

Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 19 June 2026

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllrs Ali, Booth, Bruce, Crashley, Davies, Dodds, Downes, Dresser, Fallas, Fazal, Garvani, Greaves, Hardie, Parnham, Patel, Rangzeb, Rontree, Seary and Walker

In Attendance:

Apologies:

Cllrs Hodgson and Thewlis

1. Appointment of Chair

Cllrs Booth and Downes were nominated and seconded for the position of Chair of the Authority for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Resolved

That Councillor Downes be appointed as Chair of the Authority for the 2026/27 municipal year.

2. Appointment of Vice-chair

Cllrs Garvani and Dresser were nominated and seconded for the position of Vice Chair of the Authority for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Resolved

That Councillor Garvani be appointed as Vice Chair of the Authority for the 2026/27 municipal year.

3. Membership of the Authority 2026/27

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which confirmed the membership and political balance of the Authority for 2026/27 as notified by the five West Yorkshire District Councils. The changes to membership are as follows:

Bradford – Councillors Ali (Bradford Independent Group), Davies (Conservative), Dodds (Labour), Rangzeb (Green) and Thewlis (Reform UK) replace Councillors Salam (Bradford Independent Group), Pollard (Conservative), Shaheen (Labour), Sutcliffe (Green) and Wood (Labour).

Calderdale – Councillors Fazal (Labour) and Hodgson (Reform UK) replace Councillors Ahmed (Labour) and Dickenson (Conservative)

Kirklees – Councillors Wood (Reform UK), Greaves (Valley Independent), Hardie (Reform UK) and Patel (Kirklees Independent) replace Councillors Burke (Liberal Democrat), Butt (Labour), Hall (Conservative) and O'Donovan (Labour). NOTE Cllr Smith (Conservative) will replace Cllr Wood after 6 months on 27 November 2026.

Leeds – Councillors Dresser (Reform UK), Rontree (Labour), Seary (Conservative) and Walker (Green) replace Councillors Tudor (Labour), Buckley (Conservative), Carlisle (Green) and Renshaw (Labour) and Councillors, Bruce, Downes, Garvani and Parnham remain as members of the Authority.

Wakefield – Councillors Booth (Reform UK), Crashley (Reform UK) and TBC (Reform UK) replace Councillors Bryan (Labour), Keith (Labour) and Tulley (Labour)

Resolved

That the Authority membership for 2026/27 be noted.

4. Chair's announcements

The sad passing of former Authority Member Cllr Renshaw was noted and her commitment to the work of the Fire Authority over the previous 12 years was celebrated.

5. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

6. Admission of the public

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

7. Declarations of interest

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

8. Committee Memberships 2026/27

Consideration was given to the appointment of Committees, their composition, the allocation of seats between the political groups in accordance with the principles contained within Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and to the appointment Chair and Vice chairs to the Authority's Committees. In addition, consideration was given to the membership of the Briefing Groups convened prior to formal meetings of the principal Committees and of the Authority itself.

Resolved

That, in accordance with the principles of determination set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as modified) the allocation of Committee seats between the political groups be as follows:

Reform UK Group	17
Labour Group	12
Conservative Group	4
Green Group	4
Liberal Democrat Group	2
Bradford Independent Group	2
Kirklees Independent Group	2
Valley Independent Group	2

and;

That the allocation of committee memberships and substitute memberships for 2026/27 be approved as detailed at Annex A to these Minutes.

That appointments to the positions of Chair and Vice chair of the respective Committees be as follows:

Executive Committee

Chair Councillor Downes Vice Chair Councillor Garvani

Audit Committee

Chair Councillor Parnham Vice Chair Councillor Seary

Community Safety Committee

Chair Councillor Fazal Vice Chair Councillor Ali

Finance and Resources Committee

Chair Councillor Davies Vice Chair Councillor Dodds

People and Culture Committee

Chair Councillor Bruce Vice Chair Councillor Walker

and;

That the appointments to the membership of the Briefing Groups be as detailed at Annex A to these Minutes.

9. Nomination of Members to answer questions at meetings of constituent authorities and of District Community Safety lead representatives

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer which sought the appointment of members to answer questions at meetings of constituent authorities and of District Community Safety Lead Representatives.

Resolved

That the Members be nominated as required by the Local Government Act 1985 to answer questions within their individual Council on the discharge of functions etc by this Authority as follows.

Bradford	Councillor Davies
Calderdale	Councillor Fazal
Kirklees	Councillor Patel
Leeds	Councillor Downes
Wakefield	Councillor Booth

10.Appointment of Member Champions 2026/27

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer which sought the appointment of relevant Member Champions for 2026/27.

Resolved

That Councillor Seary be appointed Member Champion for Mental Health and Councillor Patel be appointed Member Champion for Diversity and Inclusion for 2026/27.

11.Representation on Outside Bodies for 2026/27

Members considered the appointment of representatives to serve on the Local Government Association and other outside bodies for the year 2026/27.

Resolved

That the following appointments be made for 2026/27.

LGA General Assembly	Councillors Downes (Chair), Garvani (Vice Chair), Bruce, Booth (or their nominated representatives)
LGA Fire Commission	Councillors Downes (Chair), Garvani (Vice Chair) (or their nominated representatives)

Yorkshire and Humber (Local
Authorities) Employers' Association
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation
Management Committee
Tri-Service Collaboration Board

Councillor Bruce (or their nominee)
Councillor Garvani (or their nominee)
Councillor Downes (Chair) (or their
nominee)

12.Minutes of meeting held on 26 February 2026

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2026 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

13.Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

14.Minutes of Committees held since 26 February 2026 and of other relevant Outside Bodies

Resolved

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

15.Calendar of Meetings 2026/27

Consideration was given to a report from the Director of Corporate Services which sought approval for an amendment to the approved programme of meetings for 2026/27.

Resolved

That the programme of meetings 2026/27 be amended as detailed in the report now submitted.

16.Constitution Review

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided an annual update of the Constitution, with one small amendment proposed.

Resolved

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

17.Member Strategic Briefings 2026/27

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided an introduction to the member strategic briefings schedule.

Resolved

That the schedule of member strategic briefings for 2026/27 as detailed in the annex to the report now submitted, is approved.

18.Member Development and Training Schedule 2026/27

Members received a report which provided an introduction to the Member training and development schedule.

Resolved

That the Member training and development schedule for 2026/27 as detailed in the annex to the report now submitted is approved.

19.Corporate Health Report

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided the Corporate Health report.

Members sought confirmation that KPI targets had been set and met. It was noted that as the report submitted is a corporate overview it is not usual to include targets.

Members challenged the report author to confirm that lessons had been learnt from any complaints received, and to provide some examples of the areas where complaints had been received and upheld, which were provided as follows:

- damage caused on forced entry
- noises from a local station during turn out.
- a telephone response
- attendance by a firefighter at a road traffic collision whilst not in uniform, which was because they had been in the area by coincidence.
- a firefighter had been witnessed socialising whilst wearing uniform.

Members requested further information on concerns raised on the Say So platform and were advised these are detailed in reports presented to the People and Culture Committee and are 95% anonymous.

Members sought, and were given, details of the complaint procedure.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

20.Committee Forward Plan 2026/27

Members considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided an overview of the committee forward plan for 2026/27.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

21. Performance Management Reports

Members received a report from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which summarised the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 and detailed the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April 2026 to 18 June 2026.

Members noted the report and assurance was given that the overall increase in call outs is being closely monitored and can partly be attributed to moorland fires and calls for assistance from the ambulance service to gain entry.

Members noted there had been good progress made on reducing on malicious calls and were informed the small increase had been noted but was not a current concern. Control have employed various methods to identify the false alarm calls, for example noting that the caller location is different to the reported location of the fire.

Members were concerned to note the national rising trend in fires involving lithium-ion batteries and the higher percentage of male fatalities.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

22. Programme of Change Update

The Director of Service Support submitted a report updating members of the progress in relation to the Programme of Change 2025/26 and introducing the Programme of Change 2026/27.

Members were pleased to receive the programme of change report with colour ratings and sought further information regarding the delays to the digital and data programme, which is behind schedule due to two major projects, the sale of Service Delivery Centre (SDC) in Bramley and the retender of the Wi-Fi replacement programme. Members were pleased to note these issues have no detriment to the Service.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

23. Productivity and Efficiency Plan

The Director of Service Support submitted a report which provided members with a progress update on how West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service (WYFRS) are

continuing to deliver efficiencies and increase productivity against national targets set for the 2022/23 - 2024/25 spending review period and beyond.

The report detailed the ongoing annual efficiencies already realised and the identified cashable efficiency savings to be implemented throughout the duration of the current Medium Term Financial Plan.

Members welcomed the report which gives a good understanding of work going on within the Service.

Members sought and were given clarification on the following areas:

- locations for collaborations with other Fire and Rescue Services
- huge reductions in staffing during austerity and how operational capability has been maintained, for example through risk-based resourcing, better management of false alarms, changes in legislation and many improvements to working practices
- duty systems

Resolved

That the report be noted.

24.His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Quarterly Update

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which updated Members on the progress of the His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspection.

Resolved

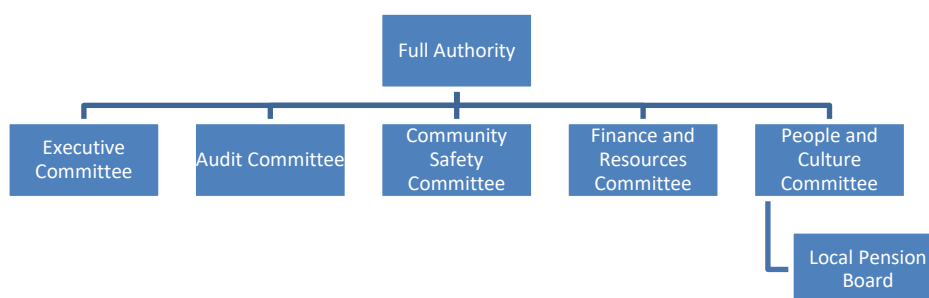
That the report be noted.

25.Introductory Presentation by the Chief Fire Officer and the Director of People and Culture

The Chief Fire Officer welcomed the new members to West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (WYFRA) and gave a brief overview of the responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service.

Chair

West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority Committee Structure and Membership 2026/27



Full Authority (22)

	Councillor
Reform (8)	Booth
	Vacancy
	Crashley
	Dresser
	Hardie
	Hodgson
	Thewlis
	Wood
Labour (6)	Bruce
	Dodds
	Fazal
	Garvani
	Parnham
	Rontree
Conservative (2)	Davies
	Seary
Green (2)	Rangzeb
	Walker
Liberal Democrats (1)	Downes
Bradford Independent (1)	Ali
Valley Independent (1)	Greaves
Kirklees Independent (1)	Patel

Executive Committee (6)

Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes (C)
Labour (3)	Garvani (VC)
	Fazal
	Parnham
Conservative (1)	Davies
Reform (1)	Booth (L)

People and Culture Committee (11)

Labour (3)	Bruce (C)
	Garvani
	Rontree
Reform (5)	Booth
	Crashley (L)
	Dresser
	Hardie
	Thewlis
Green (1)	Walker (VC)
Bradford Independent (1)	Ali
Kirklees independent (1)	Patel

Finance And Resources Committee (11)

Labour (3)	Dodds (C)
	Garvani
	Parnham
Reform (5)	Booth (L)
	Crashley
	Dresser
	Hardie
	Hodgson
Conservative (1)	Davies (VC)
Green (1)	Rangzeb
Valley independent (1)	Greaves

Audit Committee (6)

Labour (1)	Parnham (C)
Reform (1)	Hardie (L)
Conservative (1)	Seary (VC)
Green (1)	Rangzeb
Liberal Democrat (1)	Downes
Valley independent (1)	Greaves

Community Safety Committee (11)

Labour (2)	Dodds
	Fazal (C)
Reform (5)	Booth
	Crashley
	Dresser
	Hardie (L)
	Wood
Conservative (1)	Seary
Green (1)	Walker
Bradford independent (1)	Ali (VC)
Kirklees independent (1)	Patel

Local Pension Board (2 x Employer representatives)

Labour (1)	Downes
Reform (1)	Wood

Substitutes

Any Member from relevant Group who is not substantive Member of the Committee.

Briefing Group Arrangements 2026 / 2027

Group / Position	Member	Substitute
Full Authority		
Chair	Cllr Downes	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Garvani	Any Labour Member
Reform	Cllr Booth	Any Reform Member
People and Culture Committee		
Chair	Cllr Bruce	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Walker	Any Green Member
Reform	Cllr Crashley	Any Reform Member
Finance and Resources Committee		
Chair	Cllr Davies	Any Conservative Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Dodds	Any Labour Member
Reform	Cllr Booth	Any Reform Member
Audit Committee		
Chair	Cllr Parnham	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Seary	Any Conservative Member
Reform	Cllr Hardie	Any Reform Member
Community Safety Committee		
Chair	Cllr Fazal	Any Labour Member
Vice Chair	Cllr Ali	Any Independent Member
Reform	Cllr Hardie	Any Reform Member