



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Full Authority

Wednesday, 18 February 2015, 10:30

Minutes

Members Present: Mr R C Adams, Ms L R Duffy, Mr W P Gretton, Ms K S Guthrie, Mr A I Hardman, Mrs A T Hingley, Brigadier P Jones CBE, Mr D W Prodger MBE, Mr P A Tuthill, Ms P Agar, Mr A Fry, Mr D C Taylor, Mr S C Cross, Professor J W Raine, Mr A P Miller, Mr R M Udall, Mr G J Vickery, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr G C Yarranton, Mr J W R Thomas

Substitutes: none

Apologies for Absence: Mr P Sinclair-Knipe, Mr C B Taylor, Ms R E Jenkins, Mr J L V Kenyon, Mr R I Matthews

17 Declarations of Interest (if any)

None.

18 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman announced the sad death of Cllr C.B. Taylor's father last month. Bryan Taylor was a former Fire Authority Member from 1997 to 2005 who also served as Authority Vice-Chairman and leader of the Fire Authority Conservative group. The CFO represented this Authority and the Service at the funeral on 27th January.

The Chairman notified Members of Brigadier Jones' intention to stand down from the Fire Authority in May. The Brigadier has served on the Authority for 15 years, serving as Chairman for 4 years and as Vice-

Chairman since June 2011. The Chairman and Members thanked the Brigadier for all his work over the years wished him well for the future.

The Chairman asked Members to note that the publication of “The Fire and Rescue Service: Making Our Nation Safer” has been circulated. The document was published jointly by the Local Government Association and the Chief Fire Officers’ Association.

The Chairman informed Members that regrettably the Fire Brigades Union have notified the Service of another strike, for a period of 24 hours on 25 February commencing at 7am.

20 Public Participation

None.

21 Budget and Precept 2015-16 and Medium Term Financial Plan

The Authority received a report which sought to determine the Revenue and Capital Budgets and the Council Tax Requirement for 2015/16.

The report also recommended the approval of the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement for 2015/16. In addition, the Authority considered potential future resources, their consequential impact on future year budgets and the future Council Tax Requirement.

RESOLVED that:

i) the Capital Budget and Programme be approved;

ii) the Revenue Budget be approved;

iii) the Authority calculates that in relation to the year 2015/16:

a) the aggregate expenditure it will incur will be £32,989,000.00;

b) the aggregate income it will receive will be £13,512,414.00;

c) the net amount transferred to financial reserves will be £585,718.00;

d) the net amount of its Council Tax Requirement will be

£20,062,304.00;

e) the basic amount of Council Tax will be £76.50 (Band D);

f) the precept demands on the individual Billing Authorities are:

- Bromsgrove £2,670,332.76***
- Herefordshire £5,037,173.49***
- Malvern Hills £2,213,791.59***
- Redditch £1,900,690.04***
- Worcester £2,296,658.88***
- Wychavon £3,509,992.87***
- Wyre Forest £2,433,664.37***

iv) the Medium Term Financial Plan be approved; and

v) the Statement of Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved.

22 Day Crewing Plus - Hereford and Worcester Fire Stations

The Authority considered a report regarding the feasibility of introducing the Day Crewing Plus duty system to crew the second wholetime fire engines at Hereford and Worcester fire stations.

RESOLVED that:

(i) the Authority approves a two year trial period of the Day Crewing Plus duty system for the second fire engines at Hereford and Worcester; and

(ii) the Authority approves the capital expenditure (from existing resources) to enable the changes to facilitate the Day Crewing Plus crewing model at Hereford and Worcester Fire Stations and instructs the Treasurer to include the revenue expenditure in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 budgets forecasts.

23 Workforce Planning

The Authority received an update on options for reducing the whole time workforce as a consequence of changes in fire cover as agreed by the Fire Authority on 1 October 2014.

RESOLVED that:

i) the initiatives in progress for temporarily reducing staffing levels be noted; and

ii) staff who volunteer for redundancy in future be offered an enhanced redundancy payment calculated on the basis of actual pay (rather than the statutory maximum) plus 75% enhancement and that this be applied to all staff groups.

24 Hindlip Transformation Bid

The Authority considered a report on progress on the project to relocate the Fire Authority Headquarters to join West Mercia Police at Hindlip Park near Worcester and to provide assurance that Officers of the Service are fully engaged with their counterparts in the Police to ensure that this project is delivered successfully with the appropriate resources.

RESOLVED that a further report be submitted to the Authority for approval prior to entering into any contractual arrangements or committing major financial resources.

25 Joint Property Vehicle Update

The Authority received a report to update Members on decisions made by other bodies with regard to the Joint Property Vehicle (JPV) and to reaffirm this Authority's decision to join the JPV.

RESOLVED that this Authority become a member of the JPV company as resolved at the meeting on 10th December 2014, notwithstanding the decision by Herefordshire Council not to participate.

26 Pay Policy Statement 2015/16

The Authority considered a report regarding the requirement for the Service to publish its annual Pay Policy Statement for year 2015/16.

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 and supporting information be approved for publication.

27 Chief Fire Officer's Service Report

The Authority considered recent key developments and activities, which included:

- i) key outcomes from the large scale service exercise as requested at the last Authority meeting;
- ii) an update on the two year government led Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme as it drew to its conclusion;
- iii) notification by the Fire Brigades Union of another strike, for a period of 24 hours on 25 February commencing at 7am. The Chief Fire Officer announced that the Service had robust contingency plans in place to deal with such events and assured Members that these arrangements had already been initiated; and
- iv) the recent publication from the Local Government Association and Chief Fire Officers' Association "The Fire and Rescue Service: Making Our Nation Safer". The document recommended that the new government should bring into force existing legislation making it mandatory to install and maintain smoke alarms in private rented properties.

Cllr Udall had drawn this matter to the attention of the Chief Fire Officer and requested that the Authority should urge local MPs to recommend the immediate enactment of such legislation prior to any change in government. It was noted that the Chief Fire Officer would be writing to all local MPs to that effect.

Members were also provided with an update on the development of the new Service website which was soon to go live.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

28 Minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee

The Chairman of the Committee reported the proceedings of the Audit and Standards Committee 21 January 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2015 be received and noted.

29 Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee reported the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee 27 January 2015. The Vice-Chairman made reference to minute 5 and informed the meeting that Whychavon District Council had recently granted planning permission for the new Evehsam Fire Station.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2015 be received and noted.

The Meeting ended at: 12:40

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman