

# WEST YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

## MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2011

AT FIRE SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, BIRKENSHAW

Present: Councillors A McKenna (in the Chair), R Pryke, A Manifold, G Thornton, J Jarosz (as substitute for Cllr Akhtar), D Ridgway, M Khan, A Castle, P Harrand, V Binney, M Iqbal

Apologies: Councillors D Gray, M Akhtar

### 35 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Committee at a meeting held on 19 November 2010 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 36 URGENT ITEMS

Item 14 – Member attendance at Leadership Academy

Item E16 – Insurance renewal

The Chair gave approval for these items to be considered on the grounds of urgency as decisions were required which would not admit of delay.

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

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
E14	Smoke Alarms	49	Paragraph 3 (Financial or Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.
E15	New Fire Stations	50	Paragraph 3 (Financial or Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act

			1972.
E 16	Insurance Renewal	51	Paragraph 3 (Financial or Business Affairs) of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972.

### **38 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made in any matter under discussion at the meeting save that in relation to Item 50, Councillor Castle declared a potential personal interest, left the room and took no part in the deliberations on that item.

### **39 QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report which presented the latest financial forecast based on expenditure and income in the first 9 months of the financial year.

The report projected an under spending of £1.7m in the current financial year which was an increase of £1.0m over the previous forecast. The report set out details of the major variations in expenditure from the approved revenue budget.

In terms of treasury management the Chief Finance Officer reported that the Authority had taken £4m of new long terms loans since the last meeting and that further loans would be required before the end of the financial year to fund the capital plan.

The Chief Finance Officer advised the committee of the need for formal training on treasury management and it was agreed that a training course be arranged at Birkenshaw.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That the revised revenue budget and capital plans be noted.
- (iii) That formal treasury management training be arranged for the committee to be held at Fire Service Headquarters

### **40 LEGACY**

Consideration was given to the proposals for the £18,000 left by Mary Eastwood to include a 3 year programme of activity across the Calderdale district. Councillor Manifold asked if a plaque could be prepared in remembrance of the benefactor.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That recommended expenditure proposals in the report be approved; and
- (ii) That a plaque be placed in the Community Room at Halifax fire station.

## **41 DEFRA FLOOD RESPONSE**

The Area Manager (Operations) submitted a report on the successful bid of £30,000 funding from DEFRA. The funding is to be allocated to the purchasing of flood response resources. The flood response assets will be made available for viewing at a future full Authority meeting, when they become fully operational.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the success of the bid be noted.

## **42 LOCALISM BILL - IMPLICATIONS**

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which advised Members of the proposed new powers and obligations affecting the Authority in a Government bill which, subject to approval will be implemented in stages from November 2011.

Fire and Rescue Authorities will be given wider powers to engage in function related activities.

Fire and Rescue Authorities are to have wider powers to engage in profit making activities but only if carried out through a Company.

There will be new powers to impose charges for responding to false alarms where there is a persistent problem at the premises concerned.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted

## **43 SAFETY CENTRAL – ANNUAL REPORT**

An overview was given by the Head of Prevention on the annual report of Safety Central which outlines each project in detail. In the first year of opening 5,327 visitors were received.

Safety Central has supported districts and other internal departments by holding events and delivering products West Yorkshire wide and beyond. An example was given of a DVD being produced to aid older people with keeping safe.

The Members were informed about Safety Central's priorities for the next 12 months

with regards to supporting the five districts in the delivery of the IRMP.

A discussion took place with regards to maximising the use of the building and generating income by opening it up to the community in an evening.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted

## **44 FIRECONTROL – UPDATE**

The Chief Fire Officer submitted a report which advised Members of the FireControl project which was closed down by the Government in December 2010. More information will be gathered over the coming weeks and a full report will be submitted to the Finance and Resource committee at a future date. It was confirmed that there are no financial implications for the Authority. It was noted that the Directors of the RCC LACC had resolved to 'wind up' the company. This would be considered by the regional Fire and Rescue Authorities later in the year.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted

## **45 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP – ACTIVITY REPORT**

The Senior Corporate Resource Manager informed Members of the activities of the Environmental Working Group giving an update on the many environmental initiatives that have been introduced.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted

## **46 BUDGET 2011**

The Chief Finance Officer submitted a report to present a draft capital plan, a draft revenue budget and a treasury management strategy for the next three years.

The report set out the following:-

- A three year capital programme of £29.38 with expenditure of £9.7m in 2011/2012
- A service standstill budget of £94.82m
- Details of the revenue support grant settlement with a loss of grant of £5.2m in 2011/2012

- A draft treasury management strategy for 2011/2012

The Chief Finance Officer explained that he and the Chief Executive would provide the political groups with briefings on the management boards budget proposals.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the report be noted as the basis for the political groups to consider their budget proposals.

## **47 DEFRA/FRSNCC – MAINTENANCE AND COORDINATION OF FLOOD ASSETS**

The Area Manager (Operations) informed Members of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between WYFRA and the Department of Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). WYFRA have been approached by DEFRA requesting that Fire and Rescue Services National Co-ordination Centre (FRSNCC) take on the responsibility for the maintenance of the full water asset register and the co-ordination of those assets during flooding incidents. The Authority will receive a grant of £25,000 from DEFRA.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the Memorandum of Understanding with DEFRA be approved for signature by the Chief Executive/Chief Fire Officer.

## **48 MEMBER ATTENDANCE AT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

The Director of Corporate Resources sought Members approval for the payment of expenses associated with attendance at the Leadership Academy in respect of Councillor Ralph Pryke.

Members were advised that approval had previously been given and Councillor Pryke had attended all sessions. Not all areas expected were covered and the organisation had agreed to put on a fourth module at their expense.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That approval be given to the payment of expenses associated with the attendance of Councillor Pryke at the Leadership Academy.

#### **49 SMOKE ALARMS**

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

The Director of Fire Safety informed Members of the settlement proposals by Sprue Aegis as a resolution to the number of faulty Dicon alarms.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That approval be given to settlement proposal 'B' from Sprue Aegis.

#### **50 NEW FIRE STATIONS**

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

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report to advise Members on planning for the implementation of the Integrated Risk Management Process (IRMP 4) to reorganise operational fire service cover in the north east Wakefield area; involving the award of contracts for the conversion of buildings etc.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That approval be given to the recommendations as detailed in the report.

#### **51 INSURANCE RENEWAL**

(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 to seek approval to extend the existing liability cover for a further two years.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That approval be given to extend the contract for a further two years.

Chair