

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority
Strategy and Resources Committee
held at Headquarters, Shrewsbury
on Thursday, 4 March 2010 at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Mrs Barrow, Hartin, Minnery (Chair), Roberts (Vice-Chair) and West

Officers

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Head of Fire Prevention, Head of Performance and Risk, Management Support Officer, Principal Accountant, Statistical Research Officer and Treasurer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Picken and Dr Winchester.

2 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members 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 had a prejudicial interest, was discussed.

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 22 January 2010.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Barrow and

Resolved that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 22 January 2010, 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 Committee Work Plan 2010/11

This report reviewed progress against the Strategy and Resources Committee 2009 / 2010 Work Plan and sought to put forward a 2010 / 2011 Work Plan for consideration and approval by Members.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Barrow and

Resolved that the Committee:

- a) Note progress made against the Strategy and Resources Committee 2009 / 2010 Work Plan; and
- b) Approve the Work Plan 2010 / 2011

6 Annual Report of the Committee

This report presented a draft version of the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration and approval by Members, prior to submission to the Fire Authority at its meeting in April.

It was proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor West and

Resolved that the Committee approve the draft version of the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee, to be presented to the Fire Authority at its meeting in April

7 Medium Term Financial Plan 2010

This report brought Members' attention to the Medium Term Financial Plan, posted on the Authority's website, and sought Members' comments, suggested amendments, and updates.

The Treasurer explained that the Chief Fire Officer and he had updated most of the Plan, the final version of which would be posted on the Authority's website the following week. An email would then be sent to all Members to advise where it could be viewed.

Resolved that Members of the Committee forward any comments, which they might have on the Medium Term Financial Plan, to the Chief Fire Officer or Treasurer

8 Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2010/11

This report sought Member approval of the proposed contents and layout of the Fire Authority's Corporate Plan 2010/11.

Councillor Barrow asked what the cost of the Corporate Plan was and its distribution. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer replied that sufficient numbers would be printed to ensure that all sections and stations had a copy. He did not know the exact cost but undertook to find out and advise Members.

Committee Clerk's Note

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer has since advised that the cost to print copies of the Corporate Plan was £340.

It was proposed by Councillor Hartin, seconded by Councillor Roberts and

Resolved that the Committee agree the contents and proposed layout of the Corporate Plan

9 Target Setting 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13

This report explained the process, which enables Members to review and set challenging and realistic targets for 2010/11 and subsequent years, where appropriate.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer explained that nationally there was concern over the use of redundant Best Value Performance Indicators. The Chief Fire Officers Association was proposing a new suite of national indicators, which, if introduced, would take effect from April 2011.

A discussion ensued regarding the target for Retained Appliance Availability, which the Audit and Performance Management Committee had tasked the Strategy and Resources Committee to review. Members felt they had a difficult decision but agreed that the Authority should always aim to achieve its best, and not lower the target.

Councillor Hartin asked about the revision to the Equality and Diversity targets, as he felt that the target, set by Communities and Local Government, was too high, taking into account the breakdown of the local community. A wide-ranging discussion took place on the issue and the Statistical Research Officer agreed to explore how this target might be adjusted better to reflect the local community of Shropshire.

It was proposed by Councillor West, seconded by Councillor Mrs Barrow and

Resolved that the Committee:

- a) Agree to retain Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) as local performance indicators;
- b) Agree to minor changes of some BVPIs, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- c) Agree to 'Upper' and 'Lower Levels of Tolerability' being maintained to selected Service Delivery BVPIs, as detailed in Appendix 1;
- d) Note the suggested targets Corporate Health indicators (contained in Appendix 1) are provisional;
- e) Approve the amendments to targets for 2010/11, 2011/12 and new targets for 2012/13 (contained within Appendix 1);

- f) Approve the targets for additional indicators to support overarching priorities for 2010/11, including maintaining the current target for Retained Appliance Availability (section 7, Appendix 2, Appendix 3 and Appendix 4);
- g) Note that under Public Value, all indicators and targets are subject to review and may be amended or removed in the future

Committee Clerk’s Note

It has since come to light that the reference to a seven-year period in the report (at the top of page 6) was incorrect. The report should have proposed the recruitment of:

- 15% of female recruits as a % of new operational recruits over a five-year period; and
- 7 people from an ethnic minority background across all sections of the Service over a five-year period

In light of the above the Committee will need to revisit its decision at recommendation f) above.

10 Financial Issues on Closing the 2009/10 Final Accounts

This report outlined the main strategic issues that will arise in considering the Final Accounts for 2009/10.

The Treasurer explained that a more detailed report would be presented to the Committee in May, which would outline different policy options to respond to the likely financial issues facing the Fire Authority in the coming months.

The Principle Accountant added that the presentation of the Final Accounts, to be brought to the Fire Authority in June, would change in order to incorporate the International Financial Reporting Standards.

Resolved that the Committee note the report

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....