



Minutes

Members Present:

Mr K Taylor (Chairman),

Mr A Amos, Brigadier P Jones CBE, Ms R Jenkins, Mrs F Oborski, Mr S Peters, Mr D Prodger MBE, Mr D Taylor, 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, Mr R Adams (Vice-Chairman) and Mr P Gretton.

2.	Named Substitutes
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Mrs L Duffy substituted for Mr R Adams and Mr T Miller substituted for Mr P Gretton.

3.	Declaration of Interests
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None.

4.	Confirmation of Minutes
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RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 26 March 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5.	Provisional Financial Results 2013/14
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The Head of Finance presented a report informing Members of the financial results for 2013/14. Members' attention was drawn to the revenue budget savings which included a one off sum of £0.135m. This was due to the mobilising system not being 100% complete and therefore the maintenance fee had not yet been paid. Pressure was also being put on all spending departments. With regards to the capital budget Members' attention was drawn to the underspend of £8.125m which will be rolled forward to 2014/15.

RESOLVED that:

- i) the provisional financial results for 2013/14 be noted; and**

ii) the following items be approved:

- (a) the transfer of £0.130m to a Business Rates Reserve;**
- (b) the transfer of a further £0.211m to the Budget Reduction Reserve;**
- (c) the transfer of the balance of £0.353m to General Balances; and**
- (d) the re-phasing of capital budgets to 2014/15 as detailed in appendix 1 to these minutes.**

6. Joint Property Vehicle (JPV) Project

The Chief Fire Officer presented a report updating Members with progress towards supporting the Worcestershire Joint Property Vehicle (JPV) project and sought agreement to make available a small amount of an earmarked reserve to support the work should it be needed. The Chief Fire Officer detailed that the next stage would be to provide Members with a full business case before the end of the year. Members were advised that Herefordshire Council were also now an addition to the list of core partners.

The Chief Fire Officer explained that although the Head of Asset Management had been seconded to the project, his post would be backfilled from external funds provided from the project. However other Service staff will be committing time to progress the project to the Full Business Case stage as they play a full part in the various working groups being formed to deliver the Full Business Case. The Chief Fire Officer, therefore, requested approval for £30,000 of reserves to be available to occasionally outsource tasks if required.

RESOLVED that:

- i) progress towards the Full Business Case for the Worcestershire Joint Property Vehicle (JPV), including the fully funded secondment of a member of the Service's staff to the project, be noted;***
- ii) consultation with staff and representative bodies be undertaken as necessary as part of the development of the Full Business Case; and***
- iii) the Chief Fire Officer be authorised to use up to £30,000 from the Development Reserve as and if necessary to support the work towards the Full Business Case.***

Mr R Udall abstained from the vote.

7. Closer Working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Chief Fire Officer introduced the report and Area Commander Preece, a member of the project team, then updated Members in detail on the project approach and progress made to date in assessing the benefits and options for

closer working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

RESOLVED that the project approach and progress made in assessing the benefits and options for closer working be noted.

8. Provision of Payroll Services

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report informing Members of a potential collaborative partnership arrangement to provide payroll services with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and to seek authority for the creation of a shared service if this is shown to be beneficial.

Under the terms of the Authority's constitution, any such 'joint arrangement' would require the approval of the full Authority

RESOLVED that the Fire Authority be recommended to give delegated authority to the Chief Fire Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority and the Treasurer, to enter into an in-house shared service with Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and/or others for the provision of payroll services, if this is considered to be the most cost-effective approach following a detailed business case and/or competitive tender process.

9. West Midlands Regional Collaborative Statement

The Chief Fire Officer presented a report informing Members about a proposal by the West Midlands region's Fire Services to enter into a Regional Collaborative Statement to provide clear operational and organisational benefits through collaboration across the five Fire and Rescue Services in the West Midlands region.

RESOLVED that the Authority agree to the principles of the Regional Collaborative Statement and that agreement of this Statement is finalised by the Chief Fire Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Authority.

10. Annual Performance 2013-14

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report providing Members with a summary of annual performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2013-14 using the set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) agreed by the Senior Management Board.

RESOLVED that Members note the following headlines relating to performance in 2013-14:

- i) The total number of incidents attended in 2013-14 is the second lowest total in the eight years that the current data set has been collected.***

- ii) *Although the number of Fires attended in 2013-14 have increased when compared to the previous year, the Service attended the lowest annual totals of Special Service (non-fire emergencies) and the second lowest number of false alarms in the last eight years.*
- iii) *Sickness levels for all staff continue to remain within tolerance levels and the amount of long term sickness has reduced as a proportion of all sickness at the end of the 2013-14 financial year.*
- iv) *Retained appliances were available for operational duty 91% of the time.*

11. Pension Scheme Discretions

The Head of Human Resources presented a report explaining the changes to the Firefighters' Pensions Scheme 1992 (FPS), the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 (NFPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 (LGPS) and consider the Authority's policy in relation to various discretions exercisable under those schemes.

RESOLVED that the Statements of Policy for the Firefighters' Pension Scheme 1992, New Firefighters' Pension Scheme 2006 and Local Government Pension Scheme 2014 set out in appendix 2 to these minutes be approved

12. Assurance Against Equality Objectives

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report updating Members on the progress made against the Equality and Diversity objectives.

RESOLVED that the following be noted:

- i) *that the Service has achieved six of the seven actions in relation to the Equality and Diversity objectives; and*
- ii) *the assurance provided against the Service's Equality Objectives will be published on the Service's website.*

The meeting concluded at 11.40am.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____