

Minutes

Finance and Resources Committee

Date: 30 January 2026

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr Tulley (in the Chair) Cllrs Buckley, Carlisle, Downes, Garvani, Keith, O'Donovan Pollard, Renshaw, Salam and Shaheen.

Apologies:

None

23.Minutes of meeting held on 17 October 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 October 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

24.Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

25.Urgent items

There were no urgent items

26.Admission of the public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public

27.Declarations of interest

There were no disclosures of disposable pecuniary interests.

28.Quarterly Financial Review

The Director of Finance and Procurement presented a report detailing the quarterly review of the financial performance of the Authority for the period April 2025 to December 2025 and requesting approval of the revised capital plan.

Members challenged the report author on the underspend on employees, including training and support staff and sought confirmation that there are no specific issues regarding sourcing external training and filling staff vacancies, that there are no risks that will affect the next quarter and no impact on service delivery.

Members sought confirmation from the report author that the number of resignations and retirements of on call Firefighters is not significant despite the reduction in the budget and requested further details of the suicide prevention line which has required a transfer from contingencies. Members discussed the option to sign a one year contract with the command assessment provider whilst the Skills for Justice awarding body is embedded.

Resolved

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That Members approve the revised capital plan and revenue budget

29. Draft Capital Investment Plan, Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan

Members received a report from The Director of Finance and Procurement which presented the draft capital investment plan, revenue budget and medium term financial plan.

Members were concerned to note the results of the survey carried out across all FRS estates, which shows that 78% require investment to manage contaminant risks and 53% lack facilities that ensure dignity, privacy, and wellbeing for staff.

Members were pleased to note that West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service offer the best value for money in this region and has the lowest precept in England and discussed the need to publicise this. Members noted that the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) had worked well and that the Authority made critical funding decisions during the period of austerity.

Members welcomed the good relationship the Service has with the unions at a local level and discussed any effects changes in leadership may have. Members requested further information on any plans for the use of the funds announced to support the transfer of FRS functions to Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

Members challenged the report author regarding any opportunities for growth that would become available, should the £5 precept increase be approved and noted that all Fire Authority's had opted to take the maximum £5 precept increase in 2025.

Finally, Members discussed the significant challenge any industrial action would have on the budget as the existing reserves would not be enough to cover expenses.

Resolved

That the report be noted

30. Draft Treasury Management Strategy

Members considered a report from The Director of Finance and Procurement which presented the draft Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27.

Members challenged the report author to confirm the strategy is prudent given the current economic conditions and that we have flexibility and options within the budget to cover expected interest rate fluctuations. Clarification regarding the definition of capital assets was provided upon Member request.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

31. Treasury Management Mid Year Review

The Director of Finance and Procurement presented a report providing a mid year review of Treasury Management activity for 2025/26

Members welcomed the excellent report and expressed their thanks for the regular updates and collaborative working.

Members challenged the report author on the ratio of financing to net revenue figures which are based on the draft budget figures.

Resolved

That the report be noted

Chair