

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report for the Meeting held on 10 February 2010

Human Resources Policies

Following recommendations from its Human Resources Committee the Fire Authority has adopted a:

- **Capability Policy**
The Policy has been developed in accordance with best practice guidance and suggested policy from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.
- **Single Equality Scheme and Action Plan**
The Scheme incorporates the seven diversity strands of age, disability, gender, transgender, religion and belief, race, and sexual orientation.

Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Plan, Revenue Budget and 2010/11 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 Financial Plan.

The Fire Authority has set its 2010/11 net budget requirement at £21,618,039 and approved a Council Tax, resulting in a Band D rate of £83.81, a cost of £1.61 per week per household and a 2.9% increase on last year. In setting its budget and precept the Fire Authority was mindful of the feedback received from the public during its budget consultation process.

The amount payable by billing authorities for 2010/11 is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Shropshire Council | £9,081,694 |
| Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council | £4,241,138 |
| | <u>£13,322,832</u> |

Annual Review of Charges for Special Services

Following a full review of charges both regionally and nationally in December 2007, it was found that Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority's tariff was not out of line with that of other authorities. Since then, the tariff of charges has been increased for inflationary purposes only.

For the financial year 2010/11 the Fire Authority has approved an increase in its charges for special services, based on the pay award for operational staff awarded in July 2009, i.e. 1.25%.

Selection of Contractor for Shrewsbury Station and Headquarters Refurbishment

At its meeting on 3 July 2009 the Fire Authority approved the use of Telford & Wrekin Borough Council's Contract Procedure Rules in the procurement of a contractor to carry out the refurbishment of Shrewsbury Station and Headquarters. Since then the Council's officers have managed the tender process in accordance with those Rules on behalf of the Fire Authority.

At the February meeting the Fire Authority agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, to accept the tender, which was in the Authority's best interests, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Authority.

In accordance with that delegated authority, the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Authority, have now agreed the appointment of Paveaways Ltd as contractor for the refurbishment. Paveaways Ltd submitted the most economically advantageous tender, which was within the budget allocated for the work.

Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2010/11

The Fire Authority has approved the proposed contents of its 2010/11 Corporate Plan, which includes summary details of its:

- Aims
- 2010/11 Budget
- High Level Improvement Priorities and
- Major projects for 2010/11

The Plan, which is published in the format of a wall-mounted poster, branded in the corporate identity, is placed in prominent positions at all stations and departments. A web-based, online version is also available for external stakeholders.

The Plan will be supplemented by an Annual Report 2009/10, which will be brought before the Fire Authority in June 2010 for consideration and approval.

European Commission Road Safety Award

In December 2009, Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service received a prestigious European Award for Road Safety, which was presented at a formal ceremony by the European Commissioner for Transport. Although 11 other Fire and Rescue Services competed for the Award, the European Commission felt that Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's strategy and activities in road safety displayed the strongest commitment to the reduction of death and injuries from road traffic collisions.

Without the support and contribution of its partners the Service would not have been able to deliver such an effective strategy or won this prestigious award. This is a clear indication of how effective partnership working can have a dramatic effect on the performance of the Service. Thanks are due to the following partners, who were involved in the strategy:

- Shropshire Council Road Safety Team
- Telford & Wrekin Council Road Safety Team
- West Mercia Police
- West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership
- West Mercia Probation
- The Institute of Advanced Motorists



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

Background Papers

Agenda and papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 10 February 2010

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 10 February 2010 and the various reports and appendices will be listed.

If you have any difficulty with the website, please contact Amanda Thomson, Management Support Officer on 01743 260201.