



Minutes

Finance & Resources Committee

Date: 17 July 2020

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Microsoft Teams meeting

Present: Councillor A Tait (in the chair), C Anderson, R Downes, J Fenton-Glynn (items 1 – 5 and 7 – E11 only, Min nos. 1 – 5 and 7 – 10 refer), R Grahame, D Hall, P Harrand, N Mohammed, D O'Donovan, F Shaheen and S Tulley

In Attendance: None

Apologies: None

1 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 Matter arising

None.

3 Urgent items

None.

4 Admission of the public

RESOLVED

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 were present during these items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions specified

AGENDA ITEM NO.	TITLE OF REPORT	MINUTE NUMBER (to be added)	Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972
E8	Appliance and car-mounted CCTV replacement	8	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E9	Operational equipment – purchase of battery operated ventilation fans	9	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E10	ICT capital drawdown	10	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
E11	Purchase of operational equipment to align with DEFRA flood rescue concept of operations	11	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

5 Declarations of interest

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

6 Treasury Management outturn 2019 – 20

Members received a report from the Chief Finance & Procurement Officer presenting the Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 which reviewed borrowing and investment performance, prudential indicators and risk and compliance issues.

It was noted that Fire Authority had been a net investor for the majority of 2019 – 20 and had made investments totalling £31.3m at the year end (average £33.8k) with total external borrowing at £45.4m. No new long-term loans had been taken out during the financial year. Members were advised that £308k had been made on investments during the course of the year with an average interest rate of 0.91%.

Members were further advised that statutory, regulatory risk, prudential indicators and compliance requirements had been fully complied with during the year.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 Quarterly financial review

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted a report which presented a quarterly financial review of the financial position of the Authority over the first three months of the current financial year (two salary payments).

Members were advised that an underspending was forecast of £251k in the current financial year due, in addition to the impact of COVID19, to the following key areas;

- Additional retirees and leavers
- Appointment delays for support staff
- Transport and supplies

The amount of Government additional funding in respect of the COVID19 pandemic allocated to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service totalled £2.17m to date and it was reported that these monies had not been ring-fenced. The additional funding had been allocated to a separate cost centre for monitoring purposes and unused balances would be used to support changes to ways of working identified by the Service Recovery Group. COVID19 grant funding had been used to date on;

- The purchase of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and specialist cleaning services
- The facilitation of homeworking arrangements (ICT equipment and licencing)
- Overtime / leave buy-back
- To offset lost income from, for example, the suspension of Youth Training, Primary Authority schemes, Special services, external training, unwanted fire signal charges and loss of business rate income

The total amount of forecast usable reserves at 31 March 2021 was £35m. It was further reported that there had been a £5.2m slippage of capital schemes into the current financial year. Detail of all slipped capital schemes (due, in the main to COVID19) was detailed at Annex A to the report and Members were advised that work was currently being undertaken to prioritise those schemes which were of high priority for completion.

The only capital receipt expected in 2019 – 20 was the sale of the WY1 number plate which had a reserve value of £130,000 on an auction site. This had not yet been realised and remained for sale.

Members were advised that the comprehensive spending review had been launched on 8 July 2020 with a three-year planned settlement which would assist with the Authority's financial planning arrangements. Advice had been received from Government with regard to the availability of some grant funding to cover loss of income and it was anticipated that West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue expect receipt of such monies.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted; and
- b) That the revised capital plan 2020 / 21 be approved.

8 Appliance and car-mounted CCTV replacement scheme

(This item was considered exempt information under Schedule 12A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – financial or business affairs)

Members received a report from the Director of Service Delivery which sought approval for the purchase of replacement vehicle-mounted CCTV systems to incorporate the latest camera technology and storage solutions.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of replacement vehicle-mounted CCTV systems be approved as detailed in the report now submitted.

9 Operational equipment – purchase of battery operated ventilation fans

(This item was considered exempt information under Schedule 12A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – financial or business affairs)

Members received a report from the Director of Service Delivery which sought approval for the purchase of battery-operated positive pressure ventilation fans for all frontline appliances to replace the current conventional generator-driven equipment.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the purchase of battery-operated positive pressure ventilation fans for all frontline appliances as detailed in the report now submitted.

10 ICT capital drawdown

(This item was considered exempt information under Schedule 12A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – financial or business affairs)

The Director of Service Support submitted a report which sought approval for capital drawdowns and virements for three schemes included in the approved capital plan 2020 – 21.

RESOLVED

- a) That approval be given to the capital drawdowns and virements as detailed in the report now submitted for three ICT schemes as detailed in the report now submitted; and
- b) That the capital deferrals be noted

11 Purchase of operational equipment to align with DEFRA flood rescue concept of operations

(This item was considered exempt information under Schedule 12A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – financial or business affairs)

Members received a report of the Director of Service Delivery which sought approval for the purchase of new water rescue equipment to conform to the new DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) concept of operations which would allow West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service to remain on the national assets register.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the purchase of new water rescue equipment detailed in the report now submitted to conform to the new DEFRA concept of operations.

Chair