

**Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Resources Committee
27 March 2013**



Minutes

Members Present

Mr K Taylor (Chairman) Mr G C Yarranton (Vice-Chairman)
Mr T Bean, Mrs M Bunker, Mrs E Eyre, Brigadier P Jones CBE, Mrs J Potter, Mr D W
Prodger MBE, 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 J Campion, Mr A Hardman, Mrs M Lloyd-Hayes, Mr B Matthews and Mr D Taylor.

2.	Named Substitutes
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No substitutes were appointed.

3.	Declaration of Interests (if any)
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The Chairman invited Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary or other interests against any of the Agenda items. Councillor L Eyre declared an interest in agenda item number 6, Development at Evesham, as she is a member of Wychavon District Council.

4.	Confirmation of Minutes
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RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 23 January 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5.	2012/13 Budget Monitoring – Third Quarter
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The Treasurer presented a report that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the current position on budgets and expenditure for 2012/13.

The Treasurer highlighted that the underspend was slightly better than that which had been forecast.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

6.	Development at Evesham
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A report was considered that highlighted a proposal from Wychavon District Council to purchase the current Evesham fire Station site and re-provide a new fire station and training facility as part of a greater development plan for Evesham.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Policy and Resources Committee agrees in principle to the proposed sale of the existing Evesham Fire Station site to Wychavon District Council on terms that allow for the provision of a new Fire Station and training facility; and**
- (ii) details of the proposed terms be reported back to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval following negotiation.**

7. Property – Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

A report was considered that advised the Policy and Resources Committee of a proposal by the Worcestershire Partnership Executive Group (PEG) to explore the potential of a Property Services Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).

The Chief Fire Officer presented the report and explained that the purpose of the SPV was to explore if there was a better way to deal with public property in Worcestershire.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Policy and Resources Committee support officers of the Service in exploring the potential of an option of a joint Property Services Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) between Worcestershire partners; and**
- (ii) if any proposals arising from this work show the potential to provide advantages for the Authority, these will be brought back to the Policy and Resources Committee for any approvals needed to proceed.**

8. Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

A report was considered that asked the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the adoption of a policy regarding the authorisation of covert investigatory techniques under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

The Clerk explained that whilst the Authority did not use covert surveillance powers they were nevertheless required to have a policy and procedure in place.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the draft policy on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, including the appointment of 'Authorising Officers' and 'Senior Responsible Person' as contained therein, be approved; and**
- (ii) in accordance with the Home Office code of practice, an annual**

report be made to the Policy and Resources Committee with a review of the policy and the Authority's use of powers under the Act.

9. Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2012/13 Quarters 1 – 3 Performance Analysis

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with a summary of Quarters 1 – 3 performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2012-13.

In response to a Member's query the Chief Fire Officer commented that the Service was one of the top performers in the country with regard to the low number of malicious false alarms that it received. Also the number of Automatic Fire Alarm calls had decreased by 5.7% resulting in a lower number of fire engine journeys.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of this report.

10. Equality and Diversity Advisory Group Update

A report was considered that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the key areas of discussion at the Equality and Diversity Advisory Group meeting on 6 February 2013.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee note the content of this report.

11. Health and Safety Committee Update

A report was considered that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of this report.

12. Joint Consultative Committee Update

A report was considered that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of this report.

The meeting concluded at 11.50 am.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____