

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
Strategy and Resources Committee  
held in the Oak Room, Headquarters, Shrewsbury  
on Thursday, 16 March 2017 at 2.00 pm**

**Present**

**Members**

Councillors Carter, Hartin (Vice Chair), Roberts (Chair), Turley and Wynn

**Officers**

Rod Hammerton	Chief Fire Officer	CFO
Andy Johnson	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	DCFO
Louise McKenzie	Assistant Chief Fire Officer	ACFO
Ged Edwards	Planning, Performance and Communications Manager	PPCM
Germaine Worker	Head of Human Resources and Administration	HHRA
Lynn Ince	Executive Support Officer	ESO

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Councillors Sahota and West

**2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

None

**3 Public Questions**

None

**4 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 2 February 2017, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record

**5 Committee Work Plan 2017/18**

This report reviewed progress against the Strategy and Resources Committee 2016/17 Work Plan and put forward a 2017/18 Work Plan for consideration and approval by Members.

**Resolved** that the Committee

- a) Note progress made against the Strategy and Resources Committee 2016/17 Work Plan; and
- b) Approve the Work Plan for 2017/18, attached as an appendix to the report, without amendment.

## **6 Committee Terms of Reference**

This report proposed some minor amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Fire Authority, following the annual review conducted by officers.

A query was raised about the removal of 'risk' from the title of the Strategic Risk and Planning Working Group. The CFO explained that this was to reflect the move of the Working Group's remit from integrated risk management planning to strategic planning.

**Resolved** that the Committee, having considered the proposed amendment to its Terms of Reference, as set out at section 4 of the report, agree to recommend the changes to the Fire Authority.

### **Committee Clerk's Note**

After consideration of item 7 on this agenda, it was noted that there was a discrepancy in the title of the Working Group in the above item. The proposed title of the Group should read **Strategy and** Planning Working Group as set out in the Role Description at item 7c and this is the title that will be proposed to the Fire Authority for agreement.

## **7 Review of Member Role Descriptions**

This report asked Members to review the Role Descriptions for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee and for the Chair of the Strategic Planning Working Group.

**Resolved** that the Committee

- a) agree the proposed minor amendments to the Role Descriptions for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee, as attached at Appendices A and B to the report; and
- b) recommend that the Fire Authority agree the changes to the Role Description for the Chair of the Strategic Risk Working Group, as attached at Appendix C to the report.

## **8 Service Targets 2017/18**

This report presented the proposed Service targets for 2017/18.

The PPCM reported that there was a typo in the Appendix to the report where the first column should read 2016/17.

The DCFO provided the following background information and explanation with regard to the proposed 2017/18 targets.

- The injuries to staff through firefighting target has been pushed to failing by a single event involving several employees. It is possible that this target might be reaching a plateau and performance would typically need to be around 24 to reach target. The DCFO suggested that the target is just as likely to fail if set at 25 as if set at 24. Therefore, officer do not see any logic in not reducing the target as proposed. 24 injuries would be the natural figure keep on the proposed reduction by 2020 on track.
- The proposed new measure related to fire and heat damage in dwellings and businesses being confined to the room of origin has been set a target of 89%. This is the same target as the Response measure but there is no direct correlation between the two targets.
- The Response measure is a fixed target which will be maintained to 2020. The Service's aim is to at least attain this each year especially through the current austerity period.
- The aim for the Confined to room of origin measure is to keep the target high and possibly increase in the future. The Committee may wish to challenge and increase the target after the first year of performance reporting.

The CFO further explained that fires being confined to the room of origin has been a long standing measure internally but a lack of understanding and issues over the quality of measurement have caused issues. It is now recognised that this is a compound measure of overall response within the Service and an understanding of constituent effects on the measure may lead to change. The measure is not just related to Prevention activities but also takes into account changes in firefighting techniques, building regulations and furniture safety regulations amongst other things.

With regard to the fire related deaths and serious injuries measure, Members queried if the fatality rate was still in line to meet the set target. The DCFO confirmed that the Service should meet the target of 18 which is set for this year but there are very low figures involved which can mean that performance fluctuates easily.

Members then questioned if there was argument for splitting out the measure out into two separate targets. The DCFO confirmed that there used to be separate targets but these were amalgamated several years ago. The CFO explained that looking at aggregate performance over the five year period to 2020 gives a clearer indication of the aim for the measure.

Historically fire related deaths are generally in single figures with fire related injuries generally being in the range of 40 – 50+ and this figure has been coming down in line with the reduction in domestic fires.

The Committee raised the issue of further consideration being given to the targets being made lower but felt that this may need more understanding of the data for the 5 year period.

The DCFO explained that if driving lower numbers forward there is a need to identify what is effecting the performance against those measures. The logic behind the original 5 year plan is rooted in a 2014 setting when achieving a 25% reduction by 2020 would be considered a success. There is a danger of setting up to fail and consideration also needs to be given to whether the targets appear stretching enough when looking in from outside.

The CFO commented that this was a really good question. The 25% target felt very stretching at the time that it was set but there had been an immediate change once performance measuring began. It is entirely right for Committee to keep challenging targets and examining the rationale for them.

**Resolved** that the Committee agree the proposed Service targets for 2017/18 with the target for the injuries sustained to staff through firefighting being set at 24.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm

**Chair**.....

**Date**.....