

Report of the Budget Committee to the Fire and Rescue Authority on 14 September 2009.

Re: Budget Committee Meeting on 30 July 2009.

Members in attendance:

Mr A I Hardman (Chairman), Mr T Bean (Vice Chairman), Mrs L Eyre, Mr J Goodwin, Mrs L Hodgson, Brigadier P Jones, Mrs F Oborski, Mrs J Potter, Mr D Prodger, Mr D C Taylor and Mr G Yarranton

1. Budget Monitoring Report 2009/10

The Treasurer informed Members of the current position on Budgets 2009-10.

Pay awards were expected to be 2½% below the level provided in the Budget, which could result in cost reductions of £0.25m. The Treasurer advised that any such savings should be held in Reserves to plan for future Budgets.

The Treasurer told the Committee that there was some delay on the Capital Programme, as at present no expenditure was permitted on the IRMP building schemes until the Committee had considered a full business case, and therefore the IRMP Strategy allocation had not yet been allocated to the budget.

There was however no revenue budget allocation for the working up of detailed business cases and he suggested that 2% (£0.040m) of the allocation be released to fund pre-design works.

The Committee resolved that the current revenue and capital budget positions be noted, and recommended to the Authority that £0.040m be released from the IRMP Strategy for pre-design works

2. Treasury Activities 2008/09

The Treasurer presented a review of Treasury Activities and the Prudential Code Indicators for 2008/09.

The Committee heard that following the sharp drop in interest rates last year that the Authority's strategy was now to use any temporary cash balances in lieu of further borrowing.

The investment strategy is to minimise any risk to the Authority's funds, although this has resulted in lower rates of return.

The Committee noted the Report.

3. Property Asset Management Plan 2009/2013

The Committee considered the Property Asset Management Plan 2009/13.

Regarding the stations at Worcester and Hereford, the Committee asked to be kept informed on proposals to refurbish or replace these stations.

(Members of the Authority are being invited to indicate which stations are of particular interest to them as the IRMP Station Development Programme is rolled out, and you should please complete the forms provided today, so that you will receive more detailed information regarding those Stations as critical points are reached or specific items of interest arise.)

The Committee considered the content of the revised and updated Property Asset Management Plan 2009/2013 and recommended that the Plan be approved by the Authority.

4. Kidderminster Fire Station Refurbishment

Recent surveys had highlighted the deterioration of the fabric and services of this station and the Committee considered the extent and nature of the works which need urgent approval by the Authority.

The Meeting discussed the programme of repairs proposed and asked to be kept informed of works to the windows and roof. It was agreed that the Committee Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllr. Oborski (as the local Member) would be consulted on this matter.

The Committee considered the proposed refurbishment works at Kidderminster Fire Station as detailed in the report and recommended that the Authority approves the proposed refurbishment works at Kidderminster Fire Station be brought within the scope of the IRMP capital programme.