

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW, ON FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2010

Present : Councillors D Ridgway (in the chair); M Akhtar, V Binney, P Booth, A Castle, J Dodds, D Gray, P Harrand, A Hussain, J Illingworth (for agenda item nos. 11 – 19, Min nos. 50 - 58 refer), M Iqbal, M Jamil J Jarosz, M Khan, A Manifold, D O'Neill, B Smith and C Townsley

Apologies : Councillors D Firth, T Hardwick, A McKenna and R Pryke

40 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presentation to former Members of the Authority

Former Members of the Authority, D Hollingsworth, M Coulson, S Armitage and G P Kirkland were present at the meeting to receive a certificate presented by the Chair on behalf of the Authority in recognition of their dedicated service to the Fire Authority.

Presentation to Mr Michael Barnes, Director of Corporate Resources

The Director of Corporate Resources, Mr Michael Barnes, was presented with a certificate in recognition of his twenty years' dedicated service to the Authority.

Councillor T Hardwick

Members were informed of the recent hospitalisation of Councillor Hardwick and requested that she be sent their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

41 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

42 URGENT ITEM – SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - AMENDMENT

Members were advised that the current approved schedule of meetings would not be able to accommodate the 12-week consultation period due to be considered at agenda item 14 (Service Action Plan 2011 – 2015) . It was proposed that the Authority meeting be moved to a later date in December.

RESOLVED

That the December meeting of the full Authority be moved from 3 December 2010 to 17 December 2010.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

44 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

That, subject to a correction to the Committee list attached as an annex to the Minutes, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2010 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

45 MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Personnel and Training Committee at a meeting held on 2 July 2010 be received.

46 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting held on 9 July 2010 be received.

47 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - MINUTES

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the Fire Services Forum at a meeting held on 18 June 2010 be received;
- (ii) That the Minutes of the Safer Communities Board at a meeting held on 12 July 2010 be received; and
- (iii) That the Minutes of the Fire Services Management Committee at a meeting held on 19 July 2010 be received.

48 MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITIES' REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of a meeting held on 29 July 2010 be received.

49 FUTURE OF THE REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which advised of the proposed dissolution of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities' Regional Management Board (RMB).

Members were advised that, following recent governmental changes and the removal of the mandatory requirement for Fire Authorities to work through Regional Management Boards together with the Board's own concern with the effectiveness of the RMB, the Board resolved to recommend dissolution subject to the approval of the four constituent authorities.

Correspondence had been entered into with the Secretary of State who had no objection to the dissolution of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities Regional Management Board.

Members expressed some concern about future arrangements for collaboration and recommended that the Chairs and Chiefs of the constituent fire authorities continued to collaborate on a more informal basis.

Further consideration was given to the financial liabilities of the Board in respect of the Northgate contract and Members were advised that, in accordance with the RMB Constitution, liabilities would pass to the four constituent authorities although it was not anticipated that this would be an issue given the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership funding that had been received for the project.

RESOLVED

- (i) That unanimous approval be given to the formal dissolution of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities Regional Management Board;
- (ii) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority advising of the resolution of the Northgate contract liabilities; and
- (iii) That the minutes of any future Chiefs and Chairs meetings be submitted to meetings of the full Authority for information purposes.

50 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive submitted a report which outlined the activities of the Brigade in the areas of Operations and technical matters for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 July 2010.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

51 COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS – AMENDMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of a request from the Labour Group to amend the committee seat allocation in respect of the Personnel and Training Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Personnel and Training Committee seat allocation be revised for the Labour Group as follows;

Cllr M Akhtar to replace Cllr J Dodds as substantive member
Cllr J Dodds to replace Cllr M Akhtar as first named substitute member

52 COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2011 - 2015

The Director of Operations submitted a report which sought Members' endorsement of the Integrated Risk Management Strategy as a basis for future planning.

The newly developed Community Risk Management Strategy document (attached to the report now submitted) set out the methodology for the assessment of risk and appropriate deployment of resources across West Yorkshire. Members were assured that, by the application of the methodology, all future changes could be substantiated with sound evidence and the impact of the changes measured.

RESOLVED

That the Community Risk Management Strategy be unanimously endorsed as the basis for future planning.

53 SERVICE ACTION PLAN 2011 - 2015

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought Members' approval for the publication of the Service Plan 2011 – 2015 and Action Plan 2011 – 2012 for consultation.

Members were advised that the Service Plan 2011 – 2015 set out what West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service intended to do over the forthcoming four years to meet the challenging needs and risks within the community. The consultation exercise would conclude on 11 December 2010.

The Action Plan 2011 – 2012 provided detail of action to be taken during the year. It was reported that subsequent Action Plans would be provided on an annual basis.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the publication of the Service Plan 2011 – 2015 and Action Plan 2011 – 2012 for consultation.

54 FIRE SERVICE COLLEGE – MEMBER VISIT

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which invited Members to consider participation in a funded visit to the Fire Service College.

It was reported that the College had offered to finance a two-day visit for Members and the cost to the Authority would be for travel and subsistence only which would be met from within existing revenue budget provision.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the participation of Members in a two-day visit to the Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh, on a mutually convenient date in Autumn 2010.

55 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – MEMBER REPRESENTATION

Members considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the arrangements for Member attendance at a six-day Leadership Academy to be funded by the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA).

It was reported that Councillor Pryke had indicated his desire to attend the Academy in Coventry over a six-day period in October / November 2010. Approval had been given in April 2010 to a similar funded opportunity but, due to diary commitments, no Members had been available to attend on that occasion. The travel and subsistence costs would be met from within existing revenue budget provision.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the attendance of Councillor Pryke at the Leadership Academy (programme 108) in Coventry.

56 FIRE FUTURES REVIEW

The Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive submitted a report which advised Members of a new strategic review of the Fire Service which had been launched by the Fire Minister.

It was reported that the review had been commenced in response to the Government statement that the sector must be proactive in change to meet and maintain its effectiveness. Terms of reference and areas for consideration for the Fire Futures review were detailed in the report now submitted.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

57 EQUALITY ASSESSMENT FEEDBACK – PRESENTATION

Members received a presentation from Stuart Elrick, critical friend of the Authority in the assessment of Equality and Diversity across the organisation. It was reported that the assessment had indicated that the Authority had the potential to achieve excellent status.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the content of presentation be noted; and
- (ii) That the Equality and Diversity direction of travel document be circulated to all Members

58 YOUNG FIREFIGHTERS SCHEME – PRESENTATION

A presentation was given to Members about the progress, expansion and successes of the Young Firefighters schemes operating across the County. There was hard evidence that intervention via the scheme had had a positive impact on the young people both during and after completion of the course which had, in turn, contributed to making West Yorkshire a safer place.

Chair