



# Minutes

## Full Authority

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Date: 20 December 2013

Time: 10.30 a.m.

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

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Present: Councillors M Khan (in the chair); T Austin, C Burke, J Cummins, J Dodds, R Grahame, J Hardy, M Harland, P Harrand, L Holmes, J Hughes, A Hussain, M Shaw, B Smith, A Taylor, G Thornton, C Townsley, A Wainwright, A Wallis and G Wilkinson

In Attendance: N/A

Apologies: Councillors P Caffrey and D Gray

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### **41 Admission of the public**

The meeting determined that there were no items which necessitated the exclusion of the public.

### **42 Urgent item – Industrial Action update**

The Chief Fire Officer took the opportunity to advise Members of the latest information relating to the recent periods of industrial action and those scheduled to be held on 24 December, 31 December 2013 and 3 January 2014.

It was reported that one of the key elements of the dispute related to fitness and capability and Members were advised that the Authority had submitted its response to a consultation on the issue which would be reported to the 17 January 2014 meeting of the Human Resources Committee.

Relations between the Fire Brigades' Union and management in West Yorkshire continued to be constructive and, to date, the contingency arrangements and response which had been put in place to mitigate the effects of industrial action had been in excess of what had been assessed as a "minimum service standard during a period of strike action". Similarly, the ban on voluntary overtime which had been announced on some of the dates of industrial action in December / January had been assessed as not having a significant impact on service levels in West Yorkshire.

### **43 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of disc losable pecuniary interest made in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

### **44 Minutes of the last meeting**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Authority at a meeting held on 13 September 2013 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **45 Minutes of the Executive Committee**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Executive Committee at a meeting held on 13 September 2013 be received.

### **46 Minutes of the Audit Committee**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee at meetings held on 27 June and 20 September 2013 be received.

### **47 Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee at meetings held on 27 September and 29 November 2013 be received.

### **48 Minutes of the Human Resources Committee**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee at a meeting held on 1 November 2013 be received.

### **49 Minutes of the Community Safety Committee**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee at a meeting held on 8 November 2013 be received.

### **50 Minutes of the Local Government Association**

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the Minutes of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board held on 9 September and 4 November 2013 be noted;

- b) That the Minutes of the Fire Services Management Committee meetings held on 19 September and 15 November be noted; and
- c) That the Minutes of the Fire Commission held on 11 October be noted.

## **51 Minutes of the Police and Crime Commissioner's Partnership Executive Group**

### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the Minutes of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Partnership Executive Group at meetings held on 1 March, 6 September and 6 December 2013 be noted; and
- b) That concern at the brevity of the Notes be brought to the attention of the Partnership Executive Group.

## **52 Performance Management Report – 1 April to 31 October 2013**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which informed Members of the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April to 31 October 2013.

Members commented on the following specific areas of performance;

- Target SD2 (Fire Deaths) – officers were thanked for their professionalism at the recent fatal fire in Liversedge and the previous day's building fire in Gomersal. Presentational issues were raised for further consideration by officers
- Number of Home Fire Safety Checks

### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That consideration be given to the future presentation of figures in respect of target SD2 (Number of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings); and
- c) That Members continue to encourage residents in their Wards, and particularly those vulnerable members of the local community, to request a Home Fire Safety Check.

## **53 Integrated Risk Management Plan – update**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Strategic Development which updated Members on the progress against the initiatives approved since 2011 as part of the Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan. These ranged from a review of the Duty Systems to the redistribution of resources and a review of emergency response arrangements.

Members were advised that the initiatives would enable the Authority to respond to reductions both in funding and in the level of risk and demand across the County and would also deliver significant savings totalling over £14 million. It was reported that some of the early initiatives had been introduced whilst others were planned to be implemented between 2013 and 2018.

Members sought further advice on the level of collaborative working with other blue light agencies in West Yorkshire and were advised of some Government funding that would be made available via a bidding process in this regard.

## **RESOLVED**

That the progress made in the implementation of the approved Integrated Risk Management Plan initiatives be noted.

## **54 Local Government Finance Settlement 2014 – 15**

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer provided Members with a report on the Local Government Finance provisional revenue support grant settlement 2014 / 15 and 2015 / 16 which had been received on 18 December 2013.

In total it was reported that the Authority would lose £3.96m (7.32%) grant in 2014 / 15 which exceeded the provision amount anticipated by £0.49m. This had been the result of the 1% cut in grant announced in the Chancellor's 2013 spring statement.

A further loss of grant of £4.26m (8.49%) in 2015 / 16 would follow which brought the total Revenue Support Grant loss to £8.22m over a two-year period.

It was reported that additional changes had been announced which related to the following;

- Precept freeze grant
- Expenditure capping
- Increase in business rates

A more detailed report on the settlement would be submitted to the 24 January 2014 meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **55 Customer Service Excellence assessment 2013**

Members received a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which provided an update on the attainment of the Customer Service Excellence full compliance standard (including 11 compliance plus awards) for 2013. This was the third consecutive year that the highest standard had been achieved against all 57 elements of the award.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That the attainment of the Customer Service Excellence fully compliant standard be noted; and
- b) That all Members of staff be thanked for their contribution towards the Customer Service Excellence assessment result 2013.

## **56 Annual meeting 2014 – change of date**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which invited Members to consider a change in date for the Authority's Annual meeting in 2014.

The date had been approved as part of the annual programme of meetings. However, subsequent upon a change of the date of the local elections to coincide with the European elections on 22 May 2014 and the consequent effect on the dates of the five District annual meetings, there would be insufficient time for relevant changes to the membership of the Fire Authority to be made should the annual meeting continue as scheduled on 27 June.

In accordance with the relevant Statutory Instrument, the latest date the Authority could hold its annual meeting in 2014 would be 29 August.

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) That Members' advice be sought with regard to availability 12 - 31 July 2014 for the Annual meeting; and
- b) That the results of a) above be reported to the February meeting of the full Authority for decision.

### **57 Constitution – interim amendments**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which proposed a number of interim amendments to the Authority's Constitution document to reflect the following;

- Changes to senior management structure
- Extension to the provision for allowances to be paid in specific circumstances
- An amended Whistleblowing Policy

#### **RESOLVED**

That the amendments to the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Constitution be approved as detailed in the report now submitted.

### **58 Changes to the Treasury Management Strategy**

Members considered a report of the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted a report which sought approval for a change to the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy for 2013 / 14.

It was reported that, following a six-monthly review of the Strategy, the Finance and Resources Committee resolved to make a recommendation to the Authority to include Handelsbanken in its counterparty list.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Treasury Management Strategy be amended to approve the inclusion of Handelsbanken for deposits up to £3m for a maximum period of six months.

### **59 Nominations to Outside Bodies 2013 – 14**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought approval for a nomination from the Conservative Group to the vacancy on the LGA General Assembly

#### **RESOLVED**

That Councillor L Holmes be appointed as the Conservative Group representative on the Local Government Association General Assembly for 2013 – 14.

### **60 Attacks on Firefighters**

Members received a presentation which focused on those incidents where attacks had been, and continued to be made on firefighters.