up by firefighters to protect critical infrastructure and other vulnerable premises .

The LFB are also looking to increase the general flood capability of front line appliances with the provision of an ejector pump placed onto every fire appliance. As this pump has no working parts it does not create any additional hazards such as carbon monoxide during pumping operations, therefore providing a safer system of work for both firefighters and the public than conventional pumps.

The LFB are already actively engaged in a national response capability and it is our intention to take a greater lead by declaring an additional four type B flood rescue teams (5 people per team, taken from the water rescue stations on a recall basis) on the national assist register. These teams will be available for both a London and national response when required, with the provision of additional supporting boats and equipment.

Additionally, the LFB aims to increase the number of national flood Subject Matter Experts by 9 to 12. This will provide better resilience within London and also will allow London to assist other FRS in flooding incidents. We are also intending to increase our resilience with the provision of up to 120 personnel over the four watches being available for recall. This will require ongoing discussion with the Fire Brigades Union once the parameters of these requirements have been agreed. In doing so it will be necessary to increase the number of flood suits from 120 to 250 and this will allow firefighters to work in flooded waters safely rather than wearing their standard firefighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The LFB intends to explore whether we can assist the community during the recovery phase of a flood, whether fluvial, pluvial or due to a ruptured main. We intend to engage with insurance companies as part of this work but acknowledge this may pose a challenge due to the range of insurance companies that may be involved within a large scale flood zone.

The LFB continues to consider the appropriateness of the charging of Water Authorities during the response and recovery phase of incidents and that work will continue as part of the wider work outlined above.

Léonie CooperAM

Thanks very much for the reply, that's really interesting to see the range of different new pieces of equipment either under purchase or being looked into. Given that we started the meeting where we did and just referred again to London Bridge and Borough, the calls on the Fire Brigade to attend on a very wide range of incidents has unfortunately been growing in recent months. So I do still wonder whether looking at some form of statutory responsibility might be something that we should consider as an Authority, going forward. Chair, there were a number of other issues that came up with Thames Water – they have come twice now to the London Assembly's Environment Committee since the beginning of this year – there is quite a long list of issues I think where there is cross over between Thames Water and the Fire Brigade. I

don't think we can lose those in the wider context and I wonder, Chair, whether that is something we could consider, perhaps through one of our committees; to look at making sure we are able to give that response?

Chair: I think we can look at it through one of the committees. I'm actually on record as being in favour of the statutory duty on flooding, simply because it clarifies the role we already undertake. However, I think that officers in the past have veered away slightly from pushing for that position so I think it would be important for us to have a proper discussion and think through all the implications for the Authority taking that view, but would that be Strategy Committee or Resources Committee? We'll look at which one would be most appropriate and try and get it on the agenda for a meeting sometime in the Autumn.

Léonie Cooper AM: I think that would be really welcome because, whilst – obviously Grenfell Tower is quite an iconic and dramatic thing to look at - if you talk to any of the people affected by the flooding, and we had a group of the people from the different scrutiny investigations in Lambeth, Lewisham, Hackney and Islington talking about the impact on people,- and the growth of basement accommodation across London there are some issues here that we do need to grapple with. So that is very welcome Chair, thank you.

14. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.07 pm

Signed By:

Chair

Peter Goss, Ground Floor, 169 Union Street, London, SE1 OLL; telephone: 020 8555 1200 ext 30084; e-mail: peter.goss@london-fire.gov.uk
Clerk to LONDON FIRE & EMERGENCY PLANNING AUTHORITY