

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report for the Meeting held on 9 February 2011

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

Following recommendations from its Strategy and Resources Committee and the receipt of a £916,000 grant from Government towards capital expenditure, 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 also agreed that its current Medium Term Financial Plan be integrated into a new Medium Term Corporate Plan. This Corporate Plan will incorporate the essential contents of the Medium Term Financial Plan and the findings arising from the Fire Authority's 2010 Public Value Review and will set out service and financial objectives for the next five years.

The Fire Authority has set its 2011/12 net budget requirement at £21,036,403 and approved a Council Tax, resulting in a Band D rate of £83.81, which represents a nil increase on last year.

The amount payable by billing authorities for 2011/12 is as follows:

Shropshire Council	£9,166,299
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	£4,270,513
	<u>£13,436,812</u>

Annual Review of Charges for Special Services

For the financial year 2011/12 the Fire Authority has approved an increase in its charges for special services, in line with inflation, i.e. a 2.5% increase.

FiReControl Project Update

The Coalition Government announced on 20 December 2010 its intention to cancel the national FiReControl project with immediate effect on the grounds that the appointed contractor was unable to deliver on time, to cost and quality.

The West Midlands Regional Control Centre Local Authority Controlled Company (the LACC) subsequently met and agreed to recommend to its constituent fire authorities that the LACC be placed into 'dormancy'. The Fire Authority has approved this recommendation and tasked its Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with its Chair, to protect this Authority's interests during the process of moving to dormancy.

The Fire Authority has also requested its officers to draft a formal Memorandum of Understanding between Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority and Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority, which sets out arrangements to secure the formation of a shared resilient control room infrastructure, operated from two remote locations, with common operating, technological and procedural standards and practices.

The Fire Authority will receive a more detailed report concerning developments and financial implications arising from the cancellation of the FiReControl project at its April 2011 meeting.

Home Fire Safety Visits Programme

As part of its Public Value approach, the Fire Authority is seeking to maximise the use of its resources to match the reduction in funding in future years. This means that although the objective of "Putting Shropshire's Safety First" remains the principal aim of the Service, there will be a stronger focus on those populations that are identified as being 'higher risk'.

The current home fire safety visits programme will be refined so that those people who are deemed to be at low risk of fire and capable of looking after their own safety, will no longer be provided with a free smoke alarm. They will instead be directed to local providers of smoke alarms and sources of information such as the Service's website. The message to the public is that the policy is not rigid and staff will be encouraged to use their discretion in providing information and free smoke alarms to those who need them. The Service will always provide advice on prevention, detection and escape to those who request it.



Stuart West
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
February 2011

Background Papers

Agenda and papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 9 February 2011

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 9 February 2011 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.