

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

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

Present : Councillors D Ridgway (in the chair); T Austin, V Binney, P Booth, A Castle, D Firth, D Gray, P Harrand, A Hussain, J Illingworth (Agenda item nos 11 – 23, Min nos. 69 – 81 refer), M Jamil, J Jarosz, M Khan, A Manifield, A McKenna, D O'Neill, R Pryke, B Smith, G Thornton and C Townsley

Apologies : Councillor M Akhtar

59 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor G Thornton

The Chair extended a welcome to the Authority to Councillor Gill Thornton who had replaced Councillor Joanne Dodds as Member of the Authority.

Councillor J Jarosz

Members congratulated Councillor Josie Jarosz on the occasion of her recent marriage. Councillor Jarosz would retain her name for Fire Authority purposes.

60 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

61 URGENT ITEM

None.

62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

63 CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of a change in membership of the Authority as notified by Bradford Metropolitan District Council. The new appointment had formally taken effect on 6 October 2010. This change had consequent effects on Committee membership.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the appointment of Councillor Gill Thornton to replace Councillor Joanne Dodds as Member of the Fire Authority be noted; and
- (ii) That Councillor Thornton be appointed a substantive member of the Finance and Resources Committee and as named substitute for the Executive and Personnel and Training Committees for 2010 / 11.

64 COMMITTEE SCHEDULE 2010 – 11 – AMENDMENT

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which proposed an amendment to the calendar of meetings in respect of meetings of the Audit Committee.

As a result of the announcement of the additional Bank Holiday in April and, in order to allow as much time as possible for the closure of the accounts in June due to the changes required by the International Financial Reporting Standards (FRS), it was proposed to change the date of the Audit Committee meetings scheduled for April and June 2011.

RESOLVED

That the calendar of meetings for the Audit Committee in 2010 – 2011 be amended and meetings in 2011 be approved as follows;

Friday 4 February 2011	10.30am
Friday 15 April 2011	1.30pm
Thursday 30 June 2011	10.30am

65 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

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

66 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee at a meeting held on 10 September 2010 be received.

67 MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Personnel and Training Committee at meetings held on 24 September and 12 November 2010 be noted.

68 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee at meetings held on 1 October and 19 November 2010 be noted.

69 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - MINUTES

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the Fire Commission at a meeting held on 24 September 2010 be received;
- (ii) That the Minutes of the Safer Communities Board at meetings held on 13 September and 11 October 2010 be received; and
- (iii) That the Minutes of the Fire Services Management Committee at a meeting held on 10 September 2010 be received.

70 DISSOLUTION OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITIES' REGIONAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Members considered a report submitted by the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the formal dissolution of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities Regional Management Board (RMB).

As one of the four constituent fire and rescue authorities of the RMB, approval had been given at the 17 September meeting of this Authority to the proposed dissolution. Following confirmation of approval to the proposal from the remaining constituent authorities, a letter had subsequently been forwarded to the Fire Minister, Bob Neill MP, advising of the formal dissolution with effect from

28 September 2010. It was further reported that, in relation to Min. no. 49 of 17 September 2010, there remained no continuing contract issues with Northgate.

Members briefly discussed the situation relating to future uncertainty of the Regional Control Centres and how this was being handled in other regions.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

71 REGIONAL CONTROL CENTRE – ARTICLES AND CONSTITUTION

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which sought approval of the Authority to proposed changes to the Articles and Constitution of the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire and Rescue Control Centre Company Limited. The changes had been recommended following an independent review by external solicitors to ensure that the Company remained fit for purpose following recent changes in company law.

Full details of the proposed changes were attached as an annex to the report now submitted. It was reported that the changes could not be approved by the Company Board without the approval of the constituent fire and rescue authorities.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the proposed changes to the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire and Rescue Control Centre Company Limited Articles and Constitution.

72 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 30 October 2010.

Members commented on the progress which had been made during the course of the previous 12-month period and commented specifically on the reduction in the number of false alarms. Some concern was raised, however, at the increase in the number of 3-day injuries.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

73 SPENDING REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer which advised of the implications of the 2011 / 2012 revenue support grant settlement consultation.

It was reported that the total cut in grant over the next four-year period would be 25% - 6.5% of which would fall in the first two years with further cuts of 18.5% in the following two. Members were advised that, in real terms, the first year would require savings of £5.279m followed by a further £0.707m in 2012 – 13. Taking into account price increases, capital financing charges and other budget pressures the Authority would have to meet a total funding gap of £8.5m. Members were advised that a financial strategy would be prepared to meet the deficit.

The two-year settlement had been a consultation paper with the final settlement due to be announced in January. It was further reported that the fire funding formula would be re-examined with the final outcome of the review due in July 2011. Members were advised that recent changes to the formula had had a negative impact on this Authority.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That a copy of all relevant responses made to the Fire Minister in respect of the spending review be circulated to Members for information.

74 DRAFT SERVICE PLAN 2011 – 2015 AND ACTION PLAN 2011 – 2012 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the representations received on the draft Service Plan 2011 – 15 and Action Plan 2011 – 12.

Whilst it had been anticipated that, due to the limited external impact of the Action Plan and the strategic nature of the Service Plan, the consultation would not attract a high volume of responses, those responses that had been received were detailed in the report now submitted together with the formal response of the Fire Brigades Union (FBU) and Wakefield MDC.

Members welcomed the positive and constructive approach from the FBU and the comments the Union had made about the excellent working relationship it had with the Authority.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

75 SERVICE ACTION PLAN 2011 - 2015 – PUBLICATION OF APPROVED PLAN

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.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the publication of the Service Plan 2011 – 2015 and the Action Plan 2011 – 12.

76 HUTTON PENSION REVIEW

The Director of Human Resources submitted a report which advised of the proposed response to the consultation on Lord Hutton's Independent Public Service Pensions Commission interim report. Details of the proposed response were attached at annex 2 to the report now submitted.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the proposed consultation response for submission to HM Treasury.

77 BONFIRE PERIOD – ACTIVITY REPORT

Members considered a joint report of the Director of Operations and Director of Fire Safety which reported upon the success of the Service's preparation and response to the 2010 Bonfire Night period.

It was reported that an additional resource (small fires vehicle) had been trialled over the period for attendance at small fires in the Bradford district. A thorough evaluation of the resource would be undertaken to ascertain the benefits such a provision could have throughout the year on frontline appliance availability.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

78 EQUALITY FRAMEWORK ASSESSMENT

The Director of Human Resources submitted a report which advised of the result of the Fire and Rescue Service Equality Framework peer challenge.

Members were advised that West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service had been assessed at the Excellent Level of the Framework

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

79 INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

Members considered a report of the Director of Human Resources which informed Members of the Investors in People 10-year award to acknowledge the service's continued commitment to maintaining the award.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

80 CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which updated Members on the Customer Service Excellence Assessment 2010. It was reported that the assessment had resulted in West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority gaining full compliance against all 57 Customer Service Excellence elements incorporating the award of four "compliance plus" standards.

Members were advised that the assessment had considered the following aspects of the organisation;

- Customer insight
- Organisational culture
- Information and access
- Delivery
- Timeliness and quality of service

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

81 FIRE SAFETY GROUP ACTIVITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Fire Safety and Community Relations which advised Members of activities within the Fire Safety Group and statistics for the year 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010.

Members were advised that both the public service agreement and Local Area Agreement targets had now been removed. Future activity reports would advise of progress against the content of the approved Service Plan.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair