



<u>Committee and date</u> Annual Council  18 <sup>th</sup> June 2009  10.00 am
---

<u>Item</u>  <b>17</b>  <u>Public</u>
---

<u>Paper</u>  <b>I</b>
------------------------------

## **Chair's Report of the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Meeting 11 February 2009**

### **Changes to Member Appointments and Meeting Dates**

Lieutenant Colonel Allen (Conservative, Telford & Wrekin Council) resigned from Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority on 19 December 2009. He has been replaced by Councillor Terry Kiernan (Conservative, Telford & Wrekin Council). As a consequence of this, the Authority considered and agreed several changes to Member appointments on Committees and also the appointment of Councillor David Gibbon as Asset Management and Procurement Champion.

Due to the Shropshire Council elections on Thursday 4 June 2009 and the likely changes that will occur in Fire Authority membership, the Authority agreed to cancel the Fire Authority meeting scheduled for 10 June 2009 and the Annual Meeting which was due to be held on 22 July 2009. The Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority will now be held on Friday 3 July 2009.

### **Revenue Budget and Capital Programme – Budget Recommendations 2009/10**

The Fire Authority's Strategy and Resources Committee considered the Authority's 2009/10 Budget and precept at its meeting on 22 January 2009. This report presented the Committee's recommendations to the Fire Authority.

The Fire Authority agreed the capital programme, provisions and reserves, revenue budgets and key finance principles for service and planning as recommended by its Committee.

### **Revenue Budget: 2009/10 Precept**

The Fire Authority has agreed unanimously

- A net budget requirement of £20,846,418;
- A total precept of £12,807,411 to be levied on the billing authorities;
- A Council Tax, resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D of £81.45

## **Annual Review of Charges – Special Services**

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 gave Fire Authorities the power to charge for special services, that is the use of personnel and equipment for purposes other than firefighting.

The Fire Authority has agreed increases of 2.45% (to reflect increase in relevant costs) in the charges made for special services to be implemented from 1 April 2009.

## **Audit Commission National Report – Rising to the Challenge: Improving Fire Service Efficiency**

The Audit Commission published a report entitled 'Rising to the Challenge: Improving Fire Service Efficiency' in December 2008. During 2008, the Audit Commission conducted a national study which combined their findings from their work with the Fire and Rescue Service since 2004 with detailed analysis of operational, financial and incident data and with further field research at ten sites.

The report 'Rising to the Challenge: Improving Fire Service Efficiency' assesses the current level of efficiency and performance in the fire and rescue service and provides a brief analysis of which areas for forcing out further efficiencies (as identified by the Audit Commission) are available to Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority. Having considered the Audit Commission's report, the Fire Authority tasked its officers to carry out a further in-depth analysis of the Audit Commission's findings as they apply to Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority and to report the findings back to the April meeting of the Fire Authority.

## **Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2009/10**

The Fire Authority has agreed the contents of its Corporate Plan 2009/10. The Corporate Plan will be supplemented by an Annual Report which will be brought before Members at the Annual Meeting for consideration and approval.

It has also delegated authority to its Strategy and Resources Committee to consider and agree Performance Targets for 2009/10; other supplementary information to be included within the Corporate Plan; and the final layout and publication of the Corporate Plan.

## **FiReControl and FireLink Update**

The Fire Authority received a report which provided an update on the current activity surrounding the national FiReControl and FireLink projects. The report discussed the key issues raised in the business case for the FiReControl project which had recently been published by Communities and Local Government (CLG).

Having considered the information provided in the report, the Fire Authority tasked its officers with ensuring that any additional costs for running the Regional Control Centre (RCC) do not impact on the tax payers of Shropshire and tasked the Chief Fire Officer with pressing CLG for further information on funding arrangements for the replacement of the RCC mobilising system in eight years time.



Stuart West  
Chair  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
March 2009

## **Background Papers**

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 11 February 2009

**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](http://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 11 February 2009 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.