



Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of Meetings held on 13 October 2021 and 15 December 2021

Fire Authority Meeting – 13 October 2021

Review of Standing Orders relating to Contracts

The Fire Authority has reviewed and agreed its Standing Orders relating to Contracts. There are two main areas of amendments:

1. The removal of references to European Union (EU) requirements – these being replaced with references to statutory requirements; and
2. The removal of references to the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) – this being replaced with the “Find a Tender” service. “Find a Tender” is the United Kingdom’s service for publishing contract notices which was launched on 1 January 2021

The current public procurement regime is under review with the consultation for this ending on 10 March 2021. The new regime is expected to come into force from late 2021 / early 2022 and this will mean that further changes may be needed to the Standing Orders. If this is the case, officers will bring a further report to the Fire Authority to seek agreement to those changes.

Model Code of Conduct

The Fire Authority has considered and agreed the Local Government Association’s model Code of Conduct, which was published in December 2020, following the Committee for Standards in Public Life report on Local Government Ethical Standards. The Fire Authority adopted the model Code with immediate effect. This adoption will give consistency across the Authority’s two constituent authorities.

Process for Dealing with Brigade Managers’ Pay

The Fire Authority has undertaken a full review of the Brigade Managers’ Pay Process and agreed some limited amendments to the policy including a change to the officer responsible for reviewing the process and updates to the Pay Research Organisations which are suitable to undertake pay reviews for the Authority.

Following the agreement of this review, the Fire Authority has commenced the formal Brigade Managers’ Pay Process and has tasked its Brigade Managers’ Employment Panel with meeting to commission a pay review.

Firefighters' Pension Scheme Delegations

A routine review of the discretionary powers of the Fire Authority under the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2015 has been carried out. The review has shown that the delegation of powers remains unchanged.

Alerters and Station End Equipment

The Fire Authority has approved funding to enable the implementation of new mobilising equipment for On Call stations and staff. This new equipment will replace current aged alerting and station end equipment to ensure mobilising systems continue to operate effectively into the future.

Fire Authority Meeting – 15 December 2021

Meeting Schedule 2022

The Fire Authority has approved the 2022 schedule of Authority and Committee meetings.

2022/23 and Later Years Budget Summary

The Fire Authority received a report summarising the initial budget assumptions agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee at its November 2021 meeting as the first stage of the budget planning process.

The report set out changes in those budget assumptions which have arisen since that Committee meeting and the Fire Authority agreed that the updated planning assumptions be used as the basis for budget consultation; allowing officers to work on a range of planning scenarios for later years of the planning period.

The Strategy and Resources Committee has been tasked with preparing a final budget package in January 2022, with the final decision on the 2022/23 budget being made by the Fire Authority at its February 2022 meeting.

Fire Alliance Board Update

The Fire Authority received an update on the Fire Alliance and the progress that has been made on the four key areas identified as foundation activities of the Alliance 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 which are now embedded and are yielding new projects that are leading to an increasingly operational and / or tactical alliance.

Progress is reported regularly to the Fire Alliance Board and Programme Delivery Board and this report is provided to 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
December 2021

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meetings of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 October and 15 December 2021

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 the relevant date' 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.