

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Strategy and Resources Committee
held at Headquarters, Shrewsbury
on Thursday, 13 March 2014 at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Mrs Barrow, Hartin, Minnery (Chair), Miss Reynolds (from 2.10 pm), Thompson and West

Officers

Chief Fire Officer, Head of Finance, Corporate Support Manager and Planning and Performance Manager

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Carter, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Minnery, took the chair.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from the Chair, Councillor Carter.

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

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

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

3 Non-Exempt Minutes

Members received the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 6 February 2014.

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

Resolved that the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 6 February 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 Strategy and Resources Committee Work Plan 2014/15

Members received a report, which reviewed progress against the Strategy and Resources Committee 2013/14 Work Plan and put forward a 2014/15 Work Plan for consideration and approval by Members.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and

Resolved that the Committee:

- a) Note progress made against the Strategy and Resources Committee 2013/14 Work Plan; and
- b) Approve the Work Plan for 2014/15, attached as an appendix, without amendment

6 Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee

Members received a report, which presented the draft version of the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee, for consideration and approval by Members, prior to submission to the Fire Authority at its meeting in April.

It was proposed by the Chair, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and

Resolved that the Committee approve the draft version of the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee, without amendment

7 Public Value Performance Targets 2014/15

Members received a report, which presented the proposed Public Value performance targets for 2014/15.

The Planning and Performance Manager highlighted the two measures, which were unlikely to achieve target, namely: 1b – The first fire engine will arrive with a minimum competent crew on 100% of occasions; and 3b - Injuries sustained to staff through firefighting will be reduced to less than 24 injuries during 2013/14. The reason for non-achievement of 1b was that a number of medicals and fitness tests were out-of-date. The reason for non-achievement of 3b was set out in the appendix to the report.

Councillor Miss Reynolds arrived at this point (2.10 pm).

Councillor Hartin voiced concern that medicals for firefighters were out of date. The Chief Fire Officer replied that it was difficult to arrange timely medicals for firefighters, particularly in the retained duty system, in the windows provided by the Service's occupational health provider. The Chair asked whether, in light of this, it was necessary either to alter the target or bring forward the dates for medicals. The Chief Fire Officer replied that discussions were currently taking place with the provider to resolve this issue and also the method of producing the figures needed to be reviewed. He, therefore, felt that the target of 100% should be maintained.

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

Resolved that the Committee agree the proposed Public Value performance targets for 2014/15, set out in the report

8 Annual Treasury Report 2012/13

Members received a report, which outlined the Fire Authority's treasury activities for the year 2012/13.

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

Resolved that the Committee note:

- a) Performance against prudential indicators for 2012/13, and
- b) The annual review of treasury activities for 2012/13

9 Corporate Risk Management Summary

Members received a report, which was the latest of the regular risk summary reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee. The progress reported relates to that achieved since the last Committee update in November 2013.

Councillor West asked what the current position was relating to the European Working Time Directive "opt-out" (the first risk on the Register). The Chief Fire Officer replied that, as far as he was aware, there had been no recent developments: the matter was still being considered. Councillor West referred to the work done with both the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) to oppose its introduction in the Fire Service. He was concerned that, in the light of current talk of a 'new deal' between the UK Government and Europe, the Directive be kept to the fore. The Chief Fire Officer assured the Committee that the Service would continue to lobby both the LGA and CFOA on the issue.

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

Resolved that the Committee note the contents of the report

10 Capital Update on Activity and Finance

Members received a report, which 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 12), as it was exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Referring to the Light Vehicle Replacement Scheme (on page 2 of the appendix to the report), the Planning and Performance Manager advised that the Transformation Programme Board had now decided that vehicles should be replaced as and when required. The Head of Finance would consider the financial impact of this decision going forward.

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

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

11 Local Government Act 1972

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

Resolved that, under the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded for the following agenda items on the grounds that they 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

12 Capital Update on Activity and Finance (Paragraph 3)

Members received the second part of the Appendix to report 10 – Capital Update on Activity and Finance, which contained exempt information.

Members noted that a quote of £96,000 for the Appliance Bay Doors Scheme had now been received, whereas the provision agreed by the Fire Authority was only £70,000. The quote did, however, include additional work relating to the roof, insulation and lighting, which it made sense to have done at the same time.

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

Resolved that the Committee:

- a) Note the second part of the Appendix to report 10 – Capital Update on Activity and Finance; and
- b) Agree to recommend to the Fire Authority that the provision for the Appliance Bay Doors Scheme be increased from £70,000 to £96,000

13 Exempt Minutes (Paragraph 3)

Members received the exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 6 February 2014.

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

Resolved that the exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 6 February 2014, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....