

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
Strategy and Resources Committee
held at Brigade Headquarters, Shrewsbury,
on Thursday, 16 November 2006 at 2.00 pm**

Present: Councillors Box, Eade, Hartin (Vice-Chair), Holyoak, Hussey, Morgan (Chair) and West

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence, although Councillor Hartin had advised that he would be late.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Non-Exempt Minutes

Members received the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 21 September 2006.

Resolved that the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 21 September 2006, 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 Annual Efficiency Statements 2006/07

This report sought the scrutiny and approval of the Committee to the formal submission of the backward and forward looking Annual Efficiency Statements (AES's) for 2006/07, as delegated by the Fire Authority.

The Treasurer advised that, since the Fire Authority had delegated authority to the Committee to approve the Statements, two new efficiencies had been included, namely £25,000 Human Resources savings from staffing the Retained Support Officers and £10,000 from the use of Firebuy for capital purchases. The former had been achieved by appointing at a lower grade than originally provided for in the budget, made possible by absorbing some of the duties within existing staffing. The latter, still to be actioned, would result from purchasing appliances through Firebuy contracts, and had been agreed by the Department for Communities and Local Government as an efficiency saving.



The report demonstrated not only that the Fire Authority was maximising its efficiencies but also that Members were involved in agreeing the Annual Efficiency Statements prior to their being signed off.

Resolved: *that the Committee agree to submit the Annual Efficiency Statements attached as appendices to the report.*

6 2007/08 to 2009/10 Revenue and Capital Budgets

This report brought together the various elements of the expenditure budgets and projections. It recommended them to the Fire Authority as the basis for its consideration of the budget on 20 December 2006.

The Treasurer made it clear that the figures contained within his report were still subject to the approval of the full Fire Authority and to the outcome of public consultation on the Integrated Risk Management Plan. The report did not provide details of efficiencies or growth items but set them out as a basis, on which to move forward with the budget setting process. Members needed to be aware at this stage of potential growth items but officers would bring detailed reports on these items to the Fire Authority for approval.

Resolved: *that the Committee*

- a) *Recommend that the Fire Authority does its three year budget and precept planning on the basis of expenditure totalled as follows:*

<i>2007/08</i>	<i>£19,198,000</i>
<i>2008/09</i>	<i>£20,196,000</i>
<i>2009/10</i>	<i>£21,048,000</i>

This recommendation was subject to any changes that might arise, as outlined in paragraphs 5 to 9 of the report.

- b) *Recommend to the Fire Authority:*
- i *The Ten Year Capital Programme, subject to any variations that might be required as a result of the outcome of the current Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) consultation process;*
 - ii *The employment of consultants to provide a business case for the relocation of Service headquarters and for the development of the Telford Central site. Also, to provide more accurate financial information on the provision of two new fire stations in Shrewsbury as part of the longer term IRMP process; and*
 - iii *The further development of the existing Capital Reserve to reduce the impact of proposed capital expenditure in 2009/10 and 2010/11.*
- c) *Approve the appropriate reserves and provisions, set out in paragraph 10 of the report.*

Councillor Hartin arrived at this point (2.10 pm).



7 CIPFA Statistics and the Audit Commission's Value for Money Profile

This report informed Members of correspondence about the consistency of the information being used by the Audit Commission to undertake "value for money" and "direction of travel" assessments of this and other Fire Authorities.

The Chief Fire Officer advised that, since the report had been written, the revised statistics had been released and officers were now analysing them. During the Use of Resources and Value for Money Assessment, which were being conducted that week, he had brought the correspondence to the attention of the assessors.

Resolved: *that Members note*

- a) *The correspondence attached to the report and the reservations about using the current statistics to form conclusions; and*
- b) *That the latest statistics, including 2006/07 expenditure estimates, were now available and officers were analysing them.*

8 Local Government Act 1972

Resolved: *that, in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, the public be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of item 9 on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the provisions of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act, by virtue of paragraphs 3 and 4.*

9 Exempt Minutes (Paragraphs 3 and 4)

Members received the exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 21 September 2006.

Resolved: *that the exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 21 September 2006, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.*

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.

CHAIR:.....

DATE:.....



Definitions of Exempt Information Local Government Act 1972 – Schedule 12A

Part 1 Descriptions of Exempt Information: England

- Paragraph 1** Information relating to any individual
- Paragraph 2** Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
- Paragraph 3** Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information)
- Paragraph 4** Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
- Paragraph 5** Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- Paragraph 6** Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
- (a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
- Paragraph 7** Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

