

## **WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW, ON FRIDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Present : Councillors M Khan (in the chair), T Austin, V Binney, C Burke, J Dodds, R Grahame, D Gray, S Hamilton, P Harrand, L Holmes, J Hughes, A Hussain, K Renshaw, B Selby, A Taylor, C Townsley, A Wainwright, A Wallis, P Wardhaugh and G Wilkinson

Apologies: Councillors B Smith and G Thornton

#### **25 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – New Assistant Chief Officer appointments**

It was reported to the meeting that Mr David Walton (currently serving with the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service) had been appointed as Assistant Chief Officer with effect from 1 January 2013 and that Mr Steve Rhodes (West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service) had been appointed as Assistant Chief Officer to take effect 1 July 2013 or as soon thereafter as possible following the resignation of the current postholder.

#### **26 ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

#### **27 URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

#### **28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

#### **29 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2012 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**30 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee at a meeting held on 28 June 2012 be received.

**31 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Executive Committee at a meeting held on 29 June 2012 be received.

**32 MINUTES OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That, following a verbal update with regard to the current estimated number of compulsory redundancies on 31 March 2013, the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee at a meeting held on 6 July 2012 be received; and
- (ii) That every endeavour be made to reduce the final number of compulsory redundancies from the Service by continued close working with, and support of, those officers at risk.

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

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting held on 13 July 2012 be received; and
- (ii) That an item be included on the next Community Safety Committee agenda in respect of fire safety issues and related guidance for high rise buildings.

**34 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION - MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

- (i) That, following a brief discussion about Retained Firefighters' Pensions and the impact on the Authority together with the potential impact of the community right to bid under the Localism Act 2011, the Minutes of the Fire Commission at a meeting held on 15 June 2012 be received;
- (ii) That the Minutes of the Safer and Stronger Communities Programme Board at a meeting held on 9 July 2012 be received and particular note be made of the progress in respect of the Metal Theft Bill; and

- (iii) That the Minutes of the Fire Services Management Committee at a meeting held on 16 July 2012 be received.

### **35 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which outlined the activities of the Brigade in the areas of operations and technical matters for the period 1 April 2012 to 31 July 2012.

Members commented specifically on the performance related to the time taken from accepting a call from British Telecom to mobilisation (OI 12) and were advised that new operating procedures had rendered this measure obsolete – the increased average time was due to the requirement to take more information from the caller to better categorise and prioritise calls. This issue would be considered in more detail by Members of the Audit Committee on 14 September 2012.

In conclusion, it was remarked that, thanks to an excellent collective effort from officers and the Fire Brigades Union, the performance continued to be outstanding with a trajectory of continual improvement.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

### **36 AUTHORITY CONSTITUTION - REVISION**

Members considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which advised of required typographical corrections to the text of the Constitution.

#### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the corrections to the text of the Constitution identified in the report now submitted.

### **37 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which advised of a revised committee seat allocation in respect of the Labour Group.

#### **RESOLVED**

That changes to the Human Resources and Community Safety Committee Labour Group seat allocations be agreed as follows;

### Human Resources Committee

Councillor S Hamilton to replace Councillor B Smith as substantive member of the Committee.

### Community Safety Committee

Councillor K Renshaw to replace Councillor S Hamilton as substantive member of the Community Safety Committee.

## **38 FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought to appraise members of the publication by Communities and Local Government (CLG) of the latest Fire and Rescue National Framework for England and, in particular, the implications of the chapter on “accountability to communities”.

Members considered that the existing political governance arrangements were sufficient to satisfy this element of the Framework and that enhanced procedures were not required for this Fire Authority.

### **RESOLVED**

That the content of the report be noted and that no changes be made at this time to existing procedures in respect of accountability and scrutiny of the current decision-making processes.

## **39 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) – NEW PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Operations which presented a range of proposals as part of the Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) process for inclusion in the 2013 / 14 Action Plan.

The Authority was facing significant cuts and continued to plan on the basis of reducing resources. In continuing to deliver significant efficiencies over the next few years and in the light of major successes in risk reduction, activity and demand, eleven proposals with supporting business cases had been drafted for consultation related to the following station areas;

- Fairweather Green
- Haworth and Keighley
- Idle and Shipley
- Odsal
- Halifax
- Marsden, Slaithwaite and Meltham
- Stanningley
- Hunslet and Morley

- Cookridge and Moortown
- Garforth and Rothwell
- Ossett and Wakefield

Members were advised that consultation on the proposals would take place over the required 12-week period when a further report would be submitted to the December meeting of the Authority.

It was anticipated that, if fully implemented, the proposals would generate ongoing revenue savings of £8m per year based on a capital investment of £13m between 2013 and 2020.

Implementation of the proposals, if approved, would lead to a reduction of 200 whole-time posts which could be achieved through natural reductions aligned with the firefighter retirement profile.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That approval be given to full consultation on the following proposals;
- the replacement of one appliance at Fairweather Green with a new Fire Response unit.
  - the closure of Haworth Fire Station and reduction of fire appliances at Keighley from two to one
  - the merger of Idle and Shipley and replacement with a new one-pump station
  - the replacement of one appliance at Odsal with a Command and Enhanced Logistics Support Unit
  - the reduction of appliances at Halifax to one
  - the closure of Marsden station (cover to be provided by Meltham and Slaithwaite)
  - the removal of one appliance from Stanningley
  - the merger of Morley and Hunslet, the removal of one appliance and the construction of a new station in a new location
  - the construction of a new single appliance station to replace Moortown and Cookridge
  - the construction of another new single appliance station to replace Garforth and Rothwell  
and;

- the removal of one appliance from Wakefield and the construction of a new Ossett fire station
- (ii) That the outcomes of the full consultation be reported back to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority in December 2012.

Chair