

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

Meeting at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 10 February 2010

at Shropshire Education and Conference Centre, Shrewsbury

Please note the venue for this meeting, a map for which is attached.

Agenda

1 Apologies for Absence

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 room 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 meeting, held on 16 December 2009, and Fire Authority Extraordinary Meeting, held on 21 December 2009, and that each set be signed by the Chair as a correct record, attached marked **3a and 3b respectively**.

For decision

4 Public Questions

Members are asked to receive any questions, statements or petitions, of which notice has been received, from members of the public.

5 Human Resources Committee

Members are asked to receive the minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting, held on 14 January 2010, and **consider the recommendations at items 7 and 10**. Attached marked 5. **For decision**

A copy of the Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan (referred to at item 10) can be found at the following web link:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/engine/careers/equality-and-diversity/single-equality-scheme.htm>

6 Strategy and Resources Committee

Members are asked to receive the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 22 January 2010, and **consider the recommendations at items 5** (a copy of the relevant report is attached as an Appendix to the minutes). Attached marked 6. **For decision**

The recommendations at items 7 and 8 of the minutes are to be considered as part of item 7 on this agenda.

Please note that reports 7 and 8 should be considered together.

7 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Planning

This report incorporates the recommendations made by the Strategy and Resources Committee on 22 January 2010 for the Authority's 2010/11 budget, updates the figures for changes since then, and outlines the consequences for Medium Term Financial Planning, attached marked **7. For decision** Reports 7 and 8, considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee, are attached to the report at Appendix A and Appendix B respectively.

8 Revenue Budget: 2010/11 Precept

This report seeks Fire Authority approval to a budget for 2010/11; Council Tax levels for 2010/11; and precepts on billing authorities and related matters, attached marked **8. For decision**

9 Annual Review of Charges - Special Services

This report presents proposed increases in charges made for special services. Attached marked **9. For decision**

10 Selection of Contractor for Shrewsbury Build

At its meeting on 3 July 2009 the Fire Authority approved the use of Telford & Wrekin Borough Council's Contract Procedure Rules in the procurement of a contractor to carry out the refurbishment of Shrewsbury Station. Since then the Council's officers have been managing the tender process in accordance with those Rules on behalf of the Fire Authority.

Under the Rules, tenders over £500,000, which are covered by an approved capital budget, may be accepted by the appropriate Head of Service, following consultation with the Leader/Deputy Leader (Cabinet), or Chairman/Vice-Chairman (Board/Committee) and the acceptance must be reported to the next meeting of the appropriate Cabinet, Committee or Board for information. The Rules also state that the tender accepted should be in the Council's best interests.

In order to comply as far as is possible with the above rules it is recommended that the Fire Authority agree to delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer to accept the tender, which is in the Authority's best interests, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority. Once the decision had been made it would be reported to the next meeting of the full Authority. Members are asked to consider and decide upon this recommendation. **For decision**

11 Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2010/11

This report seeks Member approval of the proposed contents of the Fire Authority's 2010/11 Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan will be supplemented by an Annual Report 2009/10, which will be brought before Members in June 2010 for consideration and approval. Attached marked **11 For decision**

12 Update on New Dimension Transfer of Assets Agreement

The Department for Communities and Local Government has procured, and allocated to fire and rescue authorities, vehicles and equipment as part of a national capability (known as 'New Dimension') to respond to major disruptive events. The Department now wishes to transfer those assets to individual authorities and has asked them to enter into a Transfer of Assets Agreement.

At its meeting on 16 December 2009, because further information was awaited, the Fire Authority delegated authority to its Strategy and Resources Committee to decide whether the Authority should enter into the Agreement. The Committee met on 22 January and agreed to write to the Department, setting out its continuing concerns regarding the Agreement, and to await the response, before taking any further steps. **For information**

13 Member Champion Presentations **For information**

13a Councillor Dr Jones, Risk Management and Audit Champion, will give a presentation on her work throughout the year.

13b Councillor Minnery, Asset Management and Procurement Champion, will give a presentation on the Shrewsbury Redevelopment Programme.

14 European Commission Road Safety Award

In December 2009, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service received a prestigious European Award for Road Safety, which was presented at a formal ceremony by the European Commissioner for Transport. Although 11 other Fire and Rescue Services competed for the Award, the European Commission felt that Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's strategy and activities in road safety displayed the strongest commitment to the reduction of death and injuries from road traffic collisions.

Without the support and contribution of its partners the Service would not have been able to deliver such an effective strategy or win this prestigious award. This is a clear indication of how effective partnership working can have a dramatic effect on the performance of the Service. Thanks are due to the following partners, who were involved in the strategy:

- Shropshire Council Road Safety Team
- Telford & Wrekin Council Road Safety Team
- West Mercia Police
- West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership
- West Mercia Probation
- The Institute of Advanced Motorists

For information

15 Local Government Act 1972

Members are asked 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 and 3.

16 Exempt Minutes

Members are asked to agree the exempt minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 16 December 2009, and Fire Authority Extraordinary Meeting, held on 21 December 2009, and that each set be signed by the Chair as a correct record, attached marked **16a and 16b respectively**.
For decision

17 Update on Voice/Data Communications, Command and Control Systems Refresh

Officers continue to support the national FiReControl project. In order to ensure, however, that local systems are sufficiently viable and robust to cut over to the Regional Control Centre (currently scheduled for January 2012) the Service has identified the preferred bidder for the Interim Fire Control Room System. The procurement process followed the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) route for competitive tendering. The consultation process with staff is ongoing and a decision on the location of the Interim Control Room is expected at the beginning of March 2010. **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 Amanda Thomson, 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>