

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 18 FEBRUARY 2009.**

1.	<p><b>BUDGET &amp; PRECEPT AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN</b></p> <p>The Authority approved the Revenue and Capital Budget proposals for the financial year 2009/10 as presented by the Treasurer. This included a proposal to increase the size of the new station to be provided at Pebworth, from one bay to two bays to provide for future resilience and flexibility.</p> <p><b>The Revenue Budget, Net Budget Requirement and consequential Net Precept requirement of £19,879,446.00, (Band D Council Tax equivalent of £71.57) were approved by the Authority.</b></p> <p><b>The meeting also approved The Medium Term Financial Strategy, The Statement of Prudential Code Indicators and The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for 2008-09 and 2009-10, as presented by the Treasurer.</b></p>
2.	<p><b>UPDATE ON HEREFORD &amp; WORCESTERSHIRE/WARWICKSHIRE JOINT SERVICE REVIEW.</b></p> <p>The Chief Fire Officer updated the Authority on the Hereford &amp; Worcestershire/ Warwickshire Joint Review, and reported that because of uncertainties which had arisen from the detailed financial analysis, and also regarding the outcomes from the Atherstone- on Stour incident, that it was recommended that the review be put on hold. It was noted that the Authority would consider this and any other options which might arise in the future, and which would be in the interests of their communities.</p> <p><b>The Authority resolved that the business case process examining the three potential options for the future of Warwickshire and Hereford &amp; Worcester Fire and Rescue Authorities be put on hold for the time being and that this position be kept under periodic review to identify opportunities to finalise the review at some point in the future.</b></p>
3.	<p><b>PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2008</b></p> <p>The Audit Commission published the results of the Fire and Rescue Performance Assessment 2008 on 12 February 2009, and the Commission confirmed that the Authority continued to be one of the best performing Fire Authorities in the country. It was reported that the Authority was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> out of 48 in terms of Performance Indicator improvement and was classed as performing strongly.</p> <p>The Chairman said that this was recognition of the excellent work of all the Service employees, and the Members congratulated all concerned.</p>

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4.	<p><b>HEREFORD&amp; WORCESTER FIRE &amp; RESCUE SERVICE: CHARTER MARK RESULTS 2008/09</b></p> <p>The Service successfully retained its CharterMark Standard, which was external recognition for excellence in customer service. It was noted that the Authority held an additional two examples of national best practice.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that this was more good news for the Service, and the Members congratulated all involved.</p>
5.	<p><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2009:</b></p> <p>At the conclusion of the Meeting, the Chairman noted that Council Elections were due to be held in Worcestershire on 4 June 2008, and he wished well to all those Worcestershire Members who would be seeking re-election. It was noted that Cllrs. Mould and Farmer would not be contesting the elections, and the Members thanked them for their services to the Authority.</p>

**PAUL HAYDEN  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
18 MARCH 2009**

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to seek further information on this report should contact: Corporate Support on 01905 368331. 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](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 18 February 2009.

(All relevant Papers and Reports can be found on the service website at Fire and Rescue Authority [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).