

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report for the Meeting held on 13 February 2012

Standards

The Fire Authority has taken account of the forthcoming changes to the standards regime and has agreed a Code of Conduct that encompasses the regulations set out in the Localism Act 2011 with regard to the management of interests. The Fire Authority has also agreed to establish a Standards Committee in line with the new regulations and has tasked the Monitoring Officer to undertake the recruitment of an Independent Person.

Capital Programme, Revenue Budget Medium Term Financial Planning and 2012/13 Precept

Following recommendations from its Strategy and Resources Committee, the Fire Authority has agreed its:

- Capital programme;
- Provisions and reserves;
- Revenue budgets; and
- The key financial principles to be incorporated into its Medium Term Corporate Plan.

The Fire Authority has set its 2012/13 net budget requirement at £21,748,050 and approved a Council Tax, resulting in a Band D rate of £86.93, which represents an increase of 6p per week on last year. This followed a public consultation exercise that showed considerable public support for a small rise in council tax to protect front line fire and rescue service provision.

The amount payable by billing authorities for 2012/13 is as follows:

Shropshire Council	£9,562,104
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	£4,463,430
	<u>£14,025,534</u>

Draft Response to Fire and Rescue Service National Framework Consultation

The draft Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2012 was formally published on 13 December 2011. The new National Framework is a 27-page document, which places 18 'must do' requirements on all English fire and rescue authorities (FRAs). The Framework sets out three priorities for FRAs, which are:

1. To identify and assess the full range of fire and rescue related risks that their areas face, make provision for prevention and protection activities and respond to incidents appropriately;
2. To work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service; and
3. To be accountable to their communities for the service they provide.

The draft Framework is the subject of a consultation exercise that which ended on 19 March 2012. The Fire Authority has received and approved a draft response to the four consultation questions, which addresses the areas that are of concern to the Fire Authority.

Pay Policy Statement

The Fire Authority has approved its Pay Policy Statement, as set out at sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011. The Act requires the Statement to detail the pay, including remuneration, performance-related pay, bonuses and any other allowances, of senior staff (or 'chief officers') and the lowest paid employees and the relationship between those. The Pay Policy Statement was published on 16 March 2012.

Annual Review of Charges for Special Services

For the financial year 2012/13 the Fire Authority has approved an increase in its charges for special services, in line with inflation, i.e. a 2% increase.

FiReControl Project Update

On 13 January 2012, the Members (i.e. the five fire and rescue authority owners), and separately the Board of Directors, of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Ltd Company resolved unanimously to return any surplus funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government grant for the Company (currently at approximately £145,000) minus all costs and disbursements incurred. They also agreed voluntarily to dissolve the Company and empowered the Chairman of the Board and the Company's Legal Advisor to complete all necessary steps to do so.

Since the February meeting the Government has allocated a grant of £1.8 million to Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority to support its Fire Control arrangements going forward.



Stuart West
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
April 2012

Background Papers

Agenda and papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 February 2012

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 Fire and Rescue Authority, then 13 February 2012 and the various reports and appendices will be listed.

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