

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Meeting held on 12 December 2018

2019/20 and Later Years Budget Summary

The Fire Authority considered the budgets proposed by its Strategy and Resources Committee, which were put forward for approval as the basis for consultation, leading to a final decision by the Fire Authority in February 2019.

The report set the grant assumptions that Officers had used for 2019/20 budget planning and also modelled further scenarios to demonstrate the effects of movement within these assumptions.

Having confirmed the current position of reserves and the level of the General Reserve, the Authority agreed to base its budget planning and consultation on a precept increase of 2.99% in 2019/20, with an increase of 1.99% in the years following.

Finally, it requested its Strategy and Resources Committee to prepare a final budget package in January 2019, for decision by the Fire Authority in February 2019.

Cycle to Work Scheme

The Fire Authority agreed, as recommended by its Standards and Human Resources Committee, that Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service should run a Cycle to Work Scheme for its employees. Such a scheme would accrue benefits to the Fire Authority, local authority partners and the environment.

The Scheme, which is open to all employees, allows staff to effectively lease a bicycle, and associated equipment, for a period of say 12 months and to pay for it through deductions from their gross salary. At the end of the agreed lease period, employees have three options: either return the equipment; or purchase the equipment at a fair market value; or sign up to an extended use agreement with no further charges.

The Scheme will be set up with Cycle Solutions and will initially be opened to employees twice in the first 12 months after which a review of the Scheme and its benefits will be undertaken.

Strategic Fire Alliance Update

At its October 2018 meeting, the Fire Authority agreed to adopt the Fire Alliance Strategic Plan 2018-2022 which aims to create a strategic alliance between Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service

The update received by the Fire Authority set out the progress that has been made in delivering the Strategic Fire Alliance. This included the inaugural meeting of the

Strategic Alliance Board on 10 December 2018. This Board provides high level strategic governance for the Alliance and consists of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of both Fire Authorities and both Chief Fire Officers.

At its meeting, the Board agreed its Terms of Reference, which set out its co-ordination and delivery role, and identified three priority projects for the Alliance which will underpin its growth. These were:

1. Fire Control
Scoping future requirements for ensuring a resilient Command & Control function
2. Integrated Risk Management Plan
Reviewing options for aligning integrated risk management planning processes
3. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
Developing organisational arrangements for provision of ICT functions.

The Fire Authority gave its approval for officers to proceed with preparing option appraisals for the three identified key priority projects, which will be agreed at the next meeting of the Strategic Alliance Board.

Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP)

The Fire Authority has agreed to extend the lifespan of its current Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP 2015-20) by one year to March 2021

This extension will allow officers sufficient time to undertake a review of the IRMP processes in both Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Services with the aim of establishing a standardised methodology for the process across both Services. This fits with the Fire Authority's adoption of the Strategic Alliance Plan and its priority projects as set out above.

HMI Inspection Update

The Fire Authority received a verbal report, from the Chief Fire Officer, on the recent inspection of the Service by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The Inspection was completed in November 2018 and its report is now due to be written and moderated. Initial feedback from the Inspectorate is there are no immediate causes for concern and, whilst areas for improvement and consideration were identified during the inspection, a major programme of change is not required.



Eric Carter
Chair, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
December 2018

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 12 December 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 '12 December 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.