

12. Report from the Policy and Resources Committee

Purpose of report

1. To advise the Fire Authority of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 4 September 2013.
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Recommendation

The Policy and Resources Committee recommends that the contents of the report be noted.

Facing the Future: findings from the Review of Efficiencies and Operations in Fire and Rescue Authorities in England

2. The Chief Fire Officer presented the Authority's response to Sir Ken Knight's report 'Facing the Future'.
3. Sir Ken Knight's review considered the efficiencies and operations in Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. The report made no recommendations and suggested that the Government and local Fire and Rescue Authorities consider their own positions against the findings.
4. The areas addressed touch upon many issues that the Authority is already well aware of. It was noted that a formal response by Government to the report will be published in the autumn of this year.
5. The Policy and Resources Committee approved the Service's response for submission to the Fire Minister.

Asset Management Strategy: Provision of Accommodation for West Mercia Police at Service Locations

6. The Head of Asset Management presented a report which sought approval to provide facilities accommodation for West Mercia Police staff at Fire Service Headquarters in Worcester and other Service locations.
7. West Mercia Police has expressed interest in pursuing other opportunities to rationalise their estates portfolio by using Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service facilities at various locations across the Service area. Specific locations being investigated are Bewdley, Peterchurch, Tenbury Wells, Kington, Upton, Bromyard and Droitwich.

8. The Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the Head of Asset Management be authorised to enter into a lease to West Mercia Police in respect of office accommodation at Service Headquarters and a lease and/or licence arrangement in respect of the use of West Mercia police of facilities at other Fire Service locations all on terms agreed by the Chief Fire Officer and Head of Legal Services.

Merger of the Urban Search and Rescue Team into Droitwich Fire Station

9. The Area Commander – Operations presented a report which sought approval to merge the Service's Urban Search and Rescue Team with Droitwich Fire Station to create a single multi-functional operational unit.
10. The report also sought approval to transfer the government provided and maintained National Resilience Incident Response Unit and equipment from Droitwich Fire Station to Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, subject to agreement by the National Resilience Board.
11. Members were advised that the proposal would realise revenue savings of approximately £0.3m which would reduce pressure on the revenue budget.
12. The Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the Service's Urban Search and Rescue Team be merged into Droitwich Fire Station to create a single multi-functional operational unit and also agreed that subject to agreement by the National Resilience Board, the existing National Resilience Incident Response Unit and equipment be transferred to Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

Automatic False Alarm (AFA) Reduction Policy

13. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that proposed the formal adoption of the existing interim Automatic Fire Alarm Reduction (AFA) Policy into a new policy.
14. The Service had undertaken an in-depth and detailed review of all aspects of attendances at Automatic Fire Alarms as part of the 2011/12 Integrated Risk Management Action Plan.
15. As part of a phased implementation plan the Service introduced seven of the original twelve proposals in the first instance with a view to potentially implementing the remaining five proposals after a 12 month period of review.
16. The Policy and Resources Committee formally agreed the adoption of the existing Interim Automatic False Alarm Reduction (AFA) Policy into a new Policy.

2013/14 Budget Monitoring – 1st Quarter

17. The Treasurer presented a report that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the current position on budgets and expenditure for 2013/14.
18. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the contents of the report.

Treasury Management Activities 2012/13

19. The Treasurer presented a report that reviewed the Authority's Treasury Management Activities for 2012/13.
20. The Policy and Resources Committee noted that the Authority's Treasury Management Activities during 2012/13 were in accordance with the prudential indicators previously agreed.

Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2012-13 – Annual Performance Analysis

21. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with a summary of annual performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2012-13.
22. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the report.

Quarter 1 Performance and Healthy and Safety Reports 2013-14

23. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that outlined the key outcomes in performance in the first quarter of 2013-14.
24. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the key outcomes in respect of performance in Quarter 1 2013-14.

Urgent Decision Taken (2013/001)

25. The Monitoring Officer presented a report that advised the Policy and Resources Committee of an urgent decision that had been taken since the last meeting of the Committee and requested that changes be made to the Scheme of Delegations to address such matters in the future.
26. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the urgent decision and recommended to the Fire and Rescue Authority that the scheme of delegations be amended.

Equality and Diversity Advisory Group Update

27. The Chief Fire Officer presented a report that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the key areas of discussion at the Equality and Diversity Advisory Group meeting on 16 July 2013.
28. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the contents of the report.

Joint Consultative Committee Update

29. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the activities of the Joint Consultative Committee since March 2013.
30. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the contents of the report.

Health and Safety Committee – Update

31. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that updated the Policy and Resources Committee on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Committee.
32. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the contents of the report.

Contingency Planning for Strike Action

33. The Chief Fire Officer presented a report that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the background and current position of the proposed strike action by the Fire Brigades Union and gave an overview of the Service's contingency arrangements to cover any periods of strike action.
34. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the contents of the report.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	None.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	None.
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	N/A

Supporting Information

Background papers – Agenda and Papers Policy and Resources Committee 4 September 2013

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