

# Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Meeting held on 13 February 2019

## Capital Programmes, Treasury Management Statement and Capital Strategy

The Fire Authority confirmed its 2019/20 to 2023/24 capital programmes, and approved its Capital Strategy for the same period, together with its Treasury Management Statement for 2019/20.

## Adequacy of 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 2019/20 budget and adequacy of the reserves.

## Revenue Budget 2019/20

The Fire Authority considered recommendations made by its Strategy and Resources Committee in relation to the revenue budget for 2019/20.

The Committee had recommended, and it was agreed by the Fire Authority, a precept increase of 2.99% in 2019/20.

## Revenue Budget: 2019/20 Precept

The Fire Authority agreed:

- A net budget requirement of £22,288,080
- A total precept of £16,228,512 to be levied on the billing authorities
- A Council Tax resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D of £100.25
- The amount payable by billing authorities for 2018/19, as follows:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Precept £</b>
Shropshire Council	11,151,821
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	5,076,691
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	16,228.512

## Combined Fire Authority Review

At its June 2018 meeting, the Fire Authority tasked its Strategy and Planning (StraP) Working Group to undertake a review of the structure and composition of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority, with specific regard to economy, efficiency

and effectiveness and to report back to the Fire Authority with specific recommendations, in line with the governance year.

The Fire Authority received and considered the report and recommendations of the StraP Working Group and agreed that Legal Services explore further the option of a small reduction in Member numbers (from 17 to 15 or 13 as a minimum) and a change in the Committee structure. The proposed change in structure would result in the Fire Authority having two functional Committees; one decision-making committee which considers strategy and the allocation of resources, whilst the other scrutinises and challenges these decisions to ensure transparency and effectiveness on behalf of the Fire Authority and the public.

Officers will now undertake further work on the proposed option and bring a formal recommendation to the next meeting of the Fire Authority.

## **Annual Plan 2019/20**

The Fire Authority agreed the outline format and contents of the Annual Plan 2019/20.

In addition the Fire Authority delegated responsibility to its Strategy and Resources Committee to agree the Service Targets 2019/20, 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 2% with effect from 1 April 2019, in line with the interim pay increase awarded to firefighters in 2018/19.

## **Amendments to the Pay Policy Statement 2019/20**

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.

## **Flexible-rostering Duty System Trial within Fire Control**

The Fire Authority received a report setting out the results of the Flexible-rostering Duty System trial which Fire Control have undertaken since January 2018.

The report showed that, in comparison to the Self-rostering Duty System, which was trialled in 2017 and the previously used 2-2-4 shift system, the Flexible-rostering Duty System is an efficient and effective system which is strongly supported by Fire Control staff.

The Fire Authority agreed that the Flexible-rostering Duty System should therefore be adopted as the permanent duty system within Fire Control into the future. This will now be progressed to a Collective Agreement which will be submitted to the Fire Brigades Union's National Executive Council for sign-off.



Eric Carter  
Chair  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
February 2019

## **Background Papers**

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 February 2019

**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 '13 February 2019' 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.