

SCOTTISH FIRE CONVENERNERS FORUM (SFCF)

MINUTES OF MEETING: THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2008: COSLA Offices

PRESENT:	Michael Bridgman (<i>Chair</i>)	Lothian & Borders
	George Kay	Fife
	Ken Lyall	TaysideFRS
	Ian Blake	Dumfries & Galloway
	Mike Raeburn	Grampian
	Andrew Drever	Highland & Islands
	Brian Wallace	Strathclyde
	Craig Martin	Central Scotland
	Lynne Dickson	Secretariat
IN ATTENDANCE (ITEM 5 ONWARDS)	Stephen Hunter	Tayside FRS
	Jimmy Campbell	Fife FRS
	David Wynne	Dumfries & Galloway
	David Millar	Lothian & Borders FRS
	Brian Sweeney	Strathclyde FRS
	Brian Murray	Highland & Islands FRS
	David Dalziel	Grampian FRS

1. **Election of Chair**
Councillor Mike Bridgman was elected Chair.
2. **Election of Vice Chair**
It was agreed that there would be 2 Vice Chairs. Councillors Brian Wallace and Richard Durham were elected.
3. **Constitution**
A number of amendments to the draft Constitution were discussed and agreed.
4. **General Business**
 - 4.1 It was agreed that it would be useful if Forum representatives attended a future meeting of the Police Authorities Conveners Forum to consider whether any aspects of their operation could be usefully adopted by the SFCF.
 - 4.2 It was agreed that "Relationship with the FBU" would form an agenda item for the next meeting.
 - 4.3 Options for a SCFC logo would be presented at the next meeting.
 - 4.4 Letters from the Chair would be issued to key stakeholders advising that the Forum had been constituted.

- 4.5 The Secretary reported that a COSLA delegation was meeting the Minister for Community Safety on 29 October and asked that a Fire Convener be present. Neither the Chair nor Vice Chairs were available and it was agreed that Councillor Raeburn attend on behalf of the SFCF and report back.
5. **Agenda Items**
Chief Fire Officers joined the meeting for the following agenda items
- 5.1 *Fire Capital Grant*
CFO Stephen Hunter presented the paper. The meeting agreed the continued commitment to ring fencing of capital funding to allow long term planning and funding of major projects. It was agreed that we should protect already agreed top sliced projects and formula in the short term but that the responsibility for developing an acceptable alternative approach for future years should be determined by the SFCF. It was confirmed that this work could be completed over the next 4/5 months. It was also agreed that the Forum should take the responsibility for agreeing the mechanism to deliver strategic national projects. This was a clear opportunity for the Service to demonstrate its maturity in the funding debate.
- 5.2 *Revised Fire framework*
David Dalziel presented this paper. Issues were raised around the legitimacy of a prescriptive Fire Framework document including powers of ministerial intervention. There was still a need for clarity around roles/ responsibilities and establishing government expectations but the focus needed to be on a high level MOU reflecting the principles of the Concordat. David Dalziel and Lynne Dickson would draft a paper to feed into discussions with COSLA and Government.
- 5.3 *Additional Government support for Police and Fire pensions*
Brian Sweeney presented the paper on allocation of additional monies to meet significant increases in pension costs. Clarification would need to be sought from COSLA on the distribution of the £20 million local government monies. However an illustrated example of distribution of the additional government resources was attached to the report and would be subject to detailed discussion with the CFOAS Finance Business Stream on the 27 October. It was agreed that the outcome of the CFOAS deliberations would be communicated to Conveners for their endorsement.
6. **Date of next meeting**
It was agreed that meetings would be held in advance of the COSLA Community Safety Executive Group and would be hosted in turn by FRAs. The Secretary would seek to agree dates and venues.
7. **AOCB**
The issues around a Resilience Strategy would be raised at the Ministerial meeting and David Wynne would provide a brief for use by the SFCF rep.