



Minutes

Finance & Resources Committee

Date: 14 April 2023

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present: Cllr Steve Tulley (in the chair), Cllrs Gohar Almas, Caroline Anderson, John Illingworth, Nusrat Mohammed, Mike Pollard, Karen Renshaw (as substitute for Cllr Darren O'Donovan) and Adam Zaman

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

Apologies: Cllrs Riaz Ahmed, Peter Harrand, Darren O'Donovan

36 Minutes of meeting held on 3 February 2023

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2023 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

37 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

38 Urgent items

There were no urgent items

39 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
E11	Property Capital Plan 2023 – 2024	46	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

40 Declarations of interest

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

41 Insurance Renewals 2023 – 2024

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer which advised of the outcome of the insurance renewals process and provided details of the premiums for 2023 – 24.

Members were advised that the Authority joined the Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company (FRIC) for the provision of the majority of insurance cover from the 1st of April 2023 as approved at Full Authority on 23 September 2022. It was confirmed that there are some policies that sit outside of FRIC which have been subject to either competitive quotes or annual renewal under long-term agreements. Members challenged that the Excess Employers Liability had doubled but it was noted that it is expected that in the future the Authority will be able to collaborate with the other twelve members of FRIC to purchase those policies not covered by FRIC.

The report author was requested to outline the benefits of joining FRIC as opposed to WYFRS being its own insurers.

RESOLVED

That the outcome of the insurance renewals process be noted.

42 Efficiency and Productivity Plan 2023 – 2024

Members considered a report of The Director of Service Support which presented the West Yorkshire Fire Authority Efficiency and Productivity Plan, which details how we aim to deliver efficiencies and increase productivity against national targets set for the 2021/22 - 2024/25 spending review period.

Members were advised that the plan had been sent to the Fire Minister at the Home Office by the deadline of 31 March 2023 and had been published on the Authorities web site.

Members made the following comments and observations;

- That it is an excellent report but if further efficiencies are enforced WYFRS will have concerns regarding their ability to continue to serve the communities of West Yorkshire, although it is pleasing to note that many of the efficiencies are not detrimental to front line staff.
- That the huge reduction in resources since 2010 is communicated to the general public within the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP)
- That the lower rate of dwelling fires relative to other metropolitan fire and rescue services highlights the success of the WYFRS Prevention Strategy, including safe and well visits
- That the turnover of staff has improved overall
- If recruitment should be extended further afield for on call stations, which is always under consideration and monitored using highly developed software modelling.

RESOLVED

That the Efficiency and Productivity Plan 2023/24 be noted.

43 Operations Equipment Capital Draw Down

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report requesting approval to purchase Breathing Apparatus (BA) Cylinders, BA Compressors, Ladders and Thermal Image Cameras. Members were advised that the purchase of these items was approved in the capital plan for 2023/24.

Members welcomed the investment into upgraded equipment to keep fire fighters safe. Members discussed the storage of lithium batteries and were informed of the options available when dealing with these types of fires, for which operational staff have received additional training. Members were further informed that the Thermal Image Cameras would be used alongside drones to provide additional capability.

Members were assured that old equipment would be recycled, auctioned for sale or donated to charity in accordance with their life expectancy.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of the Operation Equipment requested is approved.

44 Vehicle Replacement Programme 2023 – 2024

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report requesting approval to replace 21 fire appliances and to purchase an additional 10 fire appliance chassis to avoid a manufacturer price increase in January 2024.

Members were informed of the increased water storage capabilities of the new appliances and the report author explained the historic move from Volvo to Scania chassis.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of 21 fire appliances and 10 fire appliance chassis is approved

45 Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) Hardware Capital Draw Down

Members considered a report from the Director of Service Support seeking approval to replace the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) hardware in all fire appliances. These funds were approved at the Full Authority budget meeting held on 24 February 2022 and were slipped into the 2023/24 capital plan.

Members discussed the differences in classification of revenue and capital costs for hardware and software.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) hardware is approved

46 Property Capital Plan 2023 – 2024

(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 a number of strategic refurbishment and upgrade projects across the estate's portfolio as part of the 2023 – 24 Capital Plan as detailed in the report now submitted.

Members challenged the use of a paid provider for the installation of EV Charging Points when there could be free installation available from some energy companies.

Members were assured that all tenders stipulate deadline dates and that there was a degree of confidence that all schemes would be completed within this financial year to prevent inflationary cost increases.

RESOLVED

That the proposed capital expenditure on itemised property management projects as detailed in the report be approved.

Chair