

REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES

Meeting Held on 11 June 2007

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

1. During 2006/07, a total of 9771 incidents were attended within Hereford & Worcester compared with 8882 in 2005/06, an overall increase of 10%. The Service had attended an unusually large number of primary fires, false alarms and special service incidents in the second quarter of the year due to a number of factors including hot and dry weather and flash floods. More statistics and details of notable incidents have been reported to the Authority and can be found on the Service's website (www.hwfire.org.uk).

INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2. The Authority noted progress made towards the objectives set out in the 2007/08 Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). The Authority also approved the 2008/09 IRMP for consultation. The consultation process will run for 12 weeks in line with statutory guidelines, starting from 1st July 2007. The results of the consultation process and any amendments / recommendations for the plan will be reported to the Authority for approval.

CORPORATE PLAN 2007/08

3. The Authority approved the Corporate Plan for 2007/08.

HUMAN RESOURCES

4. The Authority agreed not to adopt the National Firefighter Selection Tests for the recruitment of Firefighters in its current selection procedures, and would review this position in future.
5. An update on the Service's 2007 Wholetime recruitment campaign was noted.

MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

6. The Authority agreed to continue to keep Members Allowances at their present levels as adjusted in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI).

EMERGENCIES AND RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

7. As a consequence of the many issues surrounding changes to climate, the Authority has agreed to the development of an overarching environmental strategy which is to be considered and approved at a future meeting of the Authority. Also, that the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) Steering Group has been requested to consider any operational issues and make any recommendations for action and developing them through future IRMP processes. National developments with regard to climate change will also be monitored with appropriate reports to the Authority.

SUPPEMENTARY CREWING PILOT

8. The Authority agreed to endorse further development of the Supplementary Crewing Pilot which was run successfully in Redditch as an initial pilot for 8 months between August 2006 and March 2007. Supplementary Crewing of second appliances utilises crews on an immediate turn out basis rather than using the current retained provision.

EQUALITY SCHEME

9. The Authority has adopted a new generic Equality Scheme. This follows on from the positive duties under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (which put a duty on public authorities to publish a Race Equality Scheme outlining how these duties would be met) and the new equality duties under disability and gender legislation. It also incorporates good practice to support equality with regards age, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANACE

10. The Authority has endorsed updates to the Code of Corporate Governance. The Code describes the system by which the Authority directs and controls its functions and relates to its communities. The Code is subject to on going review to ensure the highest standards of Governance are maintained.

FIRELINK RADIO PROJECT

11. The Authority noted that the FireLink project will shortly move into a significant phase which is the installation within Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service of a radio infrastructure followed by initial vehicle fit outs which will be used for signal coverage and radio functionality testing purposes. It is envisaged the work will commence once the Service Level Agreement with the Airwaves service provider has been finalised, which is expected to be in June 2007.

ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

12. The Authority has been informed of the launch of the Road Safety Strategy 2007 which is designed to accomplish the Authority's vision to make the roads in Herefordshire and Worcestershire the safest in the Country. The Strategy takes on board the new duties imposed on the Authority by the 'The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004' to reflect increasing concerns regarding the levels of deaths and injuries on the roads. The Strategy focuses on two main themes:
 - **Response and Intervention** - the Service will be collecting specific intelligence from crash scenes which will form the basis of a new service work stream focusing on intervention. This will be done collaboratively with working partners – Police, County and District Councils.
 - **Prevention and Protection** – Through working more actively with partner agencies and encouraging use of the Fire Service's successful education strategies, the Fire Service hopes to contribute to the broader prevention agenda.

13. **PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL RESULTS**

The Authority has been informed of the Revenue and Capital expenditure and income positions for 2006/07. The Authority has agreed to transfer the revenue under-spend of £0.31million to general balances and also, subject to the approval of

the Budget Committee, to increase Capital budgets in 2007/08 arising from expenditure slippage from 2006/07.

**PAUL HAYDEN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
JUNE 2007**

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any person wishing to seek further information on this report should contact Committee Services on 0845 12 24454.

Further information on the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service can also be found on the Internet at (www.hwfire.org.uk).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 11 June, 2007.