

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY TO
HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL ON THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE
2010 AND THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2010.**

1.	<p>Appointments for Herefordshire Council Members of the Authority</p> <p>Brigadier Peter Jones, CBE, was elected as Chairman of the Authority.</p> <p>Mr. Peter Watts was appointed Risk Management Champion and Mr. John Goodwin was appointed as one of the Authority's two representatives on the Standards Committee</p>
2.	<p>New Fire Station at Pebworth</p> <p>Work on the replacement/upgrading of Pebworth Fire Station commenced on 14 June 2010 and the new station is expected to be operational early in 2011.</p>
3.	<p>Financial Results 2009/10</p> <p>The overall revenue budget for 2009/10 was £30.45m which had been under spent by £33,000, less than 1/10 of 1%.</p> <p>There had been some slippage on the Capital budget, but this could be carried forward and there had been no loss of purchasing power.</p>
4.	<p>Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue draft Authority Plan 2010/11</p> <p>The Authority's Plan for 2010/11 was approved; this is a key document for the Authority which states the values and principles of the Service and sets out its future direction and plans.</p> <p>(The Plan can be viewed on the Authority's website: www.hwfire.gov.uk)</p>
5.	<p>Retained Duty System (RDS) Implementation Plan</p> <p>The Authority supported the Retained Duty System (RDS) Review and Implementation Plan, which was a significant piece of work and the outcome was the 3 year Implementation Plan, on which progress would be reported annually to the Authority.</p>
6.	<p>New Service Workwear</p> <p>The Service was rolling out new uniform (workwear) to all relevant staff which, when coupled together with the new firefighting uniform expected to arrive in the Service early next Spring, would give firefighting staff the most up-to-date protection and workwear available to UK firefighters. This was expected to "go live" during October 2010.</p>
7.	<p>Road Safety Campaigns</p> <p>Peterchurch Fire Station successfully hosted the joint emergency services Dying to Drive event in early July; this is an initiative aimed at reducing the number of young fatalities on the county's roads.</p>

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<p>8.</p>	<p>Community Safety Volunteer Programme launched in Herefordshire</p> <p>Following a successful launch of its Community Safety Volunteer Programme in January this year in the South Worcestershire area, H&WFRS is now extending the programme into Herefordshire. A press release was issued to all Herefordshire media at the start of September urging anyone with a few hours a week to spare to consider getting involved, to support existing staff in a variety of safety initiatives, such as promoting safety awareness at local public events, accompanying crew members to carry out home safety checks and acting as victims or casualties during operational training exercises.</p> <p>An advertisement was also placed in the recruitment section of the Hereford Times and full details listed on the H&WFRS website.</p> <p>Members of the Community Safety Team held a Volunteer Recruitment open event at Hereford Fire Station on Saturday 25 September, with participation from local fire crew members and existing Community Safety Volunteers.</p> <p>Any member of the Council seeking further information or assistance in this matter should contact Carol Walmsley, Volunteer Co-ordinator at 01905 368228.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Amendment to Principal Officer Structure</p> <p>Although the Authority does not have knowledge of the exact Formula Spending Grant allocation for 2011/12, the Chancellor has indicated a 25% reduction of this Grant over the next four years. Taking this into consideration and with a proposed 0% Council Tax rise, it is easily foreseeable that savings will be required for the next and subsequent financial years. With this in mind, the Authority approved the proposed reduction of one of the two Assistant Chief Fire Officer posts in order to achieve financial savings to assist with potential budget reductions in coming years.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Review of Members' Allowances</p> <p>Authority Members noted a review of their Allowances which indicated that a rise of 4.2% was appropriate; however, it was agreed unanimously not to raise rates, given the current financial climate.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Future of West Midlands Regional Management Board</p> <p>After receiving the recent announcement from the Fire Minister which would allow the dissolution of Regional management Boards, the Board of WMRMB resolved to recommend to the 5 constituent Fire and Rescue Authorities that they agree to dissolve the West Midlands Regional Management Board at the earliest practical date, subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.</p> <p>The approval of the Secretary of State was received by the Clerk to the WMRMB on 14 September and the Authority agreed to dissolve the West Midlands Regional Management Board.</p>

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12.	<p>Fire Service holds Herefordshire Awards Ceremony</p> <p>Firefighters and staff from Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (H&WFRS) were honoured at an Awards Ceremony held on Friday 15 October at Hereford Town Hall.</p> <p>In a break from tradition, the Fire Service held separate awards ceremonies for Herefordshire and Worcestershire for the first time this year to localise the events and help cut down the travelling time for recipients and their families.</p> <p>Station Manager Neil Piggott from H&WFRS Was Master of Ceremonies and Lady Susan Darnley, the Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, joined Chief Fire Officer Mark Yates and Councillor Brigadier Peter Jones CBE, Chairman of Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority, to present the long service awards. Councillor Anna Toon, Mayor of Hereford, Councillor John Stone, Chairman of Herefordshire Council and Elizabeth Hunter, High Sheriff of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, also attended.</p> <p>Long Service Good Conduct Medals for 20 years service were awarded to three Firefighters, two Crew Managers, one Station Manager and one Group Manager. These included Firefighter Patricia Giles and Crew Manager Phil Denton from Hereford, Firefighter David Pascoe from Fownhope, Crew Manager Neil Rhodes from Ross-on-Wye, Firefighter Jim Cochran from Malvern, Station Manager Mark Strutt from Worcester and Group Manager Mick Cadman from Service Headquarters at Worcester.</p> <p>Long Service Awards for 30 years service with H&WFRS were also presented to one Firefighter and two Watch Managers. These included Firefighter Andrew Davies from Kington, Watch Manager Yvonne Eaton from Fire Control at Worcester and also Watch Manager Mick Rowlands from Kidderminster.</p> <p>Firefighter Neil Chaplain from Whitchurch, meanwhile, was presented with the Ivor Owen Award. Ivor is a longstanding and valued friend of Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service who, keen to encourage the continued professional development of new recruits to the Service, awards a certificate and voucher each year to the top recruit from the last 12 months. The recipient will have demonstrated exemplary attributes throughout the duration of their Recruit Course and will have scored highly in all areas of their initial Fire and Rescue Service training.</p> <p>Jacqueline O'Mahony, HMO (Houses of Multi Occupation) and Enforcement Officer with Herefordshire Council, received the Chief Officer's Letter of Appreciation for her outstanding work with the Service and other organisations for protecting the most vulnerable members of Herefordshire communities from fire.</p> <p>Chief Fire Officer Mark Yates said: "The Awards Ceremony has been held</p>
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	<p>annually to celebrate the exceptional talents and commitment of our staff and firefighters and this is a tradition I am keen to continue.”</p>
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13.	<p>Fire in Hereford City Centre</p> <p>In the early hours of Thursday, 21 October 2010, fire crews from across Herefordshire and Worcestershire attended a serious fire in Hereford City Centre. The fire was particularly difficult and resource intensive to deal with due to it being fully developed on arrival and also the tightly packed and complicated building structures encountered by the initial crews attending.</p> <p>The fire, although serious, was contained within a relatively small section of the City Centre and was resolved without injury to firefighters or members of the public.</p> <p>Following the initial firefighting actions and the fire being brought under control, the focus of the incident moved towards returning the City Centre to normality and mitigating the already extensive structural and potentially economic damage. In this phase of the incident Hereford & Worcester FRS crews worked extensively with partners, including Herefordshire Council Building Control Officers, to ensure public safety whilst parts of buildings were demolished and/or made safe.</p> <p>The fire is being described in the media as: 'the largest fire in Hereford in a generation' and was resolved in safety by all responding agencies having appropriate plans and training in place. The Chief Fire Officer who, at the height of the fire was in charge of the incident, believes a safe resolution was brought about because of the professionalism and skills of all concerned, both firefighting staff and partner agencies including the Police, Ambulance, Herefordshire Council and voluntary organisations. Fire and Rescue Service crews finally left the scene on the afternoon of Sunday, 24 October, some three and a half days after the Service's initial attendance.</p>
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**MARK YATES, QFSM, MA, MCGI, DMS, MIFireE,
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
25 OCTOBER 2010.**

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 and papers of the meetings of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 25 June 2010 and 28 September 2010.