

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2012 AT FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW,

Present: Councillors D Ridgway (in the Chair), V Binney, P Harrand, J Hughes
(as substitute for Councillor Austin), M Khan and A McKenna

Apologies : Councillor T Austin

13 MINUTES

That the Minutes of a meeting held on 31 October 2011 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

14 URGENT ITEMS

None.

15 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business specified below as it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public and press were present during these items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions specified.

AGENDA ITEM NO.	TITLE OF REPORT	MINUTE NUMBER	Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972
E6	PPE procurement	18	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E7	Purchase of land at South Kirkby and Rastrick	19	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E8	Insurance renewals	20	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

E9	Vehicle replacement	21	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
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16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

17 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – PROMOTING ETHICAL STANDARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the implications of the Localism Act 2011.

The Act, due to take full effect on 1 July 2012, would require that changes be made to the existing Code of Conduct, current arrangements for the Authority's Standards Committee and procedures for dealing with complaints against Members.

Members considered the following proposals;

- Replacement of existing Code of Conduct with a more streamlined, less prescriptive version
- Revision of procedures related to complaints against Members to include the removal of the review stage in the investigation and adjudication of complaints against members, together with the removal of the right of appeal to an external judicial tribunal
- Conversion of existing Standards Committee into a standing ordinary committee with a requirement for political balance in appointments to reflect the abolition of the requirement for independent members
- Appointment of an Independent Persons as required by the Act

It was reported that the full Authority would have to ratify any changes at its meeting on 29 June 2012 to ensure the new system could be effective from 1 July and Members were advised that the Standards Committee would also be consider the proposals on 3 April and make recommendations to the full Authority in June.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the standing committee for Standards be dis-established;
- (ii) That the terms of reference relating to standards procedures be included in the Executive Committee Terms of Reference (to include the ability to set up an ad hoc Complaints Sub-committee comprising the three Group leaders or their substitutes and arrangements for the award of dispensations to Members which are not delegated to the Monitoring Officer);

- (iii) That the draft revised Code of Conduct, detailed at Appendix 1 to the report now submitted, be approved for incorporation into the Authority's Constitution;
- (iv) That Appendix 5 to the report now submitted, be approved subject to amendments as follows;
 - The Monitoring officer be authorized to sift and refer any complaints which are not about matters covered by the Code of Conduct without having to convene a meeting of the Complaints Sub-committee, and
 - To ensure that any Member, against whom a complaint has formally be made, be advised of the complaint at the start of the process
- (v) That the Authority participates if possible in a West Yorkshire pool of independent persons; and
- (vi) That the independent person receive an annual remuneration not exceeding £500, or the average of West Yorkshire local authority remuneration levels if lower.

It was further,

RESOLVED

That the Director of Corporate Resources (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to commence the necessary process to recruit an independent person prior to formal ratification of any appointment at the Authority's annual meeting on 29 June 2012. Such appointment to take effect from the commencement date of the new system.

18 PPE PROCUREMENT

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12 A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – business or financial affairs)

The Director of Operations submitted a report which sought approval for the purchase of replacement operational personal protective equipment (PPE) in the form of firefighting tunics and overtrousers.

It was reported that the current PPE was nearing the end of its serviceable life and new styles of equipment had been evaluated with a view to its purchase in line with the proposals as detailed in the report now submitted. Provision had been made within the capital plan for purchase of the new PPE in 2012 / 13.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the purchase and implementation of Personal Protective Equipment as detailed in the report now submitted.

19 PURCHASE OF LAND AT SOUTH KIRKBY AND RASTRICK

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12 A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – business or financial affairs)

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources advised Members of the planning process and proposed purchase of two sites (South Kirkby and Rastrick) which would facilitate the reorganisation of the Authority's operational fire cover as approved in the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

It was reported that the purchases (the costs for which had been detailed in the report now submitted) would be conditional upon receiving planning consent for their required development and that alternative planning uses be sought prior to the subsequent sale of the existing fire station sites.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to the purchase of land at South Kirkby and Rastrick as detailed in the report now submitted;
- (ii) That approval be given for all associated expenditure related to the two site procurements with an estimated cost as detailed as paragraph 1.8 of the report now submitted; and
- (iii) That it be noted that planning applications would be submitted for the sites to be purchased and that future planning permissions may be sought for alternative site uses for the existing Fire Station sites prior to their vacation.

20 INSURANCE RENEWALS

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12 A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – business or financial affairs)

Members received a report of the Chief Finance Officer which advised of the conclusion of negotiations of the insurance contract and the subsequent premiums for the Authority's liabilities which reflected an overall increase of £42,118 over the previous year.

Provision for the insurance premiums had been included within the approved revenue budget and would be met from within the provision for pay and price increases. Members were advised that all insurance policies were due for review and re-negotiation for 2013 – 14 financial year.

RESOLVED

That the insurance renewals as detailed in the report now submitted be approved.

21 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12 A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – business or financial affairs)

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought approval for the vehicle replacement programme for 2012 / 2013 as follows;

- Five appliances
- One Combined Aerial Rescue Pump (CARP)
- One Fire Response Unit (FRU), and
- One Pod refurbishment

It was reported that the total cost, as detailed at paragraph 2.1 of the report, would be funded from the 2012 / 2013 capital plan.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of the vehicles as detailed in the report be approved.

Chair