

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

RETAINED REVIEW

1 Purpose of Report

To seek Members' approval for the continuation of the Retained Review Team and for the Team's terms of reference to be changed from one of Review to Implementation of Recommendations.

2 Recommendations

Members are requested to:

- a) Sanction the continuation of the Retained Review Team;
- b) Agree a change in the terms of reference for the Retained Review Team from Review to Implementation of Recommendations; and
- c) Agree that the Retained Review Team have the power to co-opt personnel onto the Team as and when required.

3 Background

At its meeting on 9 February 2005, the Fire Authority resolved to set up the Retained Review Team (RRT) to consider issues affecting the Retained Service and to develop strategies for dealing with them. The Review was to be carried out as a Best Value Review. Since that time the RRT has reported regularly to the Fire Authority, culminating in Report 9 on 14 December 2005. At that meeting Members resolved to:

- Note the recommendations of the Best Value Review;
- Provide feedback to the RRT for inclusion in the final Best Value Review Report; and
- Approve investment in the Retained Service, as detailed within the draft Best Value Review and summarised within the report.



4 The Next Stage (Implementation)

On 19 December 2005 the RRT met to discuss the way forward. The Team recognised that, whilst the Best Value Review had highlighted areas of concern and made recommendations to address those concerns, much work was now needed to implement and push forward the changes required to ensure the continued support of Retained Duty System personnel.

The RRT felt that the Implementation Stage should once again use Prince 2 methodology and that the RRT should continue, albeit with different terms of reference from one of Review, to one of Implementation.

5 Retained Review Team – Co-Opting Officers

Due to the many varied and complex issues facing the RRT it was felt that on occasion it may be advantageous to co-opt certain officers of the Service onto the RRT as and when circumstances dictated.

6 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

7 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly out of this report.

8 Equality and Diversity Implications

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly out of this report.

9 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

10 Background Papers

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

Fire and Rescue Service Retained Duty System, A Review of the Recruitment and Retention Challenges (February 2005)

Fire and Rescue Service Circular 7 – 2005 Review of the Retained Duty System (February 2005)

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority

9 February 2005, Report 17 – Retained Service

26 April 2005, Report 23 – Retained Review

20 July 2005, Report 18 – Retained Review

19 October 2005, Report 14 – Retained Review

14 December 2005, Report 9 – Retained Review

For further information about this report please contact Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Phil Clarke, Retained Review Manager, on 01743 260232.

