



Minutes

Finance & Resources Committee

Date: 19 April 2024

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present: Cllr Tulley (in the chair), Cllrs Almas, Hall, Hussain, Mohammed, O'Donovan, Pollard and Renshaw (as substitute for Cllr Bowden).

In Attendance:

Apologies: Cllrs Anderson, Hawkins, Hutchison and Bowden

32 Minutes of meeting held on 2 February 2024

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

33 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

34 Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

35 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
E12	Property Capital Plan	43	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

36 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

37 Efficiency and Productivity Plan

The Director of Service Support submitted a report informing members that the WYFRA Efficiency and Productivity Plan 2024/25 has been submitted to the Home Office by the required deadline and also published on the Authority’s website.

With regard to previous Integrated Risk Management Programme (IRMP) interventions, Members challenged the report author on the following:

- Removal of the Fire Response Units
- Removal of the Local Retained Support Officers (LRSOs) from the 10 Retained stations.
- Removal of the Operational Resource Pool (ORP)

Members also requested clarification of the changes made in the vehicle workshop. Finally, members discussed the need to maintain further savings of at least 2% in 2025 onwards to meet Home Office requirements, whilst ensuring that there is no detrimental effect on staff welfare and mental health due to the changes in resources.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

38 Insurance Renewals 2024/25

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted a report informing members of the outcome of the insurance renewals process and providing members with the details of the insurance premiums for 2024/25. Members noted that the majority of the Authority’s insurance is provided by the Fire and Rescue Indemnity Company (FRIC) but that the services of a broker are used for policies currently under long term agreements, other insurance advice and procurement.

Members challenged the report author regarding the increase in premiums, but it was noted the increases are well within expected levels. Members also received clarification of the background to the decrease in premiums paid for drone insurance.

RESOLVED

That the outcome of the renewals process be noted

39 Vehicle Replacement Programme

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support requesting approval to purchase 4 USAR Support vehicles which require replacement in the 2024/25 financial year.

Members were advised that these vehicles already in existence but under a lease agreement which has now expired and that although some USAR kit is funded by government under National Resilience Funding, due to the nature of their use, these vehicles are not covered by that funding.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of 4 USAR vehicles at a cost of £280,000 is approved

40 Ladder Replacement Programme 2024/25

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support requesting approval to purchase 29 operational ladders.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of 29 operational ladders at a cost of £78,355.43 is approved

41 Operations Equipment Capital Plan 2024/25

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support requesting approval to purchase various items of operational equipment in the 2024/25 financial year. Members were asked to note that some of the funds needed would be taken from money made available for previous projects, that remained unspent.

RESOLVED

That the purchase of Rescue Jackets, Automated External Defibrillators (AED's), Light Portable Pumps (LPP's) and additional BA Cleaning Systems at a cost of £682,000 is approved

42 ICT Capital Plan 2024/25

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support requesting approval to replace and upgrade various projects across the ICT portfolio.

RESOLVED

That the proposed capital expenditure as detailed in the report be approved.

43 Property Capital Plan 2024/25

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

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support requesting approval to refurbish and upgrade various projects across the estate's portfolio.

Members challenged the report author on the review date of the plan and its flexibility and Members also received clarification of the plans in place for 2025/26.

RESOLVED

That the proposed capital expenditure as detailed in the report be approved.

Chair