

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
held at Service Headquarters, Shrewsbury
on Wednesday, 26 April 2017, at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Barrow, Carter (Vice-Chair), Hartin, Hosken, Hurst-Knight, Dr Jones, Mellings, Minnery, Murray, Price, Roberts, Sahota, Turley and West (Chair)

Officers

Rod Hammerton	Chief Fire Officer	CFO
Andy Johnson	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	DCFO
Louise McKenzie	Assistant Chief Fire Officer	ACFO
Jonathan Eatough	Clerk and Monitoring Officer	Clerk
Joanne Coadey	Head of Finance	HoF
Germaine Worker	Head of HR and Administration	HHRA
Lynn Ince	Executive Support Officer	ESO
Maxine Titley	Admin Support Team Supervisor	ASTS

External Bodies

Tracy Onslow	West Mercia Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner	DPCC
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1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Adams, Pinter and Wynn

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

3 Public Questions

None

4 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Fire Authority meeting, held on 22 February 2017, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record

5 Standards and Human Resources Committee Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Standards and Human Resources Committee meeting, held on 7 March 2017, be noted and the recommendation at item 9, as given below, be agreed.

Item 9 – Review of Protocols

The Fire Authority agreed the following Protocols

- Member / Officer Relations
- Gifts and Hospitality

6 Strategy and Resources Committee Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 16 March 2017, be noted.

7 Fire Authority Work Plan 2017/186/17

This report reviewed progress against the Fire Authority's 2016/17 Work Plan and put forward a 2017/18 Work Plan for consideration and approval by Members.

Resolved that the Fire Authority

- a) Note progress made against the Fire Authority 2016/17 Work Plan, as detailed at paragraph 4 of the report; and
- b) Approve the 2017/18 Work Plan (attached at the appendix to this report), without amendment.

8 Financial Performance to March 2017

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

The HoF presented the report and talked through the variances detailed on page 2 of the report which resulted in a £17k overspend. There were also a number of capital schemes that required changes and these were detailed on page 3 of the report.

Members indicated that they were uncomfortable with the proposed change to the reserve Rescue Tender (RT) replacement scheme and asked if it made more sense to renew the RT and make the current RT the reserve. The CFO explained that due to changes in operational procedures, the current RT would not suffice as the reserve. The CFO suggested that a fuller paper with more detail on this scheme should be brought before the Fire Authority to aid decision making.

Members acknowledged the CFO's comments and welcomed the suggestion of receiving a further paper on the scheme. It was proposed and seconded that recommendation c) in the report should be agreed with a proviso about the further report.

Resolved that the Fire Authority

- a) Note the position of the revenue budget;
- b) Approve virements to the revenue budget, where requested;
- c) Note changes to capital schemes and approve cancellation where specified, subject to a more detailed report on the reserve rescue tender being brought to the Fire Authority; and
- d) Note performance against prudential indicators to date in 2016/17.

9 Integrated Risk Management Planning

The DCFO provided the following verbal update to the Fire Authority on progress with the Integrated Risk Management Plan projects.

IRMP 1 – Integrated Crewing Model Project

This was implemented on 1 January 2017 and is running effectively with £100k of savings, compared to this time last year. 100% availability is being maintained, supported by constant reviews of crewing levels. A full report on the project will be brought to the Fire Authority at the end of the initial 12 month period. A new shift rostering IT system will be implemented in May 2017.

IRMP 2 – Fire Control Review Project

This project was again implemented on 1 January 2017 and there has been a challenging period due to sickness. Control staff have gone above and beyond to provide cover, but there have been three occasions where the Service has fallen back to Hereford & Worcester (H&W) Control Room. Whilst this is not a preferred solution it has demonstrated that the fallback provision with H&W works.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) have lodged a dispute with regard to the negotiating mechanisms for Fire Control. FBU representatives have been involved in negotiations to date but it is believed that the majority of Control Room staff are not FBU members which has led to a challenge to negotiating ability. Legal advice is being sought on this issue in order to resolve it.

IRMP 3 – Telford Central Project

There has been a 12 month delay to this project to ensure collaboration opportunities were fully explored. Officers have been exploring the possibility of the Police Major Investigation Unit (MIU) and Learning and Development Centre being sited at Telford. Due to its security requirements, the MIU would have to have been a completely stand-alone facility within the Telford Central Project and it has therefore been decided that this will not be progressed. However, the Learning and Development component will go ahead as this fits well with Telford's role as the Service's Training and Development Centre. A report on the Project will be brought to the June meeting of the Fire Authority. The PCC's support for the collaboration discussions with the Police is sought, as delays in progressing the Project are now causing maintenance issues in the premises on the current fire station site.

Members expressed alarm that this Project is now 12 months behind schedule and voiced concern that costs are escalating with the delay. There is also the issue of potential remedial works being required to the existing building if the project is delayed further.

The meeting felt that a cut-off date should be applied and if a decision could not be reached by the date decided then the question of whether it will actually happen would need to be asked. The CFO commented that collaboration does happen at different paces within organisations. This is a golden opportunity which makes it difficult to have a cut-off date, especially as there is more to lose than just finances.

Members reiterated the potential need for a cut-off date, but they were also clear that they would like to see SFRS working collaboratively with West Mercia Police and asked if the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) could prioritise the issue in order to enable its progression. The DPCC asked for clarification of the particular issues with the discussions and stated that she was happy to take the issue back to the PCC so that he could provide a response.

The DCFO explained that now the MIU is not going to be included in the project the teams can get together to look at sharing training and development facilities. It is still possible that delays could be incurred due to the necessary cost apportionment negotiations and the DCFO asked if the PCC could monitor this decision making process.

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the update given.

10 Annual Plan 2017/18

This report presented the new Annual Plan for 2017/18.

The ACFO presented this report and advised that the Annual Report had been updated with an emphasis on collaboration as discussed at the last Fire Authority meeting.

Resolved that the Fire Authority approve the Annual Plan 2017/18.

11 Details of Lives Saved and those Protected from Harm

This paper highlighted the number of people, who have been protected from harm, or rescued by operational crews during the year 201/16 and 2016/17. It also attempted to provide an economic value for the rescue work carried out by the Fire Service.

Resolved that the Fire Authority note the paper

Before closing the meeting, the Chair made a short speech thanking Councillors John Hurst-Knight, Jean Jones and Mal Price for their work with the Fire Authority. A presentation was also made to the Councillors concerned who were not standing for re-election this year.

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

Chair.....

Date.....