



Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 19 December 2014

Time: 10.30 a.m.

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillors J Hughes (in the chair), Akthar, Austin, Burke, Cummins, Dodds, Grahame, Harrand, Holmes, Hussain, Middleton, Pillai, Renshaw, Shaw, Smith, Taylor, Thornton, Townsley and Wilkinson

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillors T Hanley, A Stubbley and A Wallis

42 Chair's announcements

The Chair reminded Members that there would be an Integrated Risk Management Plan presentation immediately upon the rising of the meeting. This would then be followed by a meeting of the first Task and Finish Group which had been established to consider the issue of stress related long-term sickness absence.

43 Admission of the public

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

44 Urgent items

None.

45 Declarations of interest

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

46 Minutes of the last meeting

Members received a verbal update on the latest position with regard to the Firefighter industrial action and changes to the firefighter pension schemes. It was reported that the proposals had been debated in Parliament and subsequently approved. They would come into force on 1 April 2015. To date no further news had been received from the Fire Brigades' Union about any future industrial action.

A full report would be presented to the January 2015 meeting of the Human Resources Committee.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of Authority at a meeting held on 17 October 2014 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

47 Minutes of the Executive Committee

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Executive Committee at meetings held on 17 October and 26 November 2014 be received.

48 Minutes of the Human Resources Committee

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Human Resources Committee at a meeting held on 14 November 2014 be received.

49 Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee at a meeting held on 21 November 2014 be received.

50 Minutes of the Audit Committee

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Audit Committee at a meeting held on 28 November 2014 be received.

51 Minutes of the Community Safety Committee

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Community Safety Committee at a meeting held on 5 December 2014 be received.

52 Minutes of the Local Government Association

In response to a question from Councillor Dodds about the possibility of flood response becoming a statutory duty as referred to in the Fire Service Management Committee Minutes from 5 September 2014, it was reported that there had been no change and flood response was considered to be part of the standard resilience work required to be undertaken by the Fire Service.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Minutes of the Fire Service Management Committee at a meeting held on 5 September 2014 be noted; and
- b) That the Minutes of the Fire Commission at a meeting held on 18 July 2014 be noted.

53 Performance Management Report

Members received a report of the Chief Legal and Governance Officer which advised of the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April to 31 October 2014.

Members commented on the following issues;

- anticipated increase in number of operational risk visits
- the attacks on firefighters in Keighley (including risk assessments, arrests and use of social media)
- the fire at the former Majestyk nightclub

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

54 Service Plan Action Plan 2014 – 15 – update

The Chief Legal and Governance Officer submitted a report which updated Members of the progress on the Service Plan Action Plan 2014 -15.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

55 Integrated Risk Management Plan – update

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Strategic Development which advised of progress against the wide range of initiatives proposed as part of the current Integrated Risk Management Plan approved since 2011.

Members were advised that the initiatives would deliver ongoing salary savings of £14m once fully implemented - such savings would be linked to the retirement profile which would dictate the pace of their delivery. It was further anticipated that station running costs would be reduced with the closure of 15 stations and their replacement by seven new builds.

With regard to the Haworth proposals which had been put on hold for two years pending finalisation of plans for community use of the former fire station with effect from January 2015, the relevant Parish Councils had advised Officers that they had been unsuccessful in their grant application to Communities and Local Government. They sought approval for a further delay before the property would be placed on the open market after its formal closure on 31 December 2014 pending the outcome of alternative financing options.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

56 Local Government Finance Settlement 2015 – 16

The Chief Finance and Procurement officer took the opportunity to advise Members that the anticipated announcement of the local government financial settlement had been made the previous afternoon.

In summary, Members were advised that the Authority would receive a one-year (2015 – 16) settlement figure of £45.849m which represented a reduction of £4.175m over the current year (-8%) and £0.25m less than had been anticipated for budgetary purposes. The figures were to be consulted on with responses to be submitted by 15 January 2015.

RESOLVED

That the summary of the settlement be noted.

57 Customer Service Excellence assessment 2014

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Legal and Governance Officer which updated Members on the outcome of the Customer Service Excellence assessment 2014.

It was reported that the Customer Service Excellence standard had been attained with full compliance against all 57 elements, including 12 'compliance plus' awards as detailed in the report now submitted which represented an increase of 1 over the previous assessment figures.

RESOLVED

That the report and excellent achievement be noted.

58 Draft Community Risk Management Strategy 2015 - 20

Members received a report of the Director of Strategic Development which presented the Draft Community Risk Management Strategy 2015 – 20.

The report set out the methodology applied for the assessment of risk and deployment of resources across the county. It was reported that the strategy had been based on sound evidence to ensure that all future changes could be substantiated and their impact measured. The strategy provided the information that underpinned the Authority's Service Plan (Min no. 59 refers).

Members commented on the following;

- potentially misleading representation of Bradford District
- a need for increased publicity of inter-agency working and partnership working

RESOLVED

That the draft Community Risk Management Strategy 2015 – 20 be approved for consultation.

59 Service Plan 2015 – 20

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the Chief Legal and Governance Officer submitted a joint report which sought approval for the publication of the Service Plan 2015 – 20 for consultation and also approval for the Action Plan 2015 – 16.

A presentation giving detail of the Service Plan 2015 - 20 was given to Members at the meeting and it was reported that this would be circulated electronically to all interested parties as a dynamic document.

Officers acknowledged that the Plan was ambitious and would be challenging in the light of the anticipated further four years of severe budgetary constraints. Members were advised that the Plan would require some significant changes and a number of options would be brought back for Members to consider in the future.

RESOLVED

- a) That the Service Plan 2015 – 20 be approved for consultation;
- b) That approval be given to the Action Plan 2015 – 16; and
- c) That the results of the Action Plan 2015 – 16 consultation be reported back to the 20 February 2015 meeting of the Authority.

Chair