

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
Strategy and Resources Committee  
held in the Oak Room at Headquarters, Shrewsbury  
on Thursday, 18 September 2014 at 2.00 pm**

## **Present**

### **Members**

Councillors Mrs Barrow, Carter (Chair), Hartin, Miss Reynolds, Thompson and West

### **Officers**

Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Head of Operations, Head of Finance, Planning and Performance Manager, Treasurer and Executive Support Officer

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Minnery had emailed to give his apologies for absence just prior to the meeting but the message had not been read until after the meeting.

The Corporate Support Manager had given her apologies for the meeting.

## **2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

The Chair reminded Members that they must not participate in the discussion of, or voting on, any matter, in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

No Disclosable Pecuniary Interests were declared.

## **3 Minutes**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Barrow, seconded by Councillor West and

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 19 June 2014, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record

## **4 Public Questions**

No questions, statements or petitions had been received, from members of the public.

## 5 Committee Constitution and Training

This report brought the latest version of the Committee's constitution to the notice of its Members. It also asked Members to consider what training, if any, they wish to receive in order for them to fulfil their role on the Committee.

Councillor West asked that, where possible, any training provided be linked into training provision from Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) explained that there was an exercise ongoing to assess Member training needs, the responses to which were being collated. Once this has been done, the Corporate Support Manager, would liaise with the constituent authorities regarding the provision of training to Members.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Hartin and

**Resolved** that the Committee:

- a) Note the constitution of the Strategy and Resources Committee (attached as an appendix to the report); and
- b) Agree that, at present, there was no training they wished to receive in order to fulfil their role on the Strategy and Resources Committee

## 6 Integrated Risk Management / 2020 Planning Process

This report informed Members of the outcomes from the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020 consultation process and sought decisions on which proposals should be included in the Fire Authority's final IRMP 2015-20 Plan, to be published in April 2015.

The Chair thanked the Chief Fire Officer (CFO) and the Head of Operations (HoO) for their work on the consultation process and commented that it had been a worthwhile and enjoyable process for Members.

The HoO informed Members that hard copies of the appendices to the report were available, if needed during the meeting. He also highlighted that undertaking the recommendations, as set out in Section 8 of the report, would enable the Service to achieve the budget reductions outlined in Section 9 of the report.

Councillor Hartin, as Chair of the Strategic Risk and Planning (StRaP) Working Group, then presented the report to the Committee and talked through each of the recommendations from StRaP, as set out in Section 8.

Councillor West commented that, from his perspective, he was pleased with all the recommendations that had gone through StRaP. The Authority was in a good position and, although it had avoided a kneejerk reaction, it should not become complacent. With regard to Fire Control, Councillor West commented that the areas of concern raised in the public consultation could be have been mitigated. He also commented that a merger with Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's (HWFRS) Fire Control may have meant a loss of control over the costs, especially as it was highly likely that HWFRS would merge their control room with West Mercia Police.

Councillor West further commented that he believed that Fire Control would change in the future and that the Service, through the proposed recommendations, would have control over how this happened. He felt that the Service should continue to look at collaborative working with other fire and rescue services and agencies, rather than mergers, as the way forward.

Councillor Thompson commented that it was important to maintain the service to the public and to retain workers, who do a good job. He said that the recommended change to the risk classification for Prees was pleasing, as it reflected the increase in population that was occurring.

The Chair endorsed the comments already made, particularly with regard to Fire Control and the importance of working with them to expand their activities.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Hartin and

**Resolved** that the Committee:

- a) Consider the recommended 'Overarching Principles', which would be used to underpin the Fire Authority's IRMP 2020 Process;
- b) Note the consultation feedback received from Phase 3 of the IRMP 2020 Process; and
- c) Agree the recommendations from the Strategic Risk and Planning Working Group, contained in section 8 of the report, and in turn make recommendations accordingly to the Fire Authority

The recommendations at c) above, as set out at section 8 of the report, were proposed and seconded as follows:

**Recommendation 1**

Proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and resolved unanimously

**Recommendation 2**

Proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Carter and resolved unanimously

**Recommendation 3**

Proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and resolved unanimously

**Recommendation 4**

Proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor West and resolved unanimously

**Recommendations 5 to 16**

Proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Hartin and resolved unanimously

## **7 Use of General Fund Balance 2013/14**

This report set out proposals for the use of the General Fund balance following the 2013/14 financial year end.

The Head of Finance (HoF) explained that the Service Transformation Board (STB) had considered the use of the General Fund balance and had recommended the areas set out in the table at paragraph 4 of the report.

Councillor Thompson asked what plans were in place for the Stafford Park site. The CFO explained that initially work would focus on improving the general fabric of the building but that there were currently no plans for major development works at Telford. There was a comprehensive and useful training facility at Telford and any improvements to this would be considered through the Capital Programme.

The CFO further commented that the Service was aware that there was likely to be major demographic change and influx of industry into Telford, which would be monitored. This fluid situation was reflected in the Fire Cover Review and the Integrated Risk Management Plan for the Telford area.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and

**Resolved** that the Committee recommend that the Fire Authority approve:

- a) The proposed use for the General Fund balance following the 2013/14 financial year end; and
- b) The contribution of future savings to the Unearmarked Capital Reserve for major building works

## 8 Corporate Risk Management Summary

This was the latest of the regular risk summary reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee. The progress reported related to that achieved since the last Committee update in June 2014.

The Planning and Performance Manager (PPM) advised that a new risk, Risk ID 7 had been added to the Corporate Risk Register. Risk ID 7 related to the Fire Industries Association (FIA) challenge to Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services (SFRMS).

The CFO explained that the FIA, which is the overarching body for companies involved in fire-related work, had realised that some of the eleven fire and rescue service trading companies in the UK were using fire service branding to trade. The FIA considered this to be unfair competition and had lodged a formal objection with the European Commission (EC).

The EC had asked the UK Government to respond to the FIA's allegations and as part of this the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills had asked the Fire Authorities concerned, of which Shropshire and Wrekin were one, for their responses. The Fire Authority had responded and had also contributed to the Chief Fire Officers Association response to DCLG, on the issue.

Councillor West referred to Risk ID 4 – Failure of Primary Contractors / Suppliers and asked to which contracts this related. The PPM explained that it related to all of the main contracts that the Service had and that there was an ongoing review of this risk.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Barrow, seconded by Councillor West and

**Resolved** that the Committee note the contents of the report

## 9 Capital Update on Activity and Finance

This report provided an overview of all of the capital schemes within the Brigade and their current status.

It was noted that the second part of the appendix to this report would be considered in the closed session of the meeting (paper 11), as it was exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Barrow, seconded by Councillor West and

**Resolved** that the Committee note the progress so far on current schemes

## 10 Local Government Act 1972

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Hartin and

**Resolved** that, under the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded for the following agenda item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined by the provisions of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, by virtue of paragraph 3

## 11 Capital Update on Activity and Finance (Paragraph 3)

The Committee received the second part of the appendix to report 9 – Capital Update on Activity and Finance, which contained exempt information.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Barrow, seconded by Councillor Hartin and

**Resolved** that the Committee note the information contained in the appendix

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

These minutes were agreed by the Committee and signed as a correct record by the Committee Chair.

Chair.....

on:

Date.....