

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Annual Meeting held on 21 July 2010

Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair

Councillor Stuart West has been elected Chair of the Fire Authority and Councillor David Minnery has been appointed Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority. Both will hold office until the Annual Meeting in July 2011.

New Fire Authority Members

Councillors Karen Blundell, John Dixon and Andrew Eade have been appointed to the Fire Authority by Telford & Wrekin Council

Member Appointments and Constitution of Committees 2008/09

In accordance with its Standing Orders, the Fire Authority has reviewed allocation of seats on its committees to political groups and has agreed the appointment of Members to serve on committees and of Substitute Members for the West Midlands Regional Management Board. The Retained Review Implementation Group, which was mothballed in May 2007, has been disbanded as it is unlikely that the Group will be required again. Committee Terms of Reference have also been reviewed and agreed. In addition, the Fire Authority has appointed Councillor Stuart West as its representative on the Local Government Association (LGA) Annual Assembly and Fire Service Forum. Councillor West will also represent the Authority on the Fire Futures discussions with Communities and Local Government.

Review of Scheme of Delegation to Officers and of Standing Orders

The Fire Authority has undertaken its annual review of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers and of its Standing Orders. An amendment in relation to politically restricted posts has been made to the Scheme of Delegation.

The Standing Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business have been amended in relation to the review of Committee constitutions. Various changes have been made to Standing Orders relating to Contracts, including amending the tender threshold limits to reflect European Union threshold limits. Minor changes have also been made to the wording of the Financial Regulation Standing Orders. In accordance with the Fire Authority's Standing Orders, the amendments agreed will stand adjourned until the next meeting of the Fire Authority in October 2010.

Financial Monitoring Report 2010/11

Members have noted the implications of the Government's Emergency Budget which was announced on 22 June 2010. Other national developments which may affect future financial planning, such as the public sector pay freeze, have also been brought to Members' attention. Progress on the Fire Authority's revenue budget to date in 2010/11 has been noted and the main potential risk areas have been identified and reported to Members. The current position on both schemes within the capital programme and the Authority's reserves and balances was also reported to Members. The Fire Authority agreed to reserve a decision on the use of the likely balance on the Un-earmarked Capital Reserve until later in the year and to continue the current borrowing and investment strategy.

Public Value Review Update

The Public Value Review process, that will identify how to make reduction to the cost of the Service whilst maintaining its core functions, is progressing and officers, in consultation with the Strategic Risk and Planning (STRaP) Working Group are now in the process of costing, risk assessing and profiling the proposed outcomes into a suitable format for public and staff engagement / participation. The STRaP Group will meet in early August to consider the consultation which will be carried out over the summer months.

Integrated Strategic Planning Process 2011/12

The Fire Authority agreed its Strategic Planning Timetable for 2011/12. The strategic planning process is built around a number of dependencies and milestones and aligns service, financial and improvement planning. The process culminates in the publication of the Service's 2011/12 Corporate Plan and a five year joint medium term service and financial plan.

Partnership Working and the Outcomes

The Fire Authority received a report from the Service's Partnership Scrutiny Group which detailed ongoing progress of how Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service in conjunction with other organisations continue to create a 'Safer and Stronger Shropshire'. The partnerships detailed in the report included, amongst others, Vulnerable and Youth partnerships, such as work with Age Concern and the Youth Offending Service, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and the Local Strategic Partnerships with both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Partnerships.

Corporate Risk Management Summary

The Fire Authority has received its fourth Annual Corporate Risk Management Summary Report, which informs Members about the corporate risk management work undertaken during the previous twelve months, as well as summarising the risk environment in which the Fire Service currently operates.



Stuart West
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
August 2010

Background Papers

Agenda Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority held on 21 July 2008

The agendas and reports (with the exception of exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority meetings and those of its Committees appear on the Brigade's website:

www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

To access reports go to the Authority's website. Click on Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority on the right hand side of the screen, then Committee Meetings, then Fire and Rescue Authority, then 21 July 2010 and the various reports and appendices will be listed.

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Lynn Ince, Management Support Officer on 01743 260225.