

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority Chair's Report of the Annual Meeting held on 14 June 2023

Election of Chair and Appointment of Vice-Chair

The Fire Authority has elected Councillor David Minnery as its Chair and appointed Councillor Richard Overton as its Vice-Chair until June 2023.

Vote of Thanks and Welcome

The Fire Authority gave a formal vote of thanks to Councillors Eric Carter and Amrik Jhawar who left the Authority in May.

The Fire Authority welcomed Councillors Karen Blundell and Graham Cook, from Telford & Wrekin Council, who joined the Authority in May.

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 Appointments

The Fire Authority has confirmed appointments to its committees and appointed its Chair, Councillor David Minnery, 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 Roger Evans as its Risk Management and Audit Member Champion.

Fire Authority Terms of reference and Committee Constitutions

The Fire Authority agreed its Terms of Reference and agreed the constitutions of its Committees.

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 of Strategic Advisory Group
- Equality and Diversity Champion

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, Financial Regulations and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

Statement of Accounts 2022/23

The Fire Authority received a report, setting out the key revenue issues, which have arisen from work on the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and has approved the use of the General Fund balance in 2023/24.

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS) Values and Culture Update

The Fire Authority received a report detailing progress against recommendations made to the sector in the HMICFRS Values and Culture in the Fire and Rescue Services Report, which was published on 30 March 2023.

Of the 35 recommendations set out in the report, 20 required action by Chief Fire Officers with action against the remaining 15 recommendations being the responsibility of other agencies and services. The Service undertook a gap analysis on receipt of the HMICFRS report and used this to inform a Service Action Plan to ensure the recommendations are met within the given timescales.

The Fire Authority was advised that the Service is making substantial progress towards meeting the recommendations set out in the report with all timescales predicted to be met.

Annual Report on Collaborative and Partnership Working

Partnership working is a key element in the Fire Authority's strategy to meet its vision of "Putting Shropshire's Safety First". It is also a key theme of the Fire Service National Framework. The Fire Authority and the Service are actively involved in a number of partnerships, which are risk assessed for liability and reputation and scrutinised by the Service's Risk Management Group. This Group maintains a partnership register and monitors the outcome and productivity of each of the partnerships.

The Fire Authority received the annual report on collaborative and partnership working which gave an overview of the partnership working that the Service is currently engaged in together with a summary of collaborative work that has been undertaken in the past 12 months.

Corporate Risk Management Annual Report 2022/23

The Fire Authority has received an annual report on corporate risk management work during the last 12 months.

Ongoing monitoring of the Service's corporate risk management work is a responsibility of the Service Management Team and the Risk Management Group (RMG) with the Audit and Performance Management Committee receiving regular corporate risk management reports.

The RMG's primary function is to ensure that the Authority has an effective and efficient risk management process in place. The Group does this through reviewing the Corporate Risk Register, Departmental Statements of Assurance, Departmental Risk Registers and Internal Audit findings, highlighting, where necessary, issues or areas of concern through to the Service Management Team and/or the appropriate committee.

There are currently fourteen open risks on the Service's Corporate Risk Register, including four new risks which have been added during this reporting year.



David Minnery
Chair, Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
June 2023

Background Papers

Agenda and Papers for the Annual Meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 14 June 2023

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 June 2023' 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.