

Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Authority
Thursday 27 September 2007 Headquarters, 2 Kings Court, Charles
Hastings Way, Worcester (10.30 am)

Minutes

Present

Herefordshire: Mr J H R Goodwin, Brigadier P Jones, Mrs M D Lloyd-Hayes, Mrs P M Morgan, Mr D C Taylor and Mr P J Watts.

Worcestershire: Mr T J Bean, Mr S J Clee (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M L Drinkwater, Mr A Fry, Mr M J Hart, Mr P T Mills, Mr W E Moore, Mr P A Mould, Mrs F M Oborski, Mrs B Passingham, Mr D W Prodger, Mr C T Smith, Mr R M Udall, 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 11 June 2007 (previously circulated).

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

598. (Agenda Item 1) Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr D E Dudley, Mr R J Farmer, Mr A I Hardman, Mr J Holden and Mr J R Webb.

599. (Agenda Item 2) Declarations of Interest

Mr P A Mould and Mr P J Watts 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 or Mr Watts to leave the room during the meeting.)

600. (Agenda Item 3) Confirmation of Minutes

Resolved: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

601. (Agenda Item 4) Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from Members of the Public.

602. (Agenda Item 5) Service Report

The Authority considered a report which gave details of service activities in the first quarter together with operational and statistical details for the period 1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007. The Chief Fire Officer gave a power point presentation relating to the matters referred to in the report.

The Chief Fire Officer emphasised the negative effects that the hot and dry weather conditions and flash flooding had on Best Value Performance Indicators.

A Member requested that an acknowledgement of the letters of appreciation which had been received regarding the work carried out by the Service be Minuted.

With regard to a Member's question in relation to the Service answering an incident where there was no post code, the Chief Fire Officer explained how the Fire Link project was the technical apparatus to be used to carry out such a task. He added that an investigation was also being carried out regarding the possibility of acquiring specialist appliances to reach some areas.

With reference to paragraph 47 of the report, the Authority noted that Councillor J R Webb had been appointed the new Risk Champion for the Fire and Rescue Authority.

The officers referred to paragraph 49 of the report and informed Members that the refurbishment works at Droitwich would be completed before Christmas.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

603. (Agenda Item 6) Joint Service Review Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

The Authority considered a report regarding a request from Warwickshire County Council to conduct a joint options appraisal considering opportunities for improving service delivery and efficiency through closer working arrangements.

Although in agreement with the need to investigate the options, Members suggested caution with regard to the way forward following the results of the appraisal.

Resolved: that

- (i) the Authority supports the establishment of a Joint Member/Officer Review Group, to consider the options for Service improvements and efficiencies through closer working arrangements with Warwickshire;**
- (ii) the Group Leaders or their representatives to be this Authority's Member nominees to the Review Group;**
- (iii) the draft Terms of Reference as attached to the report be put to Warwickshire County Council for their consideration; and**
- (iv) the Review Group be tasked with providing an initial report back to the full Authority by its December 2007 meeting.**

604. (Agenda Item 7) Flooding Update

The Authority considered a report which updated Members on recent flooding incidents.

The Chief Fire Officer gave a Power Point presentation relating to matters referred to in the report.

A Member informed the Authority that a report would be submitted to the Authority's Best Value Policy and Performance Committee to scrutinise the Service's actions during the flooding.

Members requested that their appreciation and thanks to Lucy Phillips, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, and to Service staff during this time be Minuted.

Resolved: that

- (i) the Authority's deep appreciation and congratulations be conveyed to Service staff for their work during the June and July 2007 flooding; and**
- (ii) the report be noted.**

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

Consideration was given to a report which provided a progress update on the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2007/08.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

606. (Agenda Item 9) Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2008/09 Action Plan Consultation

The Authority considered a report regarding the 2008/09 IRMP Action Plan Consultation. Consultation had now closed and the outcome would be reported in the first instance to the IRMP Steering Group for their consideration.

A full report would then be submitted to December main meeting to agree the Authority's IRMP for 2008/09. This would form the basis of the Corporate Plan for the coming year.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

607. (Agenda Item 10) New Model Code of Conduct

Consideration was given to a report which requested Members to consider the new Model Code of Conduct made on 4 April 2007 which came into force on 3 May 2007.

It was noted that the Standards Committee had considered the report on 17 September 2007 and recommended the Authority to approve the recommendations as contained in the report before Members.

Resolved: that

- (i) the Authority adopt the Model Code of Conduct as set out in the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 ("the Code") (Appendix 1) together with a preamble incorporating the ten principles governing the conduct of Members, in place of its existing Code; and**
- (ii) the Inclusion of paragraph 12 (2) enabling Members who have a prejudicial interest to make representations to meetings as a member of the public.**

608. (Agenda Item 11) Property Update

The Authority considered a report which informed Members of the progress on the extension to Whitchurch Fire Station and an update on facilities for Urban Search and Rescue and Workshops relocation.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

609. (Agenda Item 12) Measuring and Challenging Recruitment Processes.

Consideration was given to a report which informed Members of progress regarding the Service recruitment processes.

Mr A Fry, the Chairman of the Best Value Policy and Performance Committee, expressed appreciation to the officers for their work in producing the 'Measuring and Challenging Recruitment Processes' document. He acknowledged the progress in increasing the recruitment of staff and requested Members to note that further effort would need to be made to attract more ethnic minorities, and new european migrants to the Service.

Resolved: that

- (i) the Authority's thanks be conveyed to the staff who produced the Measuring and Challenging Recruitment Processes document; and**
- (ii) the report be noted.**

610. (Agenda Item 13) Long Term Capability Management (LCTM)

Consideration was given to a report which sought to ensure appropriate management arrangements within the Authority for consideration of LCTM.

Resolved: that the report be noted and the Budget Committee be requested to consider the forthcoming Transfer Agreement.

611. (Agenda Item 14) Supplementary Crewing Pilot

The Authority considered a report which updated Members on the progress of the supplementary crewing pilot.

The officers informed Members that the pilot referred to in paragraph 5 of the report has been developed at Kidderminster between 4.00pm and 8.00pm over a three months trial period.

Resolved: that the report be noted.

612. (Agenda Item 15) Young Firefighters Association (YFA)

The Authority considered a report which advised on the development of further governance arrangements for the Young Firefighters Association.

A Member acknowledged the worthwhile contribution that the YFA delivers to the communities referred to in the report and that additional YFA groups would be welcomed.

Resolved: that the establishment of a formal structure of governance and a constitution being adopted by the YFA groups be supported and that Mr A Fry be nominated as Chairman of the Hereford and Worcester Young Firefighters Association under the terms of the YFA's draft Constitution.

The meeting ended at 12.17 pm.

Chairman.....