

## **SHROPSHIRE AND WREKIN FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY CHAIR'S REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2014**

### **Use of General Fund Balance 2013/14**

The Fire Authority has agreed how the General Fund balance from 2013/14 will be used and that any future savings will be contributed to the Unearmarked Capital reserve, to fund major building works, while avoiding debt charges in the revenue budget.

### **Integrated Risk Management / 2020 Planning Process**

The Fire Authority received a report regarding the outcomes of its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020 consultation process and considered which proposals should be included in the Fire Authority's IRMP 2015 to 2020. A summary of the more significant decisions is set out below. A number of other decisions were also made to reduce budgets by cutting the costs of various contracts and contributions to reserves.

#### **Fire Control**

Suspend merger proposals and undertake a Fire Control Review project, which should identify alternative options for improving the cost-effectiveness of the Fire Control function by approximately £300k per annum. In the meantime, the Service will maintain a watching brief on all partner collaboration opportunities.

#### **The IRMP Strategic Document and revisions to the Fire Authority's IRMP Response Standards**

Review and revise the draft IRMP document, based on the comments received through consultation, publishing the final version in April 2015, and change the risk classification for specific parts of the Prees parish, from 'Rural' to 'Town and Fringe'.

#### **Changes to the shifts currently worked by wholetime staff**

Undertake a project to identify all possible options, which could reduce the current wholetime staffing costs by approximately £400k per annum, whilst continuing to deliver a service matched to risk.

#### **Business Fire Safety**

Review the Business Fire Safety Department to ensure that it is delivering the right service, at the right cost and that the right levels of safety are provided for staff and the community.

## **Use Retained Duty System staff to fill short-term wholetime gaps**

In progressing the wholetime shift system review project (see above), consider how the Service could make the best use of its Retained Duty System staff in any resulting Integrated Staffing System.

## **Reduction in the overall support staff budget**

Continue with the commitment to reduce the support staff pay budget by £105k by 2020.

## **Code of Corporate Governance 2014/15**

The Fire Authority has formally adopted its Code of Corporate Governance 2014/15. Prior to the meeting the draft Code had been audited by Shropshire Council Internal Audit and been given an assurance opinion of 'good' (the highest assurance opinion).

## **Annual Review 2013/14**

The Fire Authority has agreed its Annual Review 2013/14, which looks back at the last financial year and explains the Authority's objectives, performance, risks and initiatives, along with its plans for the future.

## **Details of Lives Saved and those Protected from Harm**

The Fire Authority received a paper, which highlighted the number of people, who have been protected from harm, or rescued by operational crews from April to the end of August 2014. In summary,

- 5 people have been advised to leave their property
- 1 has received first aid at the scene
- 7 have been cut free at road traffic collisions
- 2 have received first aid at road traffic collisions

Fire Authority officers have devised a formula in an attempt to calculate the value of the Service's rescue work. This is based on the official NHS adviser's figure of £30,000, as the value of each additional year of quality life provided to a patient following treatment. Using this figure and various multipliers, depending on the type of rescue, the value of the Service's rescue work for the period 1 April to 31 August 2014 has been calculated at £2,475,000.



Stuart West  
Chair  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority  
October 2014

## Background Papers

Agenda Papers for the meeting of Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority held on 8 October 2014

**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:**

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

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

- Click on the 'Managing the Service' icon at the bottom of page
- Click on the 'Fire Authority' icon
- Click on 'Meetings' in the list on the right hand side of the screen
- Click on '8 October 2014' 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.