

**Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Resources Committee
19 November 2013**



Minutes

Members Present:

Mr K Taylor (Chairman) Mr R Adams (Vice-Chairman)
Mr A Amos, Mr P Gretton, Mrs R Jenkins, Brigadier P Jones CBE, Mrs M Lloyd-Hayes, Mrs
F Oborski, Mr D Prodger MBE, Mr P Tuthill and Mr R Udall.

No.	Item
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1.	Apologies for Absence
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Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Hardman and Mr D Taylor.

2.	Named Substitutes
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No substitutes were appointed.

3.	Declaration of Interests
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No declarations of interests were made.

4.	Confirmation of Minutes
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RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 4 September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the removal of Mrs R Jenkins' name from the list of those present at the meeting.

5.	Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) – External Consultation
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The Committee met in scrutiny mode for this item to hear representations from Town and Parish Councils affected by the CRMP proposals.

Representatives from Town and Parish Councils had been invited to this meeting to present their representations. The Chamber of Commerce had also been invited to attend.

The Chief Fire Officer introduced the item and gave an outline of the financial savings that the Authority had achieved so far and the forward projections for future budgets including the size of the budget gap. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer then gave a presentation on the proposals contained within the Community Risk Management Plan.

Representatives from the following Councils attended and made representations to the Committee:

- Bewdley Town Council

- Evesham Town Council
- Ross on Wye Town Council
- Ledbury Town Council
- Tenbury Town Council

RESOLVED that a summary of the representations made by the invited speakers be submitted as part of the Community Risk Management Plan consultation process.

6. Asset Management Strategy

The Treasurer presented a report that provided an update on the progress made in the delivery of the Service's Asset Management Strategy to replace five fire stations and build four strategic training facilities.

The Treasurer drew Members' attention to the fact that the budget gap of £4.4m for these assets had now been closed through efficiencies made during contract negotiation and the receipt of a grant from central government.

RESOLVED that the progress in the delivery of the Asset Management Strategy be noted.

7. Asset Management Strategy : Hereford Fire Station

The Treasurer presented a report that informed Members of an option to replace Hereford Fire Station and gain approval to proceed up to planning approval stage with the project, at which time final approval to complete the project will be requested from the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Policy and Resources Committee notes the progress made in potentially securing a project to deliver a new fire station in Hereford at Herefordshire Council's Bath Street offices site in Hereford;**
- (ii) officers be authorised to enter into further negotiations with Herefordshire Council;**
- (iii) the Policy and Resources Committee authorise the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Authority and the Treasurer to spend the allocated budget on work to take the project to planning approval stage; and**
- (iv) a further paper, including a detailed cost feasibility will be brought to Policy and Resources Committee for final approval before entering into a contract for acquisition of the site.**

8. 2013/14 Budget Monitoring – 2nd Quarter

The Treasurer presented a report that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the current position on budgets and expenditure for 2013/14.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9. Financial Prospects 2014/15

The Treasurer presented a report that provided Members with a further update on developments on the funding position for 2014/15 and beyond.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

10. Employment Monitoring Data 2012/13

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that outlined the Employment Monitoring data that had been prepared for publication on the Service website.

Members' attention was drawn to a concern which related to the number of retained duty staff (RDS) leaving the Service. It was noted that this situation would be closely monitored.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee approves the Employment Monitoring Data Report 2012/13 and approves publication on the Service's website.

11. Progress of the Retained Duty System (On Call) Implementation Plan

The Head of Community Risk and Training presented a report that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with a report on the progress and delivery of the third and final year of the Retained Duty System (RDS) Implementation Plan.

Members were advised that as a result of the Implementation Plan a better structure was now in place that was better managed and supported.

RESOLVED that the progress of the Retained Duty System (On Call) Implementation Plan is noted by the Policy and Resources Committee.

12. Quarters 1 and 2 Performance and Health and Safety Reports 2013-14

The Head of Corporate Services presented a report which summarised Quarters 1 and 2 performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2013-14 and a summary of health and safety incidents occurring within Quarters 1 and 2.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee note the following headlines taken from Appendix 1 relating to performance in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 and Appendix 2 relating to health and Safety events in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14:

- (i) the total number of incidents attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 is the lowest Quarter 1 and 2 total in the seven years that the**

current data set has been collected;

- (ii) the Service also attended the lowest Quarters 1 and 2 totals of Special Service (non-fire emergencies) and False Alarms in the last seven years;**
- (iii) although the number of fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 have increased when compared to the same quarters last year, the total is still less than the average number of fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 of the last five years; and**
- (iv) the Service has also seen reductions in the number of injuries from primary fires and injuries from accidental dwelling fires with no injuries reported from accidental dwelling fires in May and June 2013. There were three fatalities from primary fires in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14.**

13. Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)

The Head of Community Risk and Training presented a report that provided Members with details of the Primary Authority Scheme which provided a statutory platform for partnerships between enforcement authorities and business trading across local authority boundaries.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) notes the contents of the report; and**
- (ii) receives a further update in early 2014.**

The meeting concluded at 13.03 pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____