

**Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**Thursday 13 December 2007 Headquarters, 2 Kings Court, Charles**  
**Hastings Way, Worcester (3.00 pm)**

**Minutes**

**Present**

**Herefordshire:** Mrs P A Andrews, Mr J H R Goodwin, Brigadier P Jones and Mrs P M Morgan.

**Worcestershire:** Mr T J Bean, Mr S J Clee (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M L Drinkwater, Mrs D E Dudley, Mr A I Hardman, Mr M J Hart, Mr J Holden, Mr P T Mills, Mr W E Moore, Mr P A Mould, Mrs F M Oborski, Mr C T Smith, Mr R M Udall, Mr J R Webb, Mr G C Yarranton.

**Available Papers:**

- A. The Agenda paper and appendices referred to (previously circulated).
- B. The Minutes of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 27 September 2007 (previously circulated).

(A copy of the Agenda papers will be attached to the signed Minutes).

**613. (Agenda Item 1) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr A Fry, Mrs B Passingham, Mr D W Prodger and Mr P J Watts.

**615. (Agenda Item 2) Chairman's Announcements**

**(i) Mrs B Passingham**

The Chairman informed Members that Mrs Passingham was currently ill and wished her well.

**(ii) Mrs P A Andrews**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs P A Andrews as a Member of the Authority.

**(iii) Station Visits and Seminars**

The Chairman expressed his thanks to those Members who visited Fire Stations and attended recent seminars.

**614. (Agenda Item 3) Declarations of Interest**

*Mr P A Mould advised the Authority that if the Firefighters Pension Scheme was discussed in such detail that it affected his personal position, he would declare a personal and prejudicial interest. (That proving not to be the case, there was no need for Mr Mould to leave the room during the meeting.)*

**616. (Agenda Item 4) Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**617. (Agenda Item 5) Questions from Members of the Public**

There were no questions from Members of the Public.

**618. (Agenda Item 6) Service Report**

The Authority considered a report which gave details of service activities in the second quarter together with operational activity experienced for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 September 2007.

The Chief Fire Officer presented the report. He emphasised the extreme weather conditions during the summer as referred to in the report.

Members were informed that home fire safety checks took two hours to complete as each room in a dwelling had to be checked, which involved for example checking electrical equipment and included travelling and administration.

**Resolved: that the report be noted.**

**619. (Agenda Item 7) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Action Plan 2008/09 Consultation Feedback – Recommendations for Amendments**

The Authority considered a report which sought agreement to amendments to the IRMP Draft Action Plan for 2008/09.

Members were reminded that at the beginning of the year, the Authority had approved an IRMP Action Plan and that the report submitted to Members at this meeting detailed proposed amendments to that plan.

Members noted that where comments had been received which did not support certain issues in the action plan; these had been taken account of in the development of the proposed amendments.

The Chief Fire Officer noted the reference by a Member to incompatible radio links at an area close to the South Wales border and informed Members that this problem would be corrected when the National Fire Control and FireLink was incorporated into the Authority's radio frequency range in 2010.

**Resolved: that the recommendations for change made by the Principal Management Members and agreed by the IRMP Steering Group and detailed in paragraph 7 of the report be approved.**

**620. (Agenda Item 8) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2007/08**

Consideration was given to a report which gave details of progress against the IRMP (3) 2007/08 plan.

Members noted that the report set out the progress on issues which the officers had been requested to carry out.

Members were informed that with regard to the Road Safety Strategy, page 24 on the Agenda refers; the IRS project and partners had been working in line with the Government initiative.

**Resolved: that the report be noted.**

**621. (Agenda Item 9) Budget Preparation**

Consideration was given to a report which provided information on the budget preparation process.

The Treasurer informed Members of the following statistics:

- (i) Of the combined land area of all fire authorities in England, Hereford and Worcester (H & W) occupied 5.3% of the total.
- (ii) Of the combined resident population of all fire authorities in England, the H & W percentage of the total was 3.2%.
- (iii) Of the combined budget requirement of all the fire authorities in England, the H & W percentage was 3.0%.
- (iv) Of the total national grant pool, the H & W percentage was 2.3%.

The Treasurer further informed Members that based on a precept increase of 3.5% in the next 3 years, the budget gaps would be as follows:

2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
£0.25 million	£600,000	£1.2 million

He stated that he was extremely concerned about the figures and would soon be meeting with central government officials to discuss the figures which were creating difficulties for the Authority.

The Chairman stated that he would ensure that local Members of Parliament would be informed of the above financial information.

Members were of the view that this Authority's grant for 2008/09 did not seem to be fair in comparison with the grant awarded to other Authorities.

**Resolved: that the position in respect of grant information be noted.**

## **622. (Agenda Item 10) Regional Fire Control and FireLink Update**

Consideration was given to a report which requested Members' agreement in principle to the Local Authority Controlled Members' Agreement and to recommendations that cost apportionment proposals be put to the Budget Committee meeting on 24 January 2008 for approval on the Authority's behalf.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reported that the West Midlands Regional Management Board would be meeting that day and that the draft financial proposals would be submitted to the next Budget Committee.

Members noted that the Authority's legal advisors had advised that the Members' agreement should not be signed until the financial apportionment of the agreement was agreed and signed.

A Member was of the view that prior to any approval of the agreement, the cost apportionment proposals needed to be brought back to this meeting or Urgent Decisions Committee for consideration.

**Resolved: that**

- (i) consideration of the Local Authority Controlled Company Members' Agreement (LACCMA) be**

**deferred pending full consideration of the cost apportionment proposals; and**

- (ii) the cost apportionment proposals and further consideration of the LACCMA as referred to in (i) above be considered by this meeting or the Urgent Decisions Committee.**

**623. (Agenda Item 11) Joint Service Review – Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Update**

The Authority considered a report which recommended that current work to identify potential opportunities for greater collaboration with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service be suspended.

**Resolved: that**

- (i) the Member/Officer work to identify potential opportunities for greater collaboration with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service be suspended;**
- (ii) the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer maintain liaison with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service; and**
- (iii) a further update be provided to the next Fire and Rescue Authority meeting.**

**624. (Agenda Item 12) Strategic Risk Register**

Consideration was given to a report which requested approval of the Strategic Risk Register.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer assured Members that they would be notified of any updates to the Register.

**Resolved: that the revised Strategic Risk Register as attached to the report be approved.**

**625. (Agenda Item 13) Flooding Update**

Members considered a report which proposed terms of reference for the Best Value, Policy and Performance Committee (BVPP) review of the Fire Authority's contribution during the recent major flooding events.

**Resolved: that the proposed terms of reference for the BVPP Committee review of the Fire Authority's contribution during the recent major flooding events as set out in paragraph 3 of the report be approved.**

The Chairman wished everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm.

Chairman