

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Meeting held on 24 February 2016

Capital Programmes and Prudential Guidelines

The Fire Authority confirmed its 2016/17 to 2019/20 capital programmes, and approved its Prudential Guidelines, the Treasury Strategy for 2016/17 and the Minimum Revenue Provision 2016/17.

Adequacy of Provisions and Reserves and Robustness of Budget

The Fire Authority agreed the reserves, recommended by its Strategy and Resources Committee, and noted the Treasurer's assurances covering the robustness of the 2016/17 budget and adequacy of the reserves.

Revenue Budget 2016/17

The Fire Authority considered recommendations made by its Strategy and Resources Committee and Strategic Planning Group Members' Working Group in relation to the revenue budget for 2016/17.

The Committee had recommended, and it was agreed by the Fire Authority, a precept increase of 1.99% in 2016/17, followed by 0.5% in future years to 2019/20. The Fire Authority agreed this recommendation with the understanding that the assumptions in the later years i.e. 2017/18 to 2019/20 would be amended to reflect the most recently available information.

Revenue Budget: 2016/17 Precept

The Fire Authority agreed:

- A net budget requirement of £21,669,704
- A total precept of £14,285,986 to be levied on the billing authorities
- A Council Tax resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D of £94.05
- The amount payable by billing authorities for 2014/15, as follows:

Council	Precept £
Shropshire Council	9,867,019
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	4,418,967
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	14,285,986

Annual Plan 2016/17

The Fire Authority agreed the outline format and contents of the Annual Plan 2015/16. The following strategic aims were reaffirmed:

- To be there when you need us in an emergency with a professional and well equipped team
- To reduce the number of fires in our community
- To reduce the number of fire related deaths and serious injuries
- To deliver a fire and rescue service, which provides value for money for our community now and into the future

In addition the Fire Authority delegated responsibility to its Strategy and Resources Committee to agree the Service Targets 2016/17, which support the Fire Authority's four Strategic Aims.

Annual Review of Charges for Special Services

The Fire Authority has completed its annual review of the tariff for special services charges and agreed an increase of 1% with effect from 1 April 2016, in line with the 1% pay increase awarded to firefighters during 2015/16.

Amendments to the Pay Policy Statement

The Fire Authority has conducted its annual review of the Pay Policy Statement and agreed minor changes to bring it up to date. The amended Statement has now been published and will be reviewed annually, following notification of national pay decisions determined in respect of Gold, Grey and Green Book staff each year.

Scheme for Payment of Members' Allowances 2016/17

The Fire Authority agreed its 2016/17 Scheme for the Payment of Members' Allowances to take effect from 1 April 2016. The Scheme has been amended to include minor changes to travel allowances to bring them into line with the Government's 'approved mileage allowance payments', to which these allowances are now linked.

In addition, the Fire Authority also agreed to engage at least three members of the Independent Remuneration Panel, which carries out reviews of member allowances for Shropshire Council, to undertake a full review of the Fire Authority Allowances Scheme, with a report to be provided back to the Fire Authority during the 2016/17 municipal year.



Stuart West
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
April 2016

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 24 February 2016

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:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk>

To access reports go to the Fire Service's website and follow the steps below.

- Click on the 'Managing the Service' icon at the top of the page
- Click on the 'Fire Authority' icon
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on '24 February 2016' 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.