

**Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Strategy and Resources Committee
held in the Oak Room at Headquarters, Shrewsbury
on Thursday, 7 September 2017 at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Carter, Hartin (Vice-Chair), Murray, Phillips and Roberts (Chair)

Officers

Rod Hammerton	Chief Fire Officer	CFO
Andy Johnson	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	DCFO
Louise McKenzie	Assistant Chief Fire Officer	ACFO
Joanne Coadey	Head of Finance	HoF
Andrew Kelcey	Head of Resources	HoR
Sally Edwards	Head of ICT	HoITC
Lynn Ince	Executive Support Officer	ESO

1 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Pardy
James Walton (Treasurer)
Ged Edwards (Planning, Performance and Communications Manager)

Councillor Wynn did not attend the meeting but did subsequently give apologies.

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

3 Public Questions

None

4 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee meeting, held on 16 March 2017, be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record

5 Committee Constitution and Training

This report brought the latest version of the Committee's constitution to the notice of its Members. It also asked Members to consider what training, if any, they wish to receive in order for them to fulfil their role on the Committee.

Resolved that the Committee

- a) Note the constitution of the Strategy and Resources Committee (attached as an appendix to the report); and
- b) Agree that there is no training needed in order to fulfil their role on the Strategy and Resources Committee effectively.

6 Financial Performance to July 2017

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

The HoF explained that the savings achieved through the Integrated Risk Management Programme (IRMP) will be taken out of the budget in 2019/20. Members asked if it would be fair to say that the Fire Authority is likely to achieve greater savings than anticipated. The HoF explained that the IRMP savings are currently in line with the estimated amounts and these are on target to be achieved as predicted.

The Committee queried if there was any interest or movement on current investments. The HoF explained that interest earned on investments is reported separately but the Fire Authority are scheduled to approximately £50k of interest on investments in this financial year. The HoF undertook to include interest in this report in future.

The Committee queried if investments with Handelsbanken were secure. The HoF explained that the Authority invests with organisations that Shropshire Council deem to be secure.

In response to a query about the types of apprentices that the Service is taking on, the ACFO explained that there have been apprentices in the ICT, Design, Administration and Community Fire Safety departments. The Service is careful to ensure that it has staff and resources available to manage the resources. Two apprentices have moved onto full paid employment outside the Service.

The Committee queried the levels of overtime reported as they expected these would be higher if the actual establishment figure of 125, is lower than the budgeted establishment figure of 136. The Committee therefore asked if the establishment figure of 136 was too high. The CFO responded that the overtime issue was due to the workforce who have made the new shift system work and driven overtime down.

Decisions about the establishment level will be informed by the pilot period for the Integrated Crewing System. The Service currently operates with an establishment of around 128 but discussions are needed to ensure that this is lean and effective, as well as resilient.

Members queried the difference in the annual levels of interest earned by the Authority, which are approximately 0.2%, and Shropshire Council who achieve nearer 0.5%. Members expected these to be about the same given that the Council provide Treasury Management services for the Authority. The HoF was unable to answer the question in the meeting but undertook to bring the information to the next meeting of the Committee.

Resolved that the Committee agree 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 performance against prudential indicators to date in 2017/18.

7 Strategy and Planning Working Group Update

The Committee received the following verbal update on the forthcoming Strategy and Planning (StraP) Working Group meeting.

The DCFO advised that the StraP Working Group will consider upcoming reports for this Committee, although some issues will be reported directly to the Fire Authority due to timescales involved.

The issues to be discussed are

- IRMP updates including Fire Control and proposed solutions to the issue raised by the Fire Brigades Union;
- As and Bs, also known as 'rank to role' before the issue goes forward to this Committee and the Standards and Human Resources Committee before final consideration by the Fire Authority in December;
- An update on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) Initial Business Case and the Authority's response; and
- A discussion regarding the future of Shropshire Fire Risk Management Services Ltd.

Resolved that the Committee note the update given.

8 Capital Update on Activity and Finance

This report provided an overview of all of the capital schemes within the Service and their current status. .

Members asked if the delays to the Telford Central Improvement Works, which had been caused by the PCC's office had been sorted. The HoR explained that they had and that Officers are seeking to appoint a Technical Project Manager to co-ordinate the requirements of both organisations with cost apportionment being driven by the final procurement method.

Resolved that the Committee note the progress so far on current schemes.

9 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that the Committee being satisfied in all the circumstances of the case that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information, formally resolve that the press and public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10 Capital Update on Activity and Finance (Paragraph 3)

The Committee received Appendix B to report 8 – Capital Update on Activity and Finance, which was to be considered in closed session, as it contained exempt information.

Resolved that the Committee note exempt Appendix B to report 8

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

These minutes were agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee and signed as a correct record by the:

Chair.....

on

Date.....