

**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**Strategy and Resources Committee**  
Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 24 November 2010 at 2.00 pm  
at Headquarters, Shrewsbury

## **Agenda**

All of the papers for this meeting (with the exception of exempt or confidential papers) can be accessed at the following web link:

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/managing-the-service/fra/meetings/Strategy%20and%20Resources/%2093747>

The decisions to be made are set out at each item and, where there are significant financial and/or legal implications, these are also detailed.

### **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 before any item, in which they have a prejudicial interest, is discussed.

### **3 Minutes**

**For decision**

Members are asked to agree the minutes, marked **3**, of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 23 September 2010, and that they be signed as a correct record.

### **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 2011/12 and Later Years Revenue and Capital Budgets**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5**, brings together the elements of the budget as set out in the reports that follow, and seeks the Committee's approval for a budget outline to be recommended to the Authority in December 2010.

The Committee is asked to

- a) Approve the revised expenditure figures as a basis for developing the budget at the Fire Authority on 15 December 2010;

- b) Approve seeking to secure the precept freeze grant by setting a zero increase in precept in 2011/12
- c) Approve the current policy for reserves and provision, (subject to addressing the outstanding issues highlighted), at the December meeting of the Fire Authority.

## **5a Base Budget plus Committed Change**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5a**, shows the latest position on the base budget plus committed change, following budget reviews by heads of department.

The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report, for inclusion in the budget summary shown in report 5.

## **5b Pay and Prices Assumptions**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5b**, sets out the possible provision to be made for pay and price inflation in 2011/12 and later years.

The Committee is asked to recommend that the Fire Authority base its future budget plans at present on option 2 as exemplified in paragraph 5.

## **5c Efficiencies 2011/12 and Forward Budgets**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5c**, looks at progress in identifying efficiencies for the period 2010/11 to 2015/16.

The Committee is asked to recommend to the Fire Authority that it include £290,000 for planning the 2011/12 budget, and that it continue with a target of £150,000 per year for later years.

## **5d Capital Programme 2011/12 to 2015/16**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5d**, sets out the current schemes put forward for inclusion in the next five years' budgets. It then sets out the potential revenue consequences, subject to public value consideration, including project appraisals and to a review of financing possibilities.

The Committee is recommended to propose to the Authority, for inclusion in its five year budget planning:

- a) The schemes set out in the appendix to this report;
- b) The potential funding of these schemes and the maximisation of the capital reserve, if possible; and
- c) The revenue consequences that would flow from these schemes.

## **5e Public Value Outcomes 2010**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5e**, sets out the summary financial and service planning outcomes arising from the 2010 Public Value review, particularly in respect the scheduling and nature of proposed budget cuts during the period 2011-2015. The outcomes and proposals set out herein have been considered and accepted by the Fire Authority's Strategic Risk and Planning Working Group (STRaP).

Members are recommended to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and agree to the recommendations of the STRaP (as detailed in section 5); and
- b) Endorse the recommendations of STRaP to the next meeting of the Fire Authority (15<sup>th</sup> December 2010).

## **5f Provisions, Reserves and Funds**

**For decision**

This report, marked **5f**, sets out the issues which the Fire Authority will need to consider as part of its annual review of provisions, reserves and funds.

The Committee is recommended to propose to the Fire Authority that it:

- a) Confirm the existing policy and continue the Equipment Replacement Provision;
- b) Review the level of the General Reserve as the current budget position becomes clearer;
- c) Re-price the General, Earmarked Capital, and Pension Liabilities and Other Staff Issues Reserves; and
- d) Confirm the other earmarked reserves at their current levels, subject to reviewing the issues raised on pensions and un-foreseen capital schemes.

## **6 Capital Update on Activity and Finance**

**For information**

This report provides an overview of all the capital schemes within the Brigade and their current status.

The Committee is asked to note the progress so far on current schemes.

## **7 Financial Performance to September 2010 including Mid Year Treasury Report For decision**

This report provides information on the financial performance of the Service, and seeks approval for action, where necessary.

The Committee is asked to recommend that the Fire Authority:

- a) Note the position of the revenue budget;
- b) Approve virements to the revenue budget where requested;
- c) Note the position on the capital programme,
- d) Note performance against prudential indicators to date in 2010/11,
- e) Note the mid year review of treasury activities for 2010/11;
- f) Note the information provided on balance sheet items