

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD ON 9 JULY 2010

AT FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW

Present : Councillors A McKenna (In the Chair), M Akhtar, A Castle, D Gray, P Harrand, M Iqbal, M Jamil (as substitute for Councillor V Binney), M Khan, A Manifold, R Pryke and D Ridgway

Apologies : Councillors V Binney and J Dodds

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Committee at a meeting held on 23 April 2010 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 URGENT ITEMS

None.

3 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC – SECTION 100a, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED

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
E8	Purchase of Smartboards	8	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E9	Repair and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants	9	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

E10	Capital Expenditure – Property management schemes	10	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E11	Capital Expenditure slippage – Property Management schemes	11	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

5 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer which presented the quarterly overview of the financial position of the Authority to end June 2010.

It was reported that, for the first quarter of the year, forecasts were based on the previous year's expenditure patterns and, as such, there was no revision to the approved revenue budget to report. It was forecast however that there would be some significant variations in the following areas;

- Wholetime firefighters (overspend) – overtime payments (at similar level to 2009 / 10 but provision within the revenue budget had been reduced for the current year to reflect anticipated outcomes from the implementation of the operational support pool)
- Retained firefighters (underspend) – cost linked to demand – currently under budgeted levels
- Brigade control (underspend) – existing unfilled vacancies
- Support staff (underspend) – existing unfilled vacancies
- Capital financing charges – low Bank of England base rate

Members considered detail of the slippage of capital expenditure into the current year which increased the capital plan from £11.282m to £12.769m and it was reported that borrowing costs continued at a low level which indicated an underspend of £104,000.

Members discussed how the capital programme may be adjusted to reflect and assist with the current financial challenge facing public services. It was reported that every scheme, not currently contractually committed, would be reviewed and the impact of any delay or deferral on the scheme would be reported to Management Board or Members as appropriate. Although there remained uncertainty about the level of

savings required which may not be known until the date of the Revenue Support Grant settlement in December 2010, it was anticipated that they may be in the region of 35% over four years.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That the revised revenue budget and capital plans be approved.

6 BACKWARD LOOKING EFFICIENCY STATEMENT 2009 - 2010

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which advised of actual efficiency gains achieved in 2009 / 2010 and of planned gains for 2010 / 2011.

It was reported that efficiencies totalled £2.9m in 2009 / 2010 which brought the total cumulative savings to more than £20m. Planned efficiencies for the current year would be calculated differently and the fire service as a whole was required to make cashable savings of 1.6% per annum. Members were advised that the total forecast efficiencies would be £5.2m.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 PREPAREDNESS / EMERGENCY PLANNING – UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Operations which informed Members of the work of the Operations Directorate in relation to resilience and preparedness for major emergencies.

It was reported that significant investment had been made into specialist equipment either by central government in the form of grants or by the Authority itself eg. flood response and that officers were also closely involved with the work of the West Yorkshire Resilience Forum.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

8 PURCHASE OF SMARTBOARDS

(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 Human Resources submitted a report which sought approval for the supply and fit of smartboard presentation facilities to all stations to replace existing

outdated technology in the form of networked training facilities.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the purchase of smartboards as part of the Authority's Capital Plan 2010 / 11 in the sum as detailed in the report now submitted.

9 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF FIRE HYDRANTS

(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 Operations which sought approval for expenditure within the 2010 / 11 Capital Plan for the repair and maintenance of fire hydrants and associated works.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to the expenditure as detailed in the 2010 / 11 Capital Plan; and
- (ii) That a report be submitted to the September meeting of the full Authority detailing the issues relating to ownership etc of hydrants

10 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

(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 Corporate Resources submitted a report which sought approval for new Property Management projects of values in excess of £100,000, funded from the capital expenditure programme as follows;

- Phased introduction of emergency electrical back-up, generator supply systems
- Installation of bio mass boiler at the Training Centre

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to the proposed capital expenditure on the schemes as detailed in the report now submitted;
- (ii) That it be noted that the obtaining of building control or planning authority permission may be necessary for the schemes at (i) above; and
- (iii) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee detailing work and progress made by the Authority on environmental and green issues.

11 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SLIPPAGE – PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

(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 identified slippage of capital expenditure on property management projects and which sought approval for new strategic refurbishment schemes.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the capital slippage into the 2010 / 11 financial year as detailed in the report now submitted be noted;
- (ii) That approval be given to the proposed capital expenditure on property management projects as itemised in the report now submitted;
- (iv) That it be noted that the obtaining of building control or planning authority permission may be necessary for the schemes at (ii) above; and
- (v) That detail of any capital slippage be included in future quarterly financial reports to this Committee.

Chair