

## Minutes

### Members present:

Mr A I Hardman, (Chairman), Mr K Taylor (Vice-Chairman),  
Mrs P Andrews, Mr T Bean, Mr J Cairns, Mr S Clee, Mr J Goodwin, Mrs L Hodgson,  
Mrs J Potter and Mr G Yarranton.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Mrs M Bunker, Mr J Campion, Brigadier P Jones CBE, Mr D Taylor and Mr R Udall

### 2. Named Substitutes

None

### 3. Declaration of Interests (if any)

The Chairman invited any Councillor to declare an interest in any of the items on the Agenda for this Meeting.

Item 6 on the Agenda was “**Proposed options for Bromsgrove Fire Station**” which currently occupies land owned by The Worcestershire County Council; the Members appointed by that Council declared their interest. It was the view of the Clerk that this interest was not of concern at this stage.

Cllr J Potter declared that she was a Governor of New College whose lands could be involved in proposals for a new building for Bromsgrove Fire Station and her personal interest in the matter was noted.

### 4. Recent Fire in Hereford High Town

Cllr P Andrews conveyed the thanks of Hereford City Council for the manner in which Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service had dealt with the recent fire in Hereford High Town and, in particular, the care taken to minimise any damage to the heritage buildings in the vicinity of the fire. The Chief Fire Officer thanked her and said that this would be passed on to the commanders and crews who had successfully managed the incident. He said that the Service had also taken the opportunity to highlight its Fire Safety message to all businesses in the High Town.

### 5. The Terms of Reference of the Policy and Resources Committee

The Clerk presented to the Committee the Terms of Reference as approved by the Authority on 28 September 2010. At item 2, the Role of the Committee, she clarified that the Committee would only be involved in Audit Committee matters where there was a need for a strategic response from the Authority.

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the Terms of Reference as approved by the Authority on 28 September 2010.**

### 6. Policy and Resources Committee Work Programme

The Clerk presented the draft Work Programme for the Committee which she said needed to be flexible to accommodate various other matters which might arise in the future.

It was noted that the reports from the Equality and Diversity Steering Group, the Joint Consultative Council and the Health and Safety Liaison Panel would be submitted quarterly to the Committee.

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the Work Programme.**

## 7. Proposed Options for Bromsgrove Fire Station

The Chief Fire Officer advised the Committee of options to fund a replacement for Bromsgrove Fire Station and possible funding arrangements for the project which considered improved financial efficiencies for the Authority and co-operation with potential partner organisations. He said that having considered the various options Officers wished to investigate further the feasibility of leasing a new Fire Station as part of a new Fire/Police Station owned by West Mercia Police.

A Member stated that the Authority had previously resolved to acquire properties freehold rather than leasehold. The Clerk replied that she was not aware of any provision in the Asset Management Plan or current Authority policy which would prevent the Authority from considering the option to lease but that this would be checked prior to any future proposals in this regard.

A Member queried if the Ambulance Service could also share the proposed Police/Fire Service facility at Bromsgrove; the Committee heard that this had been considered but it was found that the site would be too small to accommodate this. The meeting noted the possibility of further co-operation with partners at Redditch and the Committee welcomed the partnership approach for the provision of new and improved Services.

### **RESOLVED that**

- i) the Policy and Resources Committee agree to officers of the Service continuing work with West Mercia Police to pursue an option to lease a new Fire Station in Bromsgrove as part of a new Fire/Police Station owned by West Mercia Police;*
- ii) the Authority continue to work with partners for the provision of new and improved services;*
- iii) a further report is brought to this Committee to seek appropriate permissions prior to the contractual stage of this project being reached; and*
- iv) prior to the above report the Clerk will check the Authority's policy regarding the leasing of property for the provision of Fire and Rescue Services.*

## 8. Budget Monitoring Report 2010-11

The Treasurer informed Members of the current position on Capital and Revenue Budgets after the first 6 months of the financial year 2010-11.

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the position on Capital and Revenue budgets at 30 September 2010.**

The meeting finished at 10.05 am.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_