

14. Report from the Policy and Resources Committee

Purpose of report

1. To inform the Authority of the proceedings of the Committee Meetings held on 24 March and 8 June 2011.

Recommendation

The Policy and Resources Committee recommends that the Authority note the proceedings of the Committee Meetings held on 24 March and 8 June 2011.

Committee Meeting 24 March 2011

2. The Committee noted **the third quarter performance analysis** against the Authority Plan 2010-2011.
3. The 'Total Place' initiative has been re-named **the Capital and Asset Pathfinder** (CAP). The Committee supported the collaboration with strategic partners with regard to building usage and sharing resources and ongoing work with the CAP Steering Group.
4. Following the demise of **the Regional Control project** the Local Authority Company established to operate the RCC for this region was being dissolved.
5. The Government published a consultation document: '*The future of Fire and Rescue Control Services in England*' on 13 January 2011, with consultation responses due by 8 April 2011. The CFO said that the consultation document asked Fire and Rescue Authorities to consider the range of issues emerging from the termination of the national project.
6. The CFO told the Committee that the Service had prepared a draft response which informed DCLG of HWFRA's collaboration with Shropshire and Wrekin's FRA and that there may be funding available for this work. The Committee welcomed the proposals to co-ordinate fire control services for the West Mercia region, which would mirror the region covered by West Mercia Police.
7. The Committee considered the **Community Right to Challenge** proposals set out in the Localism Bill which would allow voluntary and community groups, employees of relevant authorities and parish councils to challenge and deliver local public services on behalf of the authority that they feel could be better delivered by the community. Relevant authorities would have a duty to consider any such expressions of interest.
8. Although combined Fire and Rescue Authorities were not specifically included as 'relevant authorities' in the Bill, the provision stated that the Secretary of State may specify by regulation the inclusion of "such other person or body carrying on functions of a public nature."
9. Further to that provision, the Committee heard that the Government published a consultation document on 4 February 2011 to assist in developing the detail of how the regulations would apply. The consultation stated that the

Government was “minded to extend the Community Right to Challenge to make all Fire and Rescue Authorities relevant authorities in regulations, whilst excluding certain core services.”

10. The Service had drafted a consultation response recommending that front line delivery of core emergency services and associated services should be exempted and the Committee agreed to the proposed response to the consultation being submitted on its behalf.
11. The Committee approved **the Asset Management Strategy** including the indicative budget allocations for each of the capital building schemes, including five fire stations and four strategic training facilities.

Committee Meeting 8 June 2011

12. The Committee noted the Annual Performance analysis for 2011/12.
13. The Committee considered the Authority's draft Annual Plan 2011/12, proposed amendments and recommended that the Authority approve the revised draft for publication (per item 12, FRA agenda 22 June 2011.)
14. The Committee noted the provisional financial results for 2010/11 and made recommendations to the Authority regarding revenue reserves and capital transfers (per item 11, FRA agenda 22 June 2011.)
15. The Committee noted that the contract for the new command and control room in HQ had been awarded and that the Service has sought funding from Government to progress collaborative arrangements with Shropshire Fire and Rescue to develop a shared resilient control room infrastructure.
16. The Committee approved the budget allocation for the capital building scheme to re-provide Malvern Fire Station.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	N	

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	N	

Additional Considerations

17. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	N	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	N	
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	N	

Background Papers

Agenda and Reports for the Meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 24 March and 8 June 2011.

(The background papers can be viewed on the Service website: www.hwfire.org.uk).

Contact

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