

17. Report from Policy and Resources Committee

Purpose of report

1. To inform the Authority of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 7 June 2012.

Recommendation

The Policy and Resources Committee recommends that the Authority note the proceedings of the Committee meeting held on 7 June 2012.

Provisional Financial Results 2011/12

2. A report was considered that briefed the Policy and Resources Committee on the provisional financial results for the year ended 31 March 2012.
3. The Treasurer presented the report and drew Members' attention to the fact that there was likely to be a projected underspend of £280,000.
4. Spending had been held in check, particularly as the Authority was not sure if it would be awarded the Fire Control Grant. However, Members were advised that this Grant had now been received.
5. Further monies had been set aside to cover the national claim of unfair treatment of Retained Duty System (RDS) staff, significant redundancy costs and unlawful exclusion of RDS firefighters from the Firefighters Pension Scheme.
6. The re-phasing of capital costs was considered. Members had received details of proposed re-phasing of schemes in the Medium Term Financial Plan which had been approved by the FRA in February 2012. However, it was now proposed to adjust this re-phasing in the light of the 2011/12 out-turn.
7. Members were further advised that it was also proposed to re-phase the budget for minor scheme and to carry forward the unallocated Buildings and Minor Works allocations.
8. The Treasurer informed Members that the Audit Committee would not be asked to approve the Statement of Accounts until the Audit had been completed in September 2012.
9. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the provisional financial results for 2011/12. Recommendations with regard to re-phasing of capital budgets from 2011-12 to 2012-13 and the use of revenue resources will be considered at item 10 on the agenda for this meeting.

IRMP 2011/12 Fire Cover: Proposals and Results of the Consultation

10. A report was considered that informed the Policy and Resources Committee of the outcomes of the recent consultation programme.
11. Members were advised that a significant proportion of the responses had been positive and negative comments had centred on the length of working hours and whether the proposals would compromise one's ability to take leave.
12. The Committee noted the feedback from the consultation. Recommendations will be considered at item 14 on the agenda for this meeting.

The Fire and Rescue Authority's Annual Plan 2012/13

13. The Committee considered the draft Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2012/13.
14. The Chief Fire Officer presented the report and advised Members of the three key areas of the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan namely:
 - Core Purpose
 - We will Deliver Through
 - Our Foundations
15. Members were advised that the Plan was currently in its narrative version and that it would be further embellished with photographs and graphics.
16. A recommendation will be considered at item 13 on the agenda for this meeting.

IRMP 2011/12 Environmental Management

17. A report was considered that updated the Committee on actions and direction to support IRMP Recommendation 7 relating to Environmental Management.
18. The Chief Fire Officer presented the report and reiterated Objective 7 of the IRMP Action Plan which states: *"We will review our approach to environmental issues to ensure that we are maximising the potential partnership working in this area, reducing our energy usage and identifying opportunities for cost efficiency."*
19. Members were advised of areas where the Authority had striven to meet Objective 7 with regard to its properties and these included the use of solar photovoltaic panels, lighting timers, solar water heating, ground sourced heat pumps and rainwater harvesting.
20. With regard to the Authority's fleet it was more difficult to achieve energy saving but cost savings had been made by using Land Rovers as Officer response cars. Also it was noted that Land Rover provided a carbon offset programme which invested in global projects to offset the carbon used in manufacturing the vehicle and exhaust emissions created during the vehicle's asset life.
21. Furthermore Members were advised that the joint police and fire station in Bromsgrove would reduce the size of public estate in Worcestershire and would provide significant energy usage savings.

22. The Committee noted the content of the report and agreed that the IRMP Action Plan 2011/12 Objective 7 should be considered as complete.

Update on Delivery of the 2011/12 IRMP Action Plan

23. The Committee considered a report that outlined the outcomes and progress against seven recommendations from the 2011/12 IRMP Action Plan.
24. The Committee noted the report and approved its submission to the Fire and Rescue Authority. Recommendations will be considered at item 15 of this agenda.

Performance Management Indicators for 2012/13

25. A report was considered that proposed the alignment of the 2012/13 performance measures to Our Strategy and requested approval of the basis for reporting these measures.
28. The Chief Fire Officer presented the report and advised Members that the Authority was striving to become more efficient and produce information that was more focussed. Thus it was proposed that following a review of the current suite of performance indicators, reporting would be presented on an accumulative basis through the year with each quarter contributing to the overall performance of the next within each year rather than each quarter in isolation as was the current practice.
29. The Policy and Resources Committee approved the reporting criteria on the proposed key performance indicators.

Work Programme

30. The Committee considered a draft Work Programme for 2012/13.
31. The Corporate Support Manager advised Members that whilst the Work Programme was a dynamic document, it was not prescriptive and an element of flexibility could be retained to accommodate additional items as issues arose through the year.
32. The Policy and Resources Committee approved the Work Programme for 2012/13.

Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2011-2012 Consolidated Report Quarter 4 and End of Year Performance Analysis

33. A report was considered that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with a summary of Quarter 4 and End of Year Performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2011-2012.
34. The following points from the report were highlighted:
- Overall total incident numbers remained approximately the same as last year
 - Overall numbers of fires had increased this year caused by a large increase in secondary fires.
 - Overall numbers of fires in commercial premises remained consistent with previous years
 - Chimney fires had increased marginally
 - Total Special Service numbers were down to their lowest for 5 years with Road Traffic Collision (RTC) numbers comparable to last year.
 - Flooding incidents showed a significant reduction
35. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the content of this report.

Changes to the Equality and Diversity Steering Group

36. A report was considered that updated the Policy and Resources Committee on changes to the Equality and Diversity Steering Group.
37. The Chief Fire Officer presented the report and highlighted the proposed changes namely:
- Revised Terms of Reference which included a change in the name to Equality and Diversity Advisory Group.
 - The Group would be chaired by the Chief Fire Officer.
 - The Group would act in an advisory capacity and feedback quarterly to both the Senior Management Board and the Policy and Resources Committee.
 - Membership of the Group would be adjusted to ensure that each functional unit of the Service that may have a role in delivering equalities was represented.
38. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the content of the report.

Joint Consultative Committee Update

39. A report was considered that updated the Policy and Resources Committee on the activities of the Joint Consultative Committee since the committee had last met.
40. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the contents of the report.

Health and Safety Liaison Panel Update

41. A report was considered that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with an update on the activities and items of significance from the Service's Health and Safety Liaison Panel.
42. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the content of the report.

Financial Considerations

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

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	No	N/A

Additional Considerations

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).	No	N/A
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	No	N/A
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	No	N/A
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No	N/A

Background papers – Agenda and Papers from Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 7 June 2012.

Contact Officer

Committee Services
(01905 368367)
Email: Committeeservices@hwfire.org.uk