



# Minutes

## Full Authority

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Date: 18 December 2020

Time: 10:30

Venue: Microsoft Teams

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Present: Councillor S Tulley (in the Chair), Almas, Anderson, Austin, Burke, Downes, Fenton-Glynn, Hall, Harrand, Hunt, Jenkins, Kirton, Mohammed, Pervaiz, Pollard, Renshaw, Shaheen, Tait and Wenham

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Cllrs O'Donovan and Sunderland

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### **26 Chair's announcements**

None

### **27 Admission of the public**

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

### **28 Urgent items**

There were no urgent items to be considered at the meeting.

### **29 Declarations of interest**

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

### **30 Membership of the Authority and appointments to Committee**

The Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which set out recent changes to the membership of the Authority and subsequent required changes to committee appointments.

It was reported that Councillor Grahame had resigned from the Authority on 30 November. Leeds City Council would appoint a replacement in mid-January 2021 and therefore, the Labour Group would carry a vacancy until such time as that appointment is made.

Members were further advised that recent changes to the political balance at Kirklees MC had impacted on the balance at the Fire Authority with the loss of one Labour member (Councillor Mahmood Akhtar) and the gain of one Liberal Democrat Member (Councillor Cahal Burke). The political balance had been revised to;

Labour	13
Conservative	6
Liberal Democrat	3

#### **RESOLVED**

- a) That the revised political balance and membership of the Fire Authority be noted;
- b) That the following changes be made to the membership of the Community Safety Committee,  
  
Councillor Cahal Burke (Lib Dem) to replace Councillor Mahmood Akhtar (Labour)
- c) That Councillor Karen Renshaw and Councillor Almas be appointed to the positions of Chair and Vice chair of the Audit Committee respectively;
- d) That Councillor Austin be appointed to replace Councillor Akhtar on the Human Resources Committee; and
- e) That the following changes to Audit and Human Resources Committee membership be made;

Councillor Steve Tulley	Move from Human Resources to Audit Committee
Councillor Mussarat Pervaiz	Move from Audit to Human Resources Committee

### **31 Minutes of meeting held on 25 June 2020**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 25 June 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **32 Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

### **33 Minutes of Committees held since 18 September 2020 and of other relevant Outside Bodies**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes be noted.

### **34 Authority Constitution – review**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer which set out proposed changes to the Authority's Constitution for approval.

Members were advised that changes and a re-allocation of duties were required consequent upon the retirement of the Chief Legal and Governance Officer (Clerk and Monitoring Officer) and also to the Contract Procedure Rules which were used to facilitate compliant procurement practice. Details of the proposed amendments were attached as an annex to the report now submitted.

Members sought confirmation of the following specific issues;

- internal processes used to ensure Value for Money in contracts in the range of £250 - £4,999, and
- internal processes related to any exemptions to Contract Procedure Rules (CPR)

#### **RESOLVED**

That the proposed amendments to the Authority's Constitution be approved.

### **35 Statement of Purpose**

Members received a report of the Director of Services Support which sought approval for revisions to the Authority's Statement of Purpose. The amendments reflected the new values and priorities for West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service which had been introduced since the Statement of Purpose we last reviewed.

Clarification and detail was sought with regard to how West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service could move from "good" across all key areas to "outstanding"

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Statement of Purpose be approved as detailed at an annex to the report now submitted.

### **36 Statement of Assurance 2019 – 20**

The Director of Service Support submitted a report which sought Members' approval for the annual Statement of Assurance 2019 – 20 as a valid assessment of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority's performance. It was reported that the revisions to the previous report covered the following;

- reference to the new Inspectorate
- reference to the recently introduced Programme of Change, and
- COVID19-related issues

The Statement, a requirement of the revised National Framework, was statutorily required to be signed off and published in the current financial year.

Members commented on the following specific areas;

- update to the Community and Engagement police
- inter-agency working with regard to flooding incidents, and
- accessibility of the Statement of Assurance document itself

#### **RESOLVED**

That the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Statement of Assurance 2019 - 20 be signed and approved for publication.

### **37 Programme of meetings 2020 – 21 – amendment**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer which sought approval for an amendment to the programme of meetings 2020 – 21 in respect of the January 2021 meeting of the Local Pension Board.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the revised programme of meetings 2020 – 21 be approved.

### **38 Performance Management reports - 1 April 2020 – 30 September 2020**

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which advised of the Authority's performance for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020 against key performance indicators. A copy of the latest figures up to 16 December 2020 was circulated prior to, and presented at, the meeting for Members' information.

The following specific areas were raised by Members;

- availability and resilience of additional specialist equipment (Communications and welfare units and the hose layer) at major incidents, and
- attacks on firefighters

A verbal update on the Bradford tyre fire was provided at the meeting and Members raised the following issues;

- concern at the ongoing health and welfare monitoring of operational firefighters involved in the incident, and
- proactive monitoring visits to this and similar sites across West Yorkshire

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That all Officers and external partners involved in the Bradford tyre fire incident be thanked for their hard work in achieving a successful outcome.

## **39 Programme of change 2020 – 21 - update**

Members received a report of the Director of Service Support which advised of progress in relation to the Programme of Change 2020 – 21.

In response to Member concern, it was reported that the delays with the Sharepoint project were related to a number of factors including volume of data, staffing issues and external support coupled with delays in 2020 being due to the COVID19 pandemic which had diverted resources into other programmes of work.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

## **40 Bonfire review 2020**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which advised Members of event leading up to, and throughout, the bonfire period.

Members were advised of the interventions made in conjunction with community partners and agencies which included new ways of working due to the COVID19 pandemic. It was reported that there had been an increase in attendance which may have been due both to the fine weather and an increase in local bonfires following the cancellation of larger, organised events due to the pandemic lockdown arrangements. However, attacks on firefighters had seen an increase with 10 recorded attacks – the vast majority of which were missile incidents in the Bradford district and it was further reported that there had been a number of attacks on fire cars (marked police vehicles). The total number of attacks had increased by 11 when compared with 2019.

In response to Members' concern at the adequacy of current legislation regarding the availability, sale and storage of fireworks which impacted greatly on the work of the Fire Service it was reported that the National Fire Chiefs' Council were working closely with the Health and Safety Executive with the intention of seeking a possible statutory review.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

Chair