



## **Minutes**

### **Members present:**

#### **Herefordshire:**

Brigadier P Jones CBE, (Vice-Chair), Mrs M Lloyd-Hayes, Mr B Matthews, Mr P Sinclair-Knipe and Mr D C Taylor.

#### **Worcestershire:**

(Chair) Mr D W Prodger MBE, Mr R Adams, Mr A Amos, Mrs P Agar, Mr S Cross, Mrs L Duffy, Mr A Fry, Mr P Gretton, Mr P Grove, Mr A Hardman, Mrs A Hingley, Mrs R Jenkins, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr S R Peters, Mr C Taylor, Mr P Tuthill and Mr R Udall.

#### **No. Item**

##### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Broomfield, Professor J Raine and Mr P Watts.

##### **2. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

##### **3. Confirmation of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Fire Authority held on 3 October 2013 be agreed and signed by the Chairman.

##### **4. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

###### **1. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Awarded a Prize**

The Chairman was proud to announce that Richard Lawrence, Deputy Chief Fire Officer had been awarded the G4S prize for the best MBA dissertation in this academic year at the University of Worcester. This dissertation was part of his Executive MBA in Leadership and Management and the Chairman asked Members to join him in congratulating Richard Lawrence on this significant

achievement.

## 2. Medals and Awards Ceremony, Herefordshire

Herefordshire had held its Medals and Awards Ceremony on Friday 22 November 2013 at the Town Hall in Hereford. A number of awards were presented, including Long Service and Good Conduct Medals, 30 year Awards and an Outstanding Service Medal.

Chief Fire Officer Commendations and Certificates of Congratulations were also presented to both members of the Service and members of the community who had performed brave or meritorious acts.

The event was attended by a range of dignitaries including the Lord Lieutenant, High Sherriff of Herefordshire, the Mayor of Hereford, and representatives from partner agencies.

## 3. National Arboretum

A small gathering was attended at the National Memorial Arboretum to rededicate this Service's Memorial to those that perished in the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001. A significant redevelopment and expansion programme by the Arboretum led to the relocation of our Memorial and following 18 months of discussions, a new Memorial was unveiled by former Chief Fire Officer David O'Dwyer. Members were recommended to visit the National Memorial Arboretum.

## **5 Public Participation**

No applications to participate in the meeting had been received from members of the public.

## **6 Presentation – Senior Human Resources Advisor – Ethical Framework**

The Senior Human Resources Advisor, who gave a presentation which outlined the role of equality and diversity within the Fire and Rescue Service and the ethical framework.

## **7 Financial Prospects 2014/15**

The Treasurer presented a report that provided Members with a further update on developments on the funding position for 2014/15 and beyond.

Members were advised that there would be no further updates to the figures contained within the report until the Authority was in receipt of the final grant figures which were expected later in December 2013. Other influences to the figures would be the indicative council tax base and business rate yield which was expected in late December. The decisions taken with regard to the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) in February 2014 would also affect the budget. Further budgetary restraints

were anticipated on the same scale as in this Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period. A further update would be given to Members at the Policy and Resources Committee in February 2014.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

## **8 Collaboration with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service**

The Chief Fire Officer presented a report that sought approval to progress discussions with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service regarding future options for collaboration.

Councillor Peter Watts had tabled a motion to the paper and Councillor R Udall suggested a proposal to this as follows:

“The Authority defers the Chief Fire Officer’s recommendations until after the budget process. Authorise Group Leaders to seek a meeting with the political leadership of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Services to discuss closer collaboration short of combination.”

The motion was moved by Councillor R Udall and seconded by Councillor A Amos.

A lengthy debate ensued and Councillor M Lloyd-Hayes proposed an amendment to Councillor Udall’s motion as follows:

“Within the recent Autumn Budget statement as issued by Central Government there were indications of further cuts to Public services. Whilst the FRA is already dealing with central government imposed cut, we should wait to see what these further cuts are and how they will be imposed on the FRA. Until this position becomes clear this Authority should authorise Group Leaders to seek a meeting with the political leadership of Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to discuss closer collaboration short of combination.”

Councillor Udall and his seconder agreed to accept the amendment by Councillor Lloyd-Hayes.

Upon a vote the amended motion was lost.

The recommendations contained within the report were subsequently voted on and were approved.

The following Members wished it to be recorded in the minutes that they had voted against the recommendations contained in the report: Councillors, Udall, Amos, Fry, Agar, Oborski, and Lloyd-Hayes.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) A joint officer project team be established with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service to examine the feasibility and**

**potential benefits of collaboration; and**

**(ii) The Chief Fire Officer makes recommendations to the Authority based upon the project team's work.**

**9 Chief Fire Officer's Service Report**

The Chief Fire Officer presented his report that contained information regarding recent key developments and activities.

Members were given an update with regard to industrial action by the Fire Brigades Union. Two further strikes would take place on 13 and 14 December 2013 between 6 and 10 pm. Contingency plans were in place to deal with this. Furthermore it was noted that a national ballot had been conducted for action short of a strike and it was not known how this would manifest itself locally but Members were assured that they would be kept fully informed.

Problems associated with the use of Chinese lanterns and the devastating problems they caused were discussed. Members queried the possibility of legislation being introduced to prevent their use and the Chief Fire Officer agreed to investigate the matter further and bring a report back to the Authority.

Members were advised that further information regarding vehicle replacement of officers' cars had been given to Group Leaders and the Chief Fire Officer assured Members that this would be circulated to them shortly.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

**10 FRA and Committee Dates 2014/15**

The Head of Legal Services presented a report that informed Authority Members of the meeting dates for 2014/15.

**RESOLVED that the attached dates are noted.**

**11 Report to Policy and Resources Committee**

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee presented a report that advised the Fire Authority of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19 November 2013.

**RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.**

The meeting finished at 12.40 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman