

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority

Chair's Report for the Meeting held on 25 April 2018

Review of Reserves

As a consequence of a review by officers, the Fire Authority agreed the following changes to its reserves:

- The Unearmarked Capital Reserve be renamed to Major Projects Capital Reserve and the Service Transformation Programme Staff Reserve be renamed as the Staff Reserve
- A reduction of £900k in the Income Volatility Reserve and a reduction in the Pensions Reserve
- An increase of £250k to the Staff Reserve and £300k to the Operational Equipment Reserve

This will mean that the Fire Authority holds £7,029,000 in reserves which is 32% of its revenue budget for 2018/19.

Annual Plan 2016/17

The Fire Authority has approved the final version of its Annual Plan 2018/19.

The forward-looking, Annual Plan supplements and underpins the Fire Authority's five-year strategy, which is set out in the Medium-Term Corporate Plan. The Annual Plan defines the Fire Authority's Strategic Aims and associated Service Targets and includes the Authority's purpose, core values and aims.

A copy of the Service Plan can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Annual%20Plan%202018-19.pdf>

Integrated Risk Management Planning

In October 2014, the Fire Authority considered proposals for inclusion within the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2015 to 2020. As a result of these proposals, two major projects related to staffing were identified. These were IRMP 1 – Introduction of 4 Watch Optimum Crewing System and IRMP 2 – Fire Control Review.

Both of these projects have now completed their initial implementation phase, which began on 1 January 2017, and the Fire Authority received update reports summarising the initial introduction of the 4 Watch Optimum Crewing System for IRMP 1 and the Self-Rostering System for Fire Control (IRMP 2).

The results of the 12 month trial for IRMP 1 have been very positive and the Service is confident that the requirements placed on this project will be achieved as planned.

The Fire Authority gave particular recognition to its wholetime employees and the Fire Brigades Union for their support during the negotiation and implementation phases of the project.

For IRMP 2, the Fire Authority has formally recognised the conclusion of the 12 month trial of Self-Rostering. This will be followed by a 12 month trial of a Flexible Rostering Duty System which it is hoped will address the work / life balance and management issues that may have impacted on the implementation of the Self-Rostering trial.

Home Secretary decision on Governance Change

It was announced on 26 March 2018 that a decision had been made by the Home Secretary to transfer governance of the Fire and Rescue Service to the Police and Crime Commissioner with effect from 1 June 2018.

In response to this, the Fire Authority has written to the Government Legal Department questioning the proposal to transfer governance and asking for further evidence in relation to the decision. This letter was sent before the Amber Rudd's resignation as Home Secretary and included a deadline for response.

The Fire Authority is holding an Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday, 9 May 2018 to decide how it wishes to proceed dependent upon the evidence that is supplied by the Home Office to provide justification for the decision to dissolve the existing Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority and replace it with the Shropshire and Telford Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority.



Eric Carter
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
May 2018

Background Papers

Agenda and papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 25 April 2018

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:

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

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

- Click on 'About Us' at the top of the page
- Click on 'Fire and Rescue Authority'
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on '25 April 2018' 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.