

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2010 AT 10.30 A.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW

AGENDA

1. Minutes of meeting held on 29 January 2010 (p 1)
2. Urgent items
3. Admission of the Public :

The Committee is asked to consider whether, by resolution, to exclude the public from the meeting during the items of business marked with an 'E' reference, because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

4. Declarations of interest

To consider any Declaration of Interest in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

Items for noting

5. Quarterly Financial review (p 5)
6. Backward looking efficiency statement (p 30)
7. Arson Task Force secondment (p 33)

Items for decision

- E8. Insurance Renewals (p 36)
- E9. Vehicle Replacement Programme (p 39)

WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD ON 5 MARCH 2010

AT FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW

Present : Councillors P Harrand (In the Chair), S Armitage, A Castle, J Dodds, D Ginley, M Jamil, M Khan, G Kirkland, D Ridgway and A Wallis

Apologies : Councillor D Gray

In attendance : Councillor P Booth

47 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Committee at a meeting held on 29 January 2010 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

48 URGENT ITEMS

None.

49 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC – SECTION 100a, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

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 and press 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	Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972
E8	Insurance renewals		Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

E9	Vehicle Replacement programme		Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs
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50 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

51 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance Officer which presented the quarterly overview of the financial position of the Authority to mid February 2010.

It was reported that the current forecast was for a revenue underspend of £1.2m due, in the main, to the following;

- Wholetime firefighters – forecast underspend of £132,000
- Retained firefighters – forecast underspend of £134,000
- Firefighter pensions – forecast underspend of £169,000
- Provision for pay and price increases – forecast underspend of £615,000

Members considered detail of the capital expenditure (£8.3m against a revised capital plan of £19.3m) and were advised of issues related to Treasury Management including short term borrowing and outstanding investments. Specific items of discussion were the overspends on telephony and other employee expenses.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That the revised revenue budget be approved;
- (iii) That, subject to an increase in the proposed virement within Fire Safety from £20,000 to £33,000, the revised capital plan be approved;
- (iv) That Members be provided with clarification of the significant increase in mobile phone usage and further detail of the £329,000 forecast as surplus on a number of income codes; and
- (v) That a Treasury Management Member development session be organised with conjunction with Kirklees MC to be held after the date of the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Authority.

52 BACKWARD LOOKING EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a joint report which provided comparative information on cashable efficiency savings.

Members were advised that efficiency savings had been made totalling £11.5m and it was anticipated that the impact of the revised staffing model (1 January 2010) would generate additional ongoing efficiency savings of £4.0m

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted; and
- (ii) That future similar reports be amended to also show annual cashable efficiency savings as a percentage of the total budget within each Authority.

53 ARSON TASK FORCE SECONDMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Fire Safety and Community Relations which advised Members of a successful funding bid from the Leeds Local Public Service Agreement 2 (LPSA2) to finance the secondment of a police officer into the Leeds Arson Task Force (ATF) for an initial 12-month period. It was reported that the officer would be based at Gipton Fire Station, and would fulfil the same role as the officer seconded to the ATF 2004 – 2008 as a result of Neighbourhood Renewal funding. The Officer would be available to cover the whole of Leeds metropolitan area.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

54 INSURANCE RENEWALS

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

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which sought delegated authority to agree vehicle insurance contracts for 2010 / 2011 in consultation with the Chief Executive.

Members were further advised of the details of the insurance renewals process and the current position with regard to existing agreements.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the position with regard to the existing agreements for insurance renewals be noted; and
- (ii) That the Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Chief Executive, be given delegated authority to approve the vehicle insurance contract.

55 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2010 / 2011

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

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Resources which sought approval for the vehicle replacement programme 2010 / 2011.

Members questioned possible deferment of purchasing replacement vehicles but were advised that this was not possible as they had come to the end of their “life” and were part of leasing arrangements. It was reported however that the use of new materials in appliances may lead to a degree of recycling in the future.

With regard to possible disposal / donation of appliances, it was reported that this was not an option currently available to the Authority due to the nature of the lease contracts. This would, however, be something to consider once leases expired in 2 – 3 years’ time.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the purchase of vehicles as detailed in the report now submitted.

Chair