

**WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
HELD AT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW,  
ON FRIDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2011**

Present : Councillors D Ridgway (in the chair), M Akhtar, P Booth, A Castle, G Thornton, D Firth, D Gray, P Harrand, J Illingworth, M Iqbal, M Jamil, J Jarosz, A Manifield, A McKenna, D O'Neill, R Pryke, B Smith, T Austin and C Townsley

Apologies: Councillors M Khan, V Binney, A Hussain

**82 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor V Binney

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

**83 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

**84 URGENT ITEM**

There were no urgent items.

**85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**86 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2010 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**87 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That, subject to a correction of a typing error on Item 46 Budget 2011, the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting held on 21 January 2011 be received.

**88 MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Personnel and Training Committee at a meeting held on 28 January 2011 be received.

**89 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee at a meeting held on 4 February 2011 be received.

**90 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Minutes of the Fire Commission at a meeting held on 10 December 2010 be received; and
- (ii) That the Minutes of the Fire Services Management Committee at a meeting held on 15 November 2010 be received.

**91 NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE CHIEFS AND CHAIRS OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGION**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the notes of the Chiefs and Chairs of the Yorkshire and Humberside Region held on 4 January 2011 be received; and
- (ii) That the notes of a meeting with Communities and Local Government officials held on 20 January 2011 be received; and
- (iii) That the notes of the Chief Fire Officers Association held at a regional meeting on 4 February 2011 be received.

## **92 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Senior Corporate Resource Manager 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 December 2010.

Members commented on Item 8 of the report 'Five pumps and above incidents'.

Questions arose around the number of deliberate fires and Members asked if anyone had been prosecuted. The Director of Fire Safety informed Members that the Fire Investigation Team will give a report at the year end.

Members asked about the fires where the cause is still unknown and this was explained by the Director of Fire Safety that some of these could still be under investigation and that there were cases where the seat of the fire was destroyed and the cause could not always be determined; although in the cases where there had been a fatality this was unusual.

Members expressed a view to be provided with a more in-depth report on the larger fires incorporated within the Performance Management Report.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## **93 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2011 / 2012 – 2014 / 2015 (INCORPORATING REVENUE BUDGET, CAPITAL PLAN AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT)**

Members considered a joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive, the Chief Finance Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources which presented an overview of the financial position for the current year together with the draft revenue budget and capital plan for 2011/2012 and three-year financial strategy.

The report also sought approval for the Treasury Management Strategy and prudential indicators.

The detail of the report advised Members of:

- (i) The content of the three-year capital plan (£29.35m) with a forecast spend by the end of 2011/2012 of £9.67m;
- (ii) Capital financing requirement of £67m in 2011/2012;
- (iii) The authorised limit for external debt of £76.8m and an authorised boundary of £71.8m;
- (iv) Capital finance charges of 8.04% of the revenue budget;
- (v) Forecast revenue balances of £7.9m by 31 March 2011 with a minimum balance to be maintained at £2.5m;
- (vi) The use of £0.84m balances in 2011/2012;

- (vii) A collection fund surplus of £89,751;
- (viii) Details of the two-year revenue support grant settlement;
- (ix) Positive assurance from the Chief Finance Officer under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 of the adequacy of balances and the robustness of the budget estimates;
- (x) Management Board proposals to deliver a precept freeze;
- (xi) The investment strategy and a request from the Chief Finance Officer to permit unlimited investment; and
- (xii) A need to include the Co-operative Bank on the list of unspecified investment as it did not meet the Treasury Management criteria but is the Authority's banker.

## **RESOLVED**

1. (i) that, having considered the Prudential Indicators relating to the revenue costs of funding capital investment, members approved the proposed three-year Capital Investment Plan, set out in Appendix E of the report.
- (ii) that members gave approval to the Prudential Indicators in respect of:
  - (a) the Capital Financing Requirement as set out in Table 1 in para 3.2
  - (b) the level of External Debt also set out in Table 1;
  - (c) the Authorised Limit for external debt as set out in Table 2;
  - (d) the Operational Boundary for external debt also set out in Table 2;
  - (e) the upper limits on its fixed and variable interest rate exposures as set out in paragraph 10.7.3;
  - (f) the limits for the maturity structure of its borrowings as set out in the table in paragraph 10.7.5 of the report;
    - (i). the borrowing strategy outlined in section 10.5;
    - (ii). the investment strategy outlined in section 10.4 and 10.8.1;
    - (iii). the policy for provision of repayment of debt outlined in Appendix D of the report;
    - (iv). the treasury management indicators on interest rate exposures (paragraph 10.7.3), on the maturity structure of borrowing (paragraph 10.7.5) and on investments (paragraph 10.7.6).
    - (v). that the Finance & Resources Committee be given responsibility for challenging and reviewing treasury management activities, and that training is provided to allow them to do so (paragraph 10.8.2).
    - (vi). that the Authority adopts the Budget set out in paragraph 9 of the report and a precept of £52.41 at Band D, which is a freeze at the 2010/2011 level.

2. (i) that the Revenue Budget for 2011-12, net of the use of balances, be set at £88.060m, and that the precept be as follows:

	£
Budget Requirement	88,060,207
Less Revenue Support Grant	-12,328,758
Less Non-Domestic Rates	-39,885,613
Less Proportion of Collection Fund Deficit	-89,751
<b>Precept 2011 - 2012</b>	<u>35,756,085</u>

- (ii) that it be noted that the constituent District Councils have formally set their Council Tax bases for the year 2011-2012 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as follows:

	<u>Tax Base</u>
	£
Bradford	148,930.00
Calderdale	65,663.20
Kirklees	127,600.03
Leeds	238,247.00
Wakefield	101,806.00
	<u>682,246.23</u>

- (iii) that the following amounts be now calculated by the Authority for the year 2011-2012 in accordance with Sections 43 to 48 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

- (a) £93,171,640 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 43(2) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- (b) £5,111,433 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Authority estimates for the items set out in Section 43(3)(a) to (b) of the Act.
- (c) £88,060,207 being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 43(4) of the Act as its budget requirements for the year.
- (d) £52,304,122 being the aggregate of the sums which the Authority estimates will be payable

for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, Revenue Support Grant and sums to be transferred from billing authorities Collection Funds.

(e) £52.409,355

being the amount at (c) above less the amount at (d) above divided by the total amount at (ii) above, calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 44(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(f) Valuation Bands

£

A	34.939570
B	40.762832
C	46.586094
D	52.409355
E	64.055879
F	75.702402
G	87.348926
H	104.818711

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the number which in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band 'D', calculated by the Authority in accordance with Section 47(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

(g) Resultant Precepts

£

Bradford	7,805,325
Calderdale	3,441,366
Kirklees	6,687,435
Leeds	12,486,372
Wakefield	5,335,587
	35,756,085

being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (e) above by the appropriate tax base at (ii) above in accordance with Section 48(2) of the Act, as the amount of precept payable by each constituent District Council; and

- (iv) that the precept for each District Council as calculated above be issued in accordance with Section 40 of Local Government Finance Act 1992.

#### **94 Regional Control Centre Project**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report to consider a recommendation of the Company Directors to wind up the Company consequential upon the discontinuance of the Regional Control Centre project by the Government.

It is anticipated that all four regional Fire and Rescue Authorities will consent to the winding up of the Company and it was recommended that this Authority gives its consent accordingly since the purpose for which the Company was set up has ceased to exist in consequence of the Government's decision to terminate the Regional Control Centre project.

#### **Resolved**

That approval be given to the recommendations of the report.

#### **95 Service Delivery Presentation**

The Director of Fire Safety introduced a presentation to Members outlining the Service Delivery Structure. This paper and the associated Appendix presented West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's newly developed Service Delivery Board, District Risk Reduction and Local Area Risk Reduction Team structures and methodologies.

#### **Resolved**

That the report and presentation be noted.

Chair