

**WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**  
**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2012**  
**AT FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW**

Present: Councillors B Smith (in the Chair); C Burke, J Dodds, P Harrand, L Holmes, A Hussain, B Selby and A Taylor

Apologies: Councillors G Thornton and P Wardhaugh

**9 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Committee at a meeting held on 8 July 2012 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**10 URGENT ITEM**

None

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

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.

<b>AGENDA ITEM NO.</b>	<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	<b>MINUTE NUMBER</b>	<b>Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972</b>
E9	Breathing apparatus – procurement	17	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E10	Castleford Fire Station – refurbishment	18	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

## **12 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of disclosable pecuniary interest were made in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

## **13 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which presented a quarterly overview of the financial position of the Authority for the second quarter of the current financial year.

The overall forecast was for a £1.06m underspend on the revenue budget and the report highlighted the key variations which included;

- An underspend in firefighter salaries (wholetime and retained including overtime provision)
- An overspend on support staff costs
- Overspend in premises costs due to increase in business rates and
- Underspend in transport costs

It was reported that balances in the region of £9.4m were anticipated for the end of 2012 / 13 financial year.

Members were advised that there had been slippage of £1.93m in the capital programme from 2011 / 2012 into the current year. This, coupled with a number of schemes which would not be completed in 2012 / 2013 brought the total cost of the capital plan to £12.548m.

£3.6m of capital grant for the joint procurement of a replacement control system with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority had also been received and reports on the progress of this project would be included in future quarterly financial reviews. It was reported that approval had already been given by the Joint Control Project Board for expenditure totalling £1.016m

In respect of Treasury Management, the Chief Finance Officer presented details of borrowing and investment activity and reported that, as part of the approved strategy to reduce external borrowing through the use of balances, it was anticipated that it was unlikely that there would be a requirement for any long term borrowing in the current financial year as a direct result of the current positive cash flow.

## **RESOLVED**

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

## **14 SALE OF LAND AND BUILDING ASSETS**

The Director of Strategic Development submitted a report which sought approval for the marketing and sale of land and building assets in respect of Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) approvals given in December 2011.

Members were advised that the sale of the ten stations (which would become surplus to requirement following the construction of new stations at Rastrick, Menston, Dewsbury, Killingbeck and South Kirkby) would be marketed as appropriate together with the land at the quarry site at Castleford. It was proposed that early marketing may give an indication of interest and so influence the order of closure / merger.

It was anticipated that the sale of the assets would generate significant capital receipts.

### **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the marketing and disposal of the surplus land and property as detailed in the report now submitted.

## **15 RESPONSE TO TECHNICAL CONSULTATION – BUSINESS RATES RETENTION**

The Chief Finance Officer presented an update on the technical consultation on business rates retention and the issues facing the Fire Authority.

Members were advised that only 12 of the 84 questions related directly to Fire Authorities and the remaining questions either had no impact (16) or were relevant to the District Councils (56). In addition to specific fire questions, the Authority was proposing to submit a supportive response in respect of the 56 local authority issues.

Further discussion was held relating to the differences between the allocation of the fire and police grant, to the evidence or otherwise that sparsity continued to be a relevant factor in the award of grants and the support and joint submissions with the Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities (AMFRA) together with that of local MP's.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That the Chief Finance Officer be authorised to submit the response to the consultation as detailed at the meeting.

## **16 CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE – LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which invited Members to consider attendance of a member at the Local Government Group Leadership Academy in autumn / winter 2012 / 13.

The Academy would cost £1,000 (subsequent places to be charged at £1,250) and this, together with any additional travel and subsistence costs would be met from within existing revenue budget provision.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That approval be given to the attendance of Members on the Leadership Academy on the basis of 1:1:1; and
- (ii) That the Group Leaders be contacted with a view to nominating Member(s) for participation in the Leadership Academy – the dates of which to be finalised.

## **17 BA EQUIPMENT (BREATHING APPARATUS) - PROCUREMENT**

(The item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to financial or business affairs).

The Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which advised of the progress with the replacement Breathing Apparatus (BA) project and which sought approval for its procurement.

## **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to the procurement of replacement Breathing Apparatus sets from the approved capital plan in accordance with financial standing orders.

## **18 CASTLEFORD FIRE STATION – REFURBISHMENT**

(The item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – Information relating to financial or business affairs).

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought approval for the refurbishment of Castleford Fire Station.

It was reported that initial tenders had been considerably over budget and a repeat tender exercise had been carried out for a modified scheme. Members were advised that the lowest fully compliant tender was recommended for acceptance as detailed in the report subject to an increase to the approved capital programme. Part of these costs would be offset by a financial contribution of £40,000 from West Yorkshire Police in respect of arrangements for the joint use of the premises.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the capital scheme for the refurbishment of Castleford Fire Station be increased to £715,000;
- (ii) That approval be given to the major refurbishment as detailed in the report; and

- (iii) That it be noted that planning permission and building control approval would be required for the scheme.

Chair