

**Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
Chair's Report of
Extraordinary Meeting held on 28 September 2020 and
the Annual Meeting held on 14 October 2020**

Extraordinary Fire Authority Meeting – 28 September 2020

At its Extraordinary Meeting on 28 September 2020, the Fire Authority ratified the recommendation of its Brigade Managers' Employment Panel that Mr Simon Hardiman and Mr Dan Quinn be appointed as Assistant Chief Fire Officers with effect from January 2021.

Fire Authority Annual Meeting – 14 October 2020

Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Fire Authority has elected Councillor Eric Carter as its Chair and appointed Councillor Chris Mellings as its Vice-Chair until June 2021.

Committee Composition and Allocation of Seats to Political Groups

The Fire Authority has agreed the number of seats on its Committees and the allocations of those seats to political groups.

Committee Membership and Constitution

The Fire Authority agreed the constitution for each of its Committees and Panels.

The Fire Authority has confirmed appointments to its committees and appointed its Chair, Councillor Eric Carter, to the Local Government Association Fire Services Commission.

Councillor Kevin Pardy has been appointed as the Fire Authority's Equality and Diversity Member Champion and Councillor Kuldeep Sahota as its Risk Management and Audit Member Champion.

Review of Member Role Descriptions

The Fire Authority has agreed the Member Role Descriptions listed below:

- Member
- Chair of the Authority
- Vice-Chair of the Authority

- Leaders of the Main Opposition Groups
- Chair and Vice-Chair for Strategy and Resources Committee
- Chair of Strategic Advisory Group
- Chair and Vice-Chair of Standards, Audit and Performance Committee
- Risk Management and Audit Champion
- Equality and Diversity Champion
- Independent Person, including Skills and Competencies

Review of Standing Orders and Scheme of Delegation to Officers

The Fire Authority has reviewed and agreed its Standing Orders for the Regulation of Proceedings and Business, Standing Orders relating to Contracts and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

This includes amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to reflect the change in the Executive Officer Structure which will now comprise the Chief Fire Officer and two Assistant Chief Fire Officers. This new structure comes into effect in January 2021.

Meeting Schedule 2021

The Fire Authority has approved the 2021 schedule of Authority and Committee meetings.

Wholetime Recruitment Campaign

The Fire Authority received a report setting out the decisions made by the Service Management Team regarding the most appropriate methods of recruiting between seven and fourteen wholetime firefighters in 2020/21.

These included

- The use of the HR Solutions Hub managed electronic system 'SIFT for Firefighter' as the preferred method of recruiting wholetime firefighters;
- The use of postcode restricting to limit applications to those resident in the West Midlands region which is in line with the ethos of providing local jobs for local people; and
- The approval of funding for Fire Bootcamps for under-represented groups. The 10-week Bootcamp programme is directly related to the Job Related Tests which are part of the firefighter recruitment process. The use of Bootcamps as part of the 2018 recruitment process was successful with 1 BAME candidate and 2 female candidates who had attended Bootcamp, being successfully appointed as firefighters.

Strategic Fire Alliance Update

The Fire Authority received an update on the Strategic Fire Alliance and the progress that has been made on the four key areas identified as foundation activities that would support wider future working. The key areas as approved by both Shropshire and Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authorities are as follows:

1. Fire Control
2. Integrated Risk Management Plan
3. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
4. Procurement

Progress has been made in all four key areas but has been hampered in recent months by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Progress is reported regularly to the Strategic Alliance Board and Programme Delivery Board and this report provided Members with an overview of each work programme and the next steps for each project over the coming months. Members will receive further updates as the projects develop.



Eric Carter
Chair
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
November 2020

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the Annual Meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 14 October 2020

The agendas and reports (apart from exempt or confidential items) for all Fire Authority and Committee meetings are on the Service's website:

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

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

- Click on 'About Us' in the red bar 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 '14 October 2020' 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.