

11. 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 19 November 2013.
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Recommendation

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

Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) – External Consultation

2. The Committee met in scrutiny mode to hear representations from Town and Parish Councils affected by the CRMP proposals.
3. Representatives of the following Councils attended:

Bewdley Town Council
Evesham Town Council
Ross on Wye Town Council
Ledbury Town Council
Tenbury Town Council
4. The Chamber of Commerce was also invited but did not attend.
5. The Policy and Resources Committee resolved that a summary of the representations made by the invited speakers be submitted as part of the Community Risk Management Plan consultation process.

Asset Management Strategy

6. A report was presented by the Treasurer that updated the Fire Authority on the progress made in the delivery of the Service's Asset Management Strategy to replace five fire stations and build four strategic training facilities.
7. Members were advised that when the Policy and Resources Committee approved the indicative budget allocations for the programme of capital building schemes in March 2011 a funding gap of £4.4m had been highlighted. The Treasurer advised that the funding gap had now been closed.
8. The Committee resolved that the progress in the delivery of the Asset Management Strategy be noted.

Asset Management Strategy : Hereford Fire Station

9. The Treasurer presented a report that informed Members of an option to replace Hereford Fire Station and gain approval to proceed up to planning approval stage with the project, at which time final approval to complete the project would be requested from the Policy and Resources Committee.
10. The Policy and Resources Committee noted the progress made in potentially securing a project to deliver a new fire station in Hereford at Herefordshire Council's Bath Street offices site in Hereford. Officers were authorised to enter into further negotiations with Herefordshire Council and the Chief Fire Officer was authorised in consultation with Chair of the Authority and the Treasurer to spend the allocated budget on work to take the project to planning approval stage. It was also agreed that a further papers, including a detailed cost feasibility would be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee for final approval before entering into a contract for acquisition of the site.

2013/14 Budget Monitoring – 2nd Quarter

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

Financial Prospects 2014/15

13. The Treasurer presented a report that provided Members with a further update on developments on the funding position for 2014/15 and beyond.
14. The Committee noted the contents of the report.

Employment Monitoring Data 2012/13

15. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer presented a report that outlined the Employment Monitoring data that had been prepared for publication on the Service website.
16. Members' attention was drawn to one concern which related to the number of retained duty staff (RDS) leaving the Service. Members were advised that this situation would be closely monitored.
17. The Committee approved the Employment Monitoring Data Report 2012/13 and approved publication on the Service's website.

Progress of the Retained Duty System (On Call Implementation Plan)

18. The Head of Community Risk and Training presented a report that provided the Policy and Resources Committee with a report on the progress and delivery of the third and final year of the Retained Duty System (RDS) Implementation Plan.
19. Members were advised that as a result of the Implementation Plan a better structure was in place that was better managed and supported.

20. The Committee noted the progress of the Retained Duty System (On Call) Implementation Plan.

Quarters 1 and 2 Performance and Health and Safety Reports 2013-14

21. The Head of Corporate Services presented a report which summarised Quarters 1 and 2 performance against the Fire and Rescue Authority Plan 2013-14 and a summary of health and safety incidents occurring within Quarters 1 and 2.
22. The Committee noted the following headlines taken from Appendix 1 relating to performance in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 and Appendix 2 relating to health and safety events in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14:
- (i) the total number of incidents attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 is the lowest Quarter 1 and 2 total in the seven years that the current data set has been collected;
 - (ii) the Service also attended the lowest Quarters 1 and 2 totals of special service (non-fire emergencies) and False alarms in the last seven years;
 - (iii) although the number of fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14 have increased when compared to the same quarters last year, the total is still less than the average number of fires attended in Quarters 1 and 2 of the last five years; and
 - (iv) the Service has also seen reductions in the number of injuries from primary fires and injuries from accidental dwelling fires with no injuries reported from accidental dwelling fires in May and June 2013. There were three fatalities from primary fires in Quarters 1 and 2 2013-14.

Primary Authority Scheme (PAS)

23. The Head of Community Risk and Training presented a report that provided Members with details of the Primary Authority Scheme.
24. The PAS was introduced under the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 to provide a statutory platform for partnerships between enforcement authorities and business trading across local authority boundaries. The scheme offered local authorities and businesses a framework for a partnership arrangement, thereby delivering reliable, coordinated and consistent advice, from a single point of contact, reducing the regulatory burden. Importantly the scheme provided for new funding arrangements, allowing local authorities to consider recovering costs from partner businesses.
25. The Committee noted the contents of the report and it was noted that a further update would be received in early 2014.

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 19 November 2013

Contact Officer

Diana Glendenning, Corporate Support Officer
(01905 368241)

Email: dglendenning@hwfire.org.uk