West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Authority

Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 25 September 2026

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr Downes (in the Chair), Cllrs Booth, Bruce, Caton, Davies, Dodds, Dresser, Garvani, Hardie, Hodgson, Parnham, Patel, Rontree, Seary, Smith and Thewlis

In Attendance:

Apologies:

Cllr Ali, Greaves, Walker

26. Chair's announcements

The Chair thanked staff for organising the Long Service Ceremony which was held at Halifax Piece Hall on 19 September 2026 where Alison Wood, the Director of Finance and Procurement was awarded her long service award and he thanked her for her services to WYFRS and wished her a happy retirement. The chair welcomed the new Director of Finance and Procurement, Usamah Shafi.

27. Admission of the public

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

28. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

29. Declarations of interest

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

30. Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2026

Resolved
That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2026 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

31. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

32. Minutes of Committees held since 19 June 2026 and of other relevant Outside Bodies

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

33. Membership of the Authority and Appointment to Committees

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which set out recent changes to the membership of the Authority and subsequent required changes to committee appointments.

Resolved

a) That Cllr Matthew Caton be appointed as Wakefield Member for the Reform UK Group with effect from 24 June 2026.
b) That Cllr Richard Smith (Conservative) replaces Cllr Sarah Wood (Reform UK) as member for Kirklees
c) That Kirklees Independent Group Member, Councillor Patel and the Valley Independent Group Member, Councillor Greaves form a Constituted Political Group called The West Yorkshire Group
d) That Committee Appointments are made as listed in appendix A to the report submitted.

34. Appointment of Independent Person 2026/27

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which sought approval for the appointment of an Independent Person.

Resolved
That Julie Byrom be appointed as the Independent Person for WYFRA from 20 September 2026.

35. Calendar of Meetings 2026/27

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which sought approval for an amendment to the programme of meetings for 2026/27

Resolved
That the revised programme of meetings 2026/27 be approved as detailed at Annex A to the report submitted

36. Statement of Assurance

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report which sought approval for Statement of Assurance 2025/26.

Resolved
That the Statement of Assurance 2025/26 be approved and published to the web.

37. Quarterly Performance Management Report

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 to 13 September 2026.

Members thanked the report author for a detailed well presented report and challenged officers to provide clarification and further information on:

- Deliberate Fires classified as "other outdoors"
- Safe and Well Visits, completed by Fire Prevention Officers and Station Crews.
- Use of drones
- Attacks on Fire Fighters, use of body worn cameras and prosecutions.

Resolved
That the report be noted

38. Wildfire and Spate Conditions Summer 2026

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report informing Members of the operational, organisations and community impacts of recent heat, wildfire and prolonged dry weather activity.

The Chair expressed his thanks to the service for their incredible work dealing with challenging circumstances and for providing the in depth data in the report.

The Chair requested that a report is brought to Members looking to the future to understand the level of risks posed, due to rising temperatures, increased likelihood of flooding, requirement to provide National Resilience and the options for planning continuous protection to our communities.

Members discussed the processes and command structures in place to avoid leaving communities vulnerable during periods of moorland fires where there is no risk to life and the training of firefighters in the use of the new specialised equipment.

Members also discussed the options available to recoup costs incurred when sharing support to other Fire Authorities

Resolved
That the report be noted

39. Environmental Working Group Annual Report

The Head of Corporate Services delivered a report to inform Members of the activities of the Environmental Working Group during 2025/26.

Members sought confirmation that the Service uses sustainable energy. The report author advised that solar panels are being installed at all new stations and that feasibility studies and asset surveys have been completed for all existing stations.

Members welcomed the availability of textile and book recycling bins for public use, with proceeds donated to the Fire Fighters Charity. They also noted that Yorkshire Water does not charge for water used in training, while crews remain mindful of water shortages during training exercises.

Resolved
That the report be noted.

40. Programme of Change

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which presented an update on the programme of change.

Members discussed the Programme of Change project relating to Phase 2 of the Grenfell project and noted that the outstanding actions are awaiting changes to national guidance, which are expected to be published imminently.

Members challenged the report author to explain why the Organisational Readiness Programme is behind schedule, which is due to conflicting demands on colleagues' time,

Resolved
That the report be noted.

Chair