



Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 23 September 2022

Time: 10:30

Venue: Dewsbury Town Hall

Present: Cllrs Tulley (in the chair), Ahmed, Almas, Anderson, Downes, Farmer, Fazal, Hall, Hussain, Illingworth, Keith, Kirton, Midgley, Mohammed, Pervaiz, Pollard, Renshaw, Shaheen

In Attendance: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Apologies: Cllrs Harrand, O'Donovan, Wood, and Zaman

29 Chair's announcements

None

30 Admission of the public

There were no items that required to exclusion of the press and public

31 Urgent items

None

32 Declarations of interest

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

33 Minutes of meeting held on 30 June 2022 and 15 July 2022

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 30 June 2022 and 15 July 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

34 Matters arising

None

35 Minutes of Committees held since 30 June 2022 and of other relevant Outside Bodies

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of Committees and other relevant outside bodies as circulated be received.

36 Performance Management Report

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Corporate Services which advised of the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April 2022 – 30 June 2022.

A copy of the latest figures up to 20 September 2023 was presented at the meeting for Members' information and Members were given further information with regards to the events of the heatwave which explained the huge increases seen in the report for "Arson – Secondary Fires". The comparative figures for the same period in the previous year were highlighted to members of 969 compared to 247. Members were informed that extreme weather debriefs were still ongoing and that lessons learnt would be reported to the next Community Safety Committee.

Members were assured that the new reporting system, which will be in place next year, will provide clearer, more up to date statistics.

The following specific areas were raised by members:

- The trial of CLM vehicles for use at secondary fires
- That derelict buildings were hot spots for arson and what action can be taken against the owners.
- The ongoing work with partner agencies regarding safe and well visits, winter fuel poverty, attacks on Fire Fighters, secondary fires and bonfire night planning
- The availability of publicity material in foreign languages.
- Thankyous to all concerned regarding the significant increase in compliments and the work done with vulnerable people during the safe and well visits.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

37 Appointment of Independent Person of the Audit Committee

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Services which advised of the requirement to consider the appointment of an Independent Member of the Audit Committee in accordance with proposed new government guidance. It was further noted that the interview panel would consist of the Chair of the Authority, the Chair and Vice-Chair of Audit Committee and the Monitoring Officer. The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer noted that she welcomed the appointment and assured members that additional scrutiny was always positive and that the position was mandated by CIPFA.

RESOLVED

That the appointment of an Independent Member of the Audit Committee be approved.

38 Constitution Review

Members received a report of the Director of Corporate Services which provided an update on the constitution, a list of minor amends, together with the addition of the Independent Member sitting on Audit Committee as agreed at item 9 above.

RESOLVED

That the constitution be updated as detailed in the report, circulated to members and published to the web.

39 Insurance Provision from 2023/24

Members received a report of the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer that requested Authority approval to join the Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company (FRIC) to act as a pool for insurance provision from 1 April 2023.

Members expressed concern that WYFRA would be the first Metropolitan Authority to join FRIC but were assured that each of the existing member Authorities had their own specific high-risk issues. Members were informed that 1 April 2023 is the first opportunity that the Authority has to join the FRIC due to the varying expiry dates of existing policies and contracts and that the existing reserve for exceptional claims has been earmarked since 2012.

RESOLVED

1. That the Authority's participates in a pooling arrangement and becomes a full member of the Company and authorises the Chief Finance and Procurement Office to take all necessary steps to achieve this.
2. That the Authority utilises the pooling arrangement for its corporate property, liability, motor, and other miscellaneous insurance requirements for a minimum period of three years through FRIC with effect from the 1st April 2023.
3. That the Authority's participates in a financial guarantee for supplementary premiums should claims against the pool exceed the funding available and authorise the Chief Finance and Procurement Office to take all necessary steps to achieve this.
4. That officers may serve as Directors of the pooling entity and that the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer or their nominee be empowered to represent the Authority's interests at any formal meetings of FRIC and to vote on its behalf if necessary.
5. That the existing Insurance Reserve of £388,000 is used to manage the risks and opportunities identified.
6. That the Authority's existing procurement rules that would require competing bids for the provision of insurance services to allow for the provision of cover for losses through the pooling company are waived.

Chair