

NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD

MINUTES OF A MEETING

7 JULY 2006

2.00 PM

PRESENT: Mr W F Gillespie, Chairman presiding
Mr C Lammey, Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive
Mrs B Gilliland
Mrs P Tally
Mr J Beattie
Mr P Bradley
Mr K Harper
Mr D McKay
Mr J McKeever
Mr R Pollock

APOLOGIES: Mr J Campbell
Mr G A Hatch

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr L Jones, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Mr P Craig, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Community Development)
Ms A Conley, Director of Human Resources
Dr D Michail, Director of Planning & Corporate Affairs
Mrs I Hill, Board Administrative Secretary

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Meeting of the new Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Board. He explained that the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland had ceased on 30 June 2006 and the NIFRS Board was a new statutory body established by the Fire & Rescue Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006. He informed the Members that the Fire Authority had left NIFRS in good shape and the Board was taking over a very fine Service.

The Chairman also informed Members that a Press Release would be issued by the Department with respect to the Members of the new Board.

At this point, Mr McKay
entered the Meeting

The Chairman led the formal introductions.

2 Adoption of existing Fire Authority for Northern Ireland Policies and Protocols

Members noted a list of Policies which had been in place under the Fire Authority, on the motion of Mr Harper, seconded by Mrs Gilliland, unanimously –

Resolved: “to adopt the Policies, as an interim measure, to enable NIFRS to continue with its routine business”.

The Chairman explained that the Board would have adequate opportunity to review, amend and update the Policies if required in the future.

3 Induction Programme

A copy of the Induction Programme was circulated for the information of Members. The Chairman requested that each Member arrange to meet with him during July and August. He also requested that new Members arrange to meet with each of the Principal Officers and Directors. He explained that this was optional for former Members of the Fire Authority.

The Chairman informed Members that an Away Day was also being arranged as part of the Induction Programme.

Referring to the Declarations of Interest, the Chairman requested that the forms be returned as quickly as possible.

He advised the Board that all Members would be required to attend an ‘On Board’ course. He explained that the Department would be organising a course specifically for NIFRS Board Members and undertook to keep Members informed.

4 Appointment of Temporary Discipline Committee

The Chief Fire Officer explained to Members that as there were a number of cases outstanding under the old Fire Service (Discipline) Regulations Northern Ireland 1985, it was necessary to establish a temporary Discipline Committee.

Members unanimously agreed that the Chief Fire Officer, Chairman and Director of Human Resources establish a temporary Discipline Committee. Mr Bradley, former Chairman of the Fire Authority’s Discipline Committee, agreed to Chair the temporary Committee.

5 Fire & Rescue Services (Emergencies) (NI) Order 2006

The Chairman informed Members that the Department would be issuing a copy of the consultation document pertaining to the Fire & Rescue Services (Emergencies) (NI) Order 2006 to Members directly.

The Chief Fire Officer outlined the background pertaining to the consultation exercise and explained that NIFRS had worked closely with Department officials in respect of the matter. Members noted that the Chief Fire Officer would be preparing a response on behalf of NIFRS which he would circulate to Members.

The Chairman stated that the Board would be expected to respond to the consultation document and added that Members had also the opportunity to make a response individually.

6 Chairman's Business

General

Copies of the Guidance on Acceptance of Gifts, Hospitality, etc, were circulated for the information of Members.

Referring to Standing Orders, the Chairman explained that these had not been circulated as the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland's Standing Orders were inappropriate for the new NIFRS Board. He informed Members that new draft Standing Orders were being prepared for discussion at the Away Day. He also explained that the Scheme of Delegation was being revised and that both documents would be on the Agenda for approval at the September Board Meeting.

Members noted that it was intended to continue convening Board Meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month and this was acceptable to Members.

Members also noted that the first formal business Meeting of NIFRS Board would be held on 26 September 2006.

Away Day

The Chairman gave Members a brief overview of the proposed dates and venues for the Board Away Day.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Away Day be held 8/9 September 2006 at the Comfort Hotel, Antrim.

Stop the Attacks Campaign

Assistant Chief Fire Officer Craig gave Members a brief overview of the new advertisements relating to attacks on Firefighters. He stated that the launch of the advertisements was imminent and informed Members that feedback regarding the planned advertisements had been positive.

7 **Dates for Next/Future Meetings**

It was noted that the next Meeting of the Board would be held on 26 September 2006.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
AND THE MEETING TERMINATED
AT 3.00 PM

ADOPTED: _____

CHAIRMAN AT MEETING OF
BOARD

CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF
EXECUTIVE

DATE: 26 September 2006