



Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority

Policy and Resources Committee

Wednesday, 25 January 2017, 10:30

Minutes

Members Present: Mr R C Adams, Mr A Fry, Mrs F M Oborski MBE, Mr R J Phillips, Mr D W Prodger MBE, Mr C B Taylor, Mr J W R Thomas, Mr P A Tuthill, Mr R M Udall

Substitutes: none

Absent: Mrs Elizabeth Eyre BEM, Mr Jim Kenyon

Apologies for Absence: Mr B A Baker, Ms R E Jenkins

71 Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

72 Fleet Procurement Strategy 2017/18

As agreed at the Member led Fleet Task and Finish Group in January 2016, Members were provided with an update on the proposed fleet procurements in the forthcoming year.

Members were provided with a two year forecast and were informed that due to the age of some vehicles and in order to modernise the whole fleet, there would be a significant number of new vehicles planned within the next two years.

Members questioned the use of restricted access vehicles and noted that their life had been extended by 3 years to 2020/21.

Members were reminded that the funding for the replacement fleet vehicle programme is allocated through the capital programme and is reviewed

by the Treasurer on a regular basis.

RESOLVED that the Committee notes the contents of the report and approves the proposed outline procurements in 2017/18 and 2018/19, as detailed in Table 1 of the report.

73 Budget 2017/18 and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

Members were asked to review the current position in relation to budgets for 2017/18 and beyond, and to make recommendations to the Fire Authority.

Members were advised that only part of the information had been received to finalise the figures in the budget equation at the time of agenda publication. Members were then updated with the following precept information:

- final council tax-bases now increased by 1.8% equating to an additional £46,000 over the figure in the report.
- the one-off collection fund surplus was now estimated at £0.238m.

Members' attention was drawn to the rogue figure of £0.150m in the general balances table for the approved use for 2016/17 - this was an error and should be removed.

Members requested an update to the next meeting of the use of £60,000 of resources on the 12 month project targeting fire safety within Houses of Multiple Occupation type premises.

With regard to the move of Headquarters to Hindlip, Members requested involvement of Group Leaders when considering the options and a detailed plan of the layout to be included with the next update.

Members thanked the Treasurer for providing a clear and concise report.

RESOLVED that the Fire Authority be recommended to:

- **agree the amendments to expenditure and resource projections as set out in Appendices 1 and 2;**
- **increase council tax by £1.53 per year (1.96%) for 2017/18);**
- **note the remaining budget gaps set out in Paragraph 49; and**
- **earmark up to £2.6m of reserves to smooth the implementation of efficiencies over the period to 2020/21.**

74 Health and Safety Committee Update

Members were provided with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee and drew Members' attention to key areas of work currently being undertaken by the Service.

Members questioned the electronic stability programme (ESP) fitted on new fire appliances and were pleased that additional driving training resolved the issue with no further incidences reported.

[Councillor Fry left the room at 11.13 and returned at 11.14].

RESOLVED that the following issues, in particular, be noted:

- i) Health and Safety performance information recorded during July 2016 to September 2016 (Quarter 2); and**
- ii) The involvement of the Service in a number of Health and Safety initiatives.**

75 Exclusion of the Press and Public - Delivering a Wyre Forest Emergency Services Hub

The Authority were asked to exclude members of the public and press from Agenda Item 8.

It was RESOLVED to exclude the public and press on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, namely
- information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Delivering a Wyre Forest Emergency Services Hub

Members were provided with clarity about the next stages required to move the project forward to deliver an emergency services hub for the Wyre Forest area.

Summary of Decision:

RESOLVED that Members note the progress towards acquisition of the site and commencement of the design stage.

The Meeting ended at: 11:31

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Chairman