

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES
Meeting Held on 26 June 2009**

1.	<p>Minute's Silence for Cllr. Jeremy Webb</p> <p>The Chairman invited the Authority to join with him in a Minute's silence to remember Mr. Jeremy Webb, who passed away since the last Authority Meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Introductions of New Members:</p> <p>The Chairman congratulated the Worcestershire Councillors who had been re-elected and returned to the Authority, and welcomed the newly appointed Members. He then gave each Member the opportunity to introduce themselves to the Meeting.</p> <p>On behalf of the Authority, the Chairman thanked all those members who had not been returned, and requested that the Authority send them a letter of thanks for their service.</p>
3.	<p>Brigadier Peter Jones CBE was re-elected as Chairman of the Authority.</p>
4.	<p>Cllr. Stephen Clee was re-elected as Vice- Chairman of the Authority.</p>
5.	<p>Ms. Charlotte Adan, the Interim Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Democratic) at Herefordshire Council, was appointed as Clerk/ Monitoring Officer to the Authority.</p>
6.	<p>The Authority considered the allocation of seats on Committees to political groups and reviewed the appointments to other bodies.</p> <p>The following appointments were made as Chairmen of Committees:</p> <p>Appointments Committee: Brigadier P Jones CBE Audit Committee: Mr D Prodger MBE Budget Committee: Mr A I Hardman Best Value, Policy and Performance Committee: Mrs M L Drinkwater Urgent Decisions: Mr S J Clee</p>
7.	<p>The 2008/09 Annual Report of the Standards Committee</p> <p>The Authority received the 2008/09 Annual Report of the Standards Committee, and noted the concerns regarding training for Authority Members.</p>

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8.	<p>Service Report:</p> <p>The Chief Fire Officer reported on recent key developments and activities together with performance information for the period 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009. The number of Health and Safety incidents/injuries had fallen sharply in comparison to the same quarter of 2008/09 and had halved in relation to the preceding quarter.</p> <p>Members were updated on the plans that the Service had in place to deal with the current pandemic alert regarding Swine Flu. The planning arrangements were being led through the Local Resilience Forums, which comprised of representatives from the Service and other partners. Members were assured that the Service would strive to maintain optimum front line service delivery and, in the event of major staff shortages, priority would be given to safeguarding front line service to the public.</p> <p>The Authority praised the Service for a job “remarkably well done” when dealing with the recent fire at the Skymark premises in Leominster. The Chairman commended the way the Service took command, and the sensible decisions made by the Officers involved.</p>
9.	<p>Financial Results 2008/09</p> <p>The Treasurer presented the financial results for 2008/09. In summary, he reported a strong financial performance, with General Reserves in excess of Central Government requirements.</p> <p>The Authority noted the Financial results for 2008/09</p>
10.	<p>Flooding Update</p> <p>The Chief Fire Officer informed the Authority that the Service had learned important lessons and gained invaluable experience from the flooding events of the past decade. The Service had now developed a Water Rescue Strategy which drew on this experience and had regard to the national response to flooding events.</p> <p>The Authority resolved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To establish a cadre of Water Incident Managers and improved management and oversight for all specialist water/ flood capabilities;

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	<p>ii) To consult stakeholders through the IRMP process on whether to establish a minimum or optimum “first responder” capability and</p> <p>iii) To task the Chief Fire Officer with seeking external funding support for existing and “first responder” capabilities that are made available to the National Asset Register, being compiled by the Government’s Flood Rescue National Enhancement Programme (FRNE).</p>
11.	<p>Integrated Risk Management Plan – Draft 2010/2011 Action Plan Consultation</p> <p>The Chief Fire Officer gave Members the background to Integrated Risk Management, and presented the various proposals in the draft 2010/2011 Plan for public consultation.</p> <p>The Meeting approved the Draft Action Plan 2010/11 for Public Consultation</p>
12.	<p>Service Plan 2009/10</p> <p>The Authority approved the 2009-10 Service Plan, which details the achievements of the Service in 2008/09 and provides an overview of the Authority’s strategic objectives and priorities for 2009/10.</p>

**PAUL HAYDEN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
July 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).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 26 June 2009.