

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

Meeting at The Shirehall, Shrewsbury, on Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 2.00 pm

Agenda

1 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence have been received from Councillors Mrs Greenaway, Dr Jones and Mellings who are undertaking their visit to Falck, Denmark, as part of the Leonardo programme, this week.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

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

3 **Non-Exempt Minutes**

Members are asked to agree the non-exempt minutes of the Fire Authority Annual Meeting, held on 16 July 2008, and that they be signed by the Chair as a correct record. Attached marked **3. For decision**

4 **Public Questions**

To receive any questions, statements or petitions, of which notice has been received, from members of the public.

5 **Review of Scheme of Delegation to Officers and of Standing Orders**

This report refers to the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and Standing Orders, which were agreed at, and stand adjourned from, the Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority. Attached marked **5. For information.**

6 **Audit and Performance Management Committee**

Members are asked to receive and note the minutes of the Audit and Performance Management Committee meeting, held on 11 September 2008. Attached marked **6. For information**

7 **Strategy and Resources Committee**

Members are asked to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 18 September 2008, attached marked **7**, and consider the **recommendations at items 8, 13 and 14**. The report relating to **item 8** is attached to the minutes as an appendix. **For decision**

8 West Midlands Regional Management Board

Members are asked to receive the minutes of the West Midlands Regional Management Board (WMRMB) meeting, held on 24 July 2008, and **agree the recommendations at items 15/08, 16/08 and 22/08**. Attached marked **8**.
For decision

The individual reports relating to all of the above recommendations can be found on the WMRMB website at:

<http://www.wmrmb.co.uk/about-wmrmb/meetings/public/2008-07-24-wmrmb.htm>

If you require a hard copy of any of these documents, please contact Lynn Ince, Management Support Officer, at Headquarters, on 01743 260225.

9 Financial Planning Strategy 2009/10

This report informs the Authority of the issues raised by the Strategy and Resources Committee in considering their recommendations for a budget strategy for 2009/10. Attached marked **9**. **For decision**

10 Minimum Revenue Provision 2007/08 and 2008/09

This report informs the Fire Authority of changes to the regulations governing the amount of revenue provision in respect of capital financing, and presents members with a Minimum Revenue Provision policy for 2007/08 and 2008/09. Attached marked **10**. **For decision**

11 Small Fires Unit / Limited Access Appliance

This report summarises the review of the requirement for a Small Fires Unit in the South Telford area, arising from the Integrated Risk Management Planning project. It also considers the difficult access issues in areas of Ironbridge and Broseley and the feasibility of combining the Small Fires Unit with a Limited Access Appliance and Landrover pump. Attached marked **11**.
For decision

12 Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Update

This report updates members on compliance with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, and outlines some of the activities that have been undertaken to reach the current position. Attached marked **12**. **For decision**

13 Equality Standard for Local Government

Members will be aware that Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority were assessed against Level 3 of the Equality Standard for Local Government during August 2008. We are pleased to confirm that the Authority has successfully achieved Level 3 and initial feedback indicates that the Authority is operating comfortably at that level. The feedback report has not yet been received, although it is due imminently. The report will be brought to Members' attention upon receipt and Members are asked to determine whether they wish the report to be placed before the Human Resources Committee or for it to come directly to the Fire Authority meeting in December 2008? **For decision**

14 Local Government Act 1972

To consider a resolution under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve 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 and on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of confidential information.

15 Exempt Minutes (Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Members are asked to agree the exempt minutes of the Fire Authority Annual Meeting, held on 16 July 2008, and that they be signed by the Chair as a correct record. Attached marked **15. For decision**

16 Audit Commission Performance Assessments 2007/08 (Confidential)

During September 2008 the Fire Authority was audited by representatives of the Audit Commission as part of the Fire and Rescue Service Performance Assessment 2007/08 process. The outcomes of the assessment will not be formally released until later this year, and as a consequence, any interim/informal feedback is subject to embargo restrictions at this time. The Chief Fire Officer will provide Members with a verbal summary of the audit process and, in his opinion, the key issues arising. **For information**

Please note that details of complaints made about, and compliments received by, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are available at every meeting of the Fire Authority for Members to peruse. Please ask Lynn Ince if you would like to look at them.

Compliments and thank you letters can also be viewed on the Service's website on the following link:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/engine.php/managing-the-service/compliments-and-thanks.htm>