

**Non-Exempt Minutes of the Meeting of
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Strategy and Resources Committee
held in the Oak Room, Headquarters
on Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 2.00 pm**

Present

Members

Councillors Aldcroft, Minnery, Offland, Price and Wynn

Officers

Sam Burton	Deputy Chief Fire Officer	DCFO
Karen Gowreesunker	Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Corporate Support)	ACFO (CS)
Joanne Coadey	Head of Finance	HoF
Germaine Worker	Head of Human Resources and Administration	HHRA
Andrew Kelcey	Head of Resources	HoR
Lynn Ince	Executive Support Supervisor	ESS
Aleksandra Zydek	Executive Support Officer	ESO

1 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Cook, Hartin

2 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

3 Public Questions

None

4 Non-Exempt Minutes

Resolved that the non-exempt minutes of the Strategy and Resources Committee, held on 20 March 2024, be agreed, and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5 Committee Terms of Reference

This report, presented by ESS, asked Members to consider the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Strategy and Resources Committee, following the annual review conducted by officers.

The ESS noted that this review follows Fire Authority Annual meeting where it was decided that all Terms of Reference should be reviewed. She asked Members for any suggestions of changes to the Terms of Reference.

Members explored if they should agree attached Terms of Reference or defer them to the next meeting. It was agreed by Members that as review is due to take place, they accept the current Terms of Reference as attached in the appendix to the report.

Resolved that the Committee agreed the Terms of Reference, as attached at the Appendix to the report, without amendment.

6 Committee Training

The ESS asked the 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 agreed to undertake training in Treasury Management and General Finance.

7 Financial Performance to June 2024

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

The HoF presented review of financial performance in the first quarter of 2024/25. She added that the Fire Authority approved a 2024/25 revenue budget of £29m in February 2024 split into three service areas: executive resources, service delivery and corporate governance.

The HoF advised that new sections have been added to the report to give the Committee a snapshot of the overall position of the budget as of 30 June 2024.

Monitoring has begun on the revenue budget with a summary of the total position shown on page 2 of the report. The HoF advised that the Service budget remains consistent with high spent areas as expected.

On page 3 of the report the HoF highlighted the significant variances on executive pay which covers additional costs for the Executive team to March 2025 and Executive Support costs to September 2025. The HoF noted that the Service haven't borrowed since 2009 and is currently using cash to cover expenditure. Therefore, a large underspend on the debt charges was expected.

She noted the overspend in Transformation and Collaboration pay due to staff cover to support HMICRFS inspection and long-term sickness. The HoF explained that ICT pay, and Planning and Performance pay underspend is due to currently vacant posts.

The HoF added that it is proposed that the current underspend is transferred to/from Major Projects Reserve and STP Staff Reserve.

Virements that have been approved using powers delegated to the Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer and HoF were listed on page 4. The HoF noted the position of the Authority's reserves at end of June 2024 was £14m.

She highlighted the prudential indicators listed on page 5 and noted lower total investments due to cash being used to fund borrowing.

Resolved that the Committee recommends that the Fire Authority:

- a) note the position of the revenue budget;
- b) approve virements to the revenue budget, where requested, and
- c) note performance against prudential indicators to date in 2024/25

The following two papers were tabled at the meeting.

8 Capital Update on Activity and Finance

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

Please note that Appendix B to the report (paper 10) was considered in the closed session of the meeting, as it is exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

The HoR pointed out that Retained Station Building Works snagging is generally complete, and the contract is moving towards formal close. The Service continues to work on security improvements to the rest of the estate.

The HoF noted that the risk associated with Telford Build are gradually being resolved. One area of concern is costs associated with cladding design following withdrawal of fire certification following Grenfell enquiry.

The HoF highlighted replacement of appliances. Eight are currently being built.

Resolved that the Committee note the report.

9 Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved that having been satisfied in all the circumstances of the case that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information, that Members formally resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10 Capital Update on Activity and Finance (Paragraphs 3)

The Committee was asked to receive and note Appendix B to report 8 – Capital Update on Activity and Finance, attached marked 10, which contains exempt information.

Resolved that the Committee noted exempt appendix to the report.

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____