

**Minutes of the Meeting of  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 28 April 2010  
at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury**

At 1.30 pm prior to commencement of the meeting the Head of Operations and Risk gave a presentation regarding incident command, entitled: 'How many officers does it take to put out a fire?' A questions and answers session followed.

## **Present**

### **Members**

Councillors Adams, Mrs Barrow, Groom, Hartin, Dr Jones, Kiernan, Mellings, Minnery (Vice-Chair), Picken, Price, West (Chair) and Williams

### **Officers**

Chief Fire Officer, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Corporate, Performance and Operations), Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Human Resources), Treasurer, Corporate Services Manager, Management Support Officer and Clerk

At the start of the meeting the Chair spoke about the two firefighters from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, who had tragically lost their lives in the course of duty. The Chair advised that he had written to Hampshire's Chief Fire Officer, John Bonney, to express the Fire Authority's condolences and he read out the response he had received.

Members and officers then stood and observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for, and in memory of, the two firefighters, Alan Bannon and James Shears.

## **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Davies, Mrs Greenaway, Mason and Roberts.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members that they should declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests at this point and that they should leave the meeting room before any item, in which they have a prejudicial interest, was discussed.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 10 February 2010.

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

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 10 February 2010, 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 Audit and Performance Management Committee

Members received the minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 18 February 2010, and considered the recommendation at item 11a, relating to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, a copy of which was attached to the minutes.

With reference to item 6 in the minutes the Treasurer confirmed that he had spoken to the Audit Commission and a rebate of £4,062 had been agreed for 2010/11. This would reduce the fee to £64,938, which was slightly less than that paid for 2009/10.

At item 11a of the minutes it was recorded that Members had asked for an additional paragraph to be included in the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy to make it clear that officers at any level in the Authority could be involved in fraud and corruption. Such a paragraph had been added and members of the Audit and Performance Management Committee confirmed that it met their requirements.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr Jones, seconded by Councillor Mellings, and

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 18 February 2010, be noted and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy be adopted

### 6 Standards Committee

Members receive the minutes of the Standards Committee meeting, held on 1 March 2010, and considered the recommendations at items 5, 6, 8 and 9, relating to the following documents (copies of which were attached to the minutes):

- The Standards Committee Terms of Reference
- The Role Descriptions for Standards Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Independent Member
- Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality
- Protocol on Member/ Officer Relations

Councillor Groom pointed out that in the Terms of Reference at page 5 there were two incorrect references to the 'Referrals Sub-Committee', which should be amended to 'Review Sub-Committee. He also felt that it should be stated that a Member, who had considered a case at the Referrals Sub-Committee could not participate in the Review Sub-Committee, which reviewed that case.

**Subject to incorporation of the amendments and addition referred to above,**

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

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting, held on 1 March 2010, be noted and the following be approved:

- Standards Committee Terms of Reference;
- Role Descriptions for Standards Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and Independent Member;
- Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality; and
- Protocol on Member/ Officer Relations

## **7 Strategy and Resources Committee**

### **7a Minutes**

Members received the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 4 March 2010.

Councillor Hartin asked if the wording on page 3 at section 9 paragraph 4 could be amended from 'taking into account the breakdown of the local community' to 'taking into account the make up of the local community', which better reflected what he had said.

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 4 March 2010, be noted

### **7b Annual Report**

This report advised of the work carried out by the Fire Authority's Strategy and Resources Committee during the municipal year 2009 / 2010.

**Resolved** that the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee be noted

## **8 Brigade Managers' Employment Panel**

Members received the non-exempt minutes of the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel, held on 29 March 2010.

**Resolved** that the non-exempt minutes of the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel, held on 29 March 2010, be noted

## 9 Annual Report of the Human Resources Committee

This report advised of the work carried out by the Fire Authority's Human Resources Committee during the municipal year 2008 / 2009.

**Resolved** that the Annual Report of the Human Resources Committee be noted

## 10 Fire Authority Work Plan

This report reviewed progress against the Fire Authority's 2009 / 2010 Work Plan and put forward a 2010 / 2011 Work Plan for consideration and approval by Members.

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

**Resolved** that Members:

- a) Note progress made against the Fire Authority 2009 / 2010 Work Plan (attached at Appendix A to the report); and
- b) Approve the 2010 / 2011 Work Plan (attached at Appendix B to the report)

## 11 Integrated Risk Management Plan Consultation Results

This report sought approval for the recommendations made by the Strategic Risk and Planning Members Working Group in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) proposals to be implemented. In addition, the report sought approval for responsibility for implementing the IRMP proposals to be delegated to the Strategic Risk and Planning Members Working Group.

Members agreed that it had been right to put IRMP implementation on hold until the additional comments had been considered, although those comments had not resulted in a change to the original decision.

It was proposed by Councillor Price, seconded by Councillor Dr Jones and

**Resolved** that the Fire Authority:

- a) Note that the Fire Authority's previous decisions, made on 16 December 2009, were revoked because the 'Staff Feedback Summary Report', considered by Members prior to that meeting, contained omissions that may have had an impact on that decision;
- b) Note the additional comments from Telford Central and Shrewsbury staff, received during the 'extended consultation' period;
- c) Approve the recommendations made by the Fire Authority's Strategic Risk and Planning Members' Working Group, as a result of all feedback obtained through the consultation process; and
- d) Delegate responsibility for implementing the IRMP proposals to the Strategic Risk and Planning Members Working Group

## 12 Implementing Public Value

This report was for information purposes and presented to Members a summary overview of the concept of 'Public Value', the proposed new approach to the strategic planning process. The process was currently being developed and implemented under the direction of the Fire Authority's Strategic Risk and Planning Group, formally known as the IRMP Working Group.

Councillor Groom voiced his concerns about adopting this approach and a wide-ranging discussion then ensued about what 'Public Value' was and its benefits. Some Members had already received a presentation on the concept and felt that it would be useful for the full Fire Authority to see it. It was, therefore, agreed that a presentation on Public Value take place at the June meeting of the Authority

**Resolved** that the Fire Authority note the contents of the report

## 13 Shrewsbury Headquarters and Fire Station Refurbishment – Appointment of Contractor

This report informed the Fire Authority of the appointment of the building contractor for the refurbishment of Shrewsbury Headquarters, Fire Station and Vehicle Workshops Building.

**Resolved** that the Fire Authority note the contents of the report

## 14 Update on Interim Mobilising System

At its meeting in December 2009 the Fire Authority had agreed to delegate responsibility to the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, in consultation with the Fire Authority's Chair and Vice-Chair, and, subject to no additional costs other than those outlined to Members being incurred, to replace the Service's current Command and Control system and data solution.

Discussions and contract negotiations were now at final stages and a contract would be formally awarded later that week. The Chief Fire Officer advised that, although the original intention had been to locate the interim fire control at Telford Central Fire Station, a recent review had shown that this **would** incur costs in addition to those previously outlined to Members. If, however, the interim fire control were to be located on the Shrewsbury site, the costs could be contained within the figures provided to Members. Officers had then worked out and agreed what changes needed to be made on the Shrewsbury site to ensure that the interim solution could be accommodated.

**Resolved** that the Fire Authority note this agenda information item

## 15 New Dimension Asset Transfer Update

As requested by Members, the Chief Fire Officer had written to Communities and Local Government (CLG), expressing the wishes of the Fire Authority to have an exit clause included within the contract for the transfer of New Dimension assets to the Fire Authority.

CLG had advised that they would be writing to each Authority, which had not signed the current contract with further information. To date, no such information had been received. The Chief Fire Officer reported that a large number of other fire authorities had not yet signed the transfer agreement and he undertook to keep Members informed of any developments.

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

**Resolved** that the Fire Authority maintain its position not to sign the transfer agreement unless Communities and Local Government agree to the inclusion of an exit clause

## **16 Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Report 2010 and Equality and Diversity Awards 2010**

In March 2010 Communities and Local Government had published the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Report 2010 and announced the winners and runners-up in the 2010 Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Award Scheme.

**Resolved** that pages 198 to 201 of the Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Report, which referred specifically to Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, be noted

## **17 Local Government Act 1972**

It was proposed by Councillor Minnery, seconded by Councillor Dr Jones and

**Resolved** that, under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined by the provisions of Part I of Schedule 12(A) to the Act, by virtue of Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4

## **18 Brigade Managers' Employment Panel**

Members received the exempt minutes of the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel, held on 29 March 2010.

**Resolved** that the exempt minutes of the Brigade Managers' Employment Panel, held on 29 March 2010, be noted

The meeting closed at 2.55 pm.

**Chair**.....

**Date**.....