



## **Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of Meeting held on 16 February 2022 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 23 February 2022**

### **Fire Authority Meeting – 16 February 2022**

#### **Capital Programmes, Treasury Management Statement and Capital Strategy**

The Fire Authority confirmed its 2022/23 to 2026/27 capital programmes, and approved its Capital Strategy for the same period, together with its Treasury Strategy Statement for 2022/23.

#### **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 2022/23 budget and adequacy of the reserves.

#### **Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Precept**

The Fire Authority considered recommendations made by its Strategy and Resources Committee in relation to the revenue budget and precept for 2021/22.

The recommendations on the report were not carried on a recorded vote and it was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting be arranged to further consider the issue.

#### **Annual Plan 2022/23**

The Fire Authority agreed the outline format and contents of the Annual Plan 2022/23.

In addition, the Fire Authority delegated responsibility to its Strategy and Resources Committee to agree the Service Targets 2022/23, 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 1.5% with effect from 1 April 2022, in line with the interim pay increase awarded to firefighters in 2021/22.

## **Firefighters' Pension Scheme – Dealing with Immediate Detriment Cases**

The Fire Authority received a report outlining the current position in relation to the Firefighters Pension Schemes age discrimination remedy and the payments to be made to those Scheme members who were eligible for Immediate Detriment remedy payments.

The Home Office withdrew the framework guidance for processing Immediate Detriment cases in November 2021, ahead of legislation being finalised and coming into force in or before October 2023. At this point, the Service paused any such payments. It has also been advised that Central Government will not fund any costs attributed to the settlement of Immediate Detriment cases in Service and any fire and rescue authorities that proceed to process cases on this basis should assume that they will need to cover the associated costs. Due to a delay in clarification of HM Treasury guidance regarding these payments, it is impossible to confirm what the financial impact on the Fire Authority will be at this stage.

It was therefore agreed by the Fire Authority that the pausing of Immediate Detriment payments for claimants under the framework should continue with the position being reconsidered once guidance on the matter has been received from HM Treasury.

## **Amendments to the Pay Policy Statement 2022/23**

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.

## **National Fire Chiefs Council Direct Entry Scheme**

The Fire Authority received a report setting out the intention and rationale for the Service taking in part in the 'proof of concept' pilot of the National Fire Chiefs Council Direct Entry programme.

The purpose of the Direct Entry Scheme is to provide an attractive opportunity for high calibre leaders to directly enter fire and rescue services at Station or Area Manager level. This will enable services to broaden the base from which they draw their operational commanders, thereby increasing diversity of thought, perspective and experience.

The proposed timescale for the Direct Entry pilot is that recruitment will start in September 2022 with the first entrants arriving in the Services engaged in the 'proof of concept' pilot in April 2023. The Service will engage in this pilot with a view to contracting one direct entrant at Station Manager level. This is, however, dependent on a suitable individual successfully completing the selection process.

# Extraordinary Fire Authority Meeting – 23 February 2022

## Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Precept

The Fire Authority agreed:

- A net budget requirement of £24,410,522
- A total precept of £18,012,202 to be levied on the billing authorities
- A Council Tax resulting in a basic amount of Council Tax at Band D of £106.27
- The amount payable by billing authorities for 2022/23, as follows:

<b>Council</b>	<b>Precept £</b>
Shropshire Council	12,272,631
Borough of Telford & Wrekin Council	5,739,571
	<hr/>
	18,012,202



Eric Carter  
Chair  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
February 2022

### Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 16 and 23 February 2022

**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 the appropriate meeting 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.