

# Minutes

## Finance and Resources

Date: 19 July 2024

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr Tulley (in the Chair) Cllrs Addy, Buckley, Carlisle, Downes, Keith, O'Donovan, Pollard, Salam and Wood (as substitute for Cllr Hinchcliffe).

Apologies:

Cllrs Hinchcliffe and Shaheen

### 1. Minutes of meeting held on 19 April 2024

#### **Resolved**

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 April 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### 3. Urgent items

There were no urgent items

### 4. Admission of the public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public

### 5. Declarations of interest

There were no disclosures of disposable pecuniary interests.

### 6. Quarterly Financial Review

The Director of Finance and Procurement presented a report detailing the quarterly review of the financial position of the Authority for the first 3 months of the financial year.

Members requested and were given further information and background on the following:

- The reduction of the Section 31 grant which has meant revisions to the medium term financial plan and the expected release date of the unique index factor used to calculate the grant.
- The accounting difficulties experienced due to the lack of a multi year settlement grant
- The underspend on On Call Firefighters, which is due to several reasons including the inclement weather meaning wildfires have been reduced to date this year, staff vacancies and a reduction in activity.
- The delay in the delivery of new fire appliances, although it was confirmed there are already 10 new appliances on the run and discussions are on going regarding the ETA of the outstanding 42 Scania appliances and 6 MAN appliances, which is currently expected to be before the end of May 2025.
- How the debtors figure compares to previous months and if the write off figure is consistently low.
- The delays and additional costs for the redevelopment of Keighley Fire Station.
- The savings made by using staff who are on modified duties until they are fit to return to their substantive roles.
- The costs incurred from the water quality sampling tests which the Occupational Health and Safety Unit (OHSU) have identified as essential to prevent illnesses being contracted during swift water training. These are no longer undertaken by other agencies and must be done on the day of the exercise. Members were pleased to note that as yet there has been no liability claims filed under this cause.

Members further discussed the Fire Business Case, which is due to be presented to Treasury and contains contributions from the NFCC and the LGA.

### **Resolved**

That members approve

- a) the establishment of a new recruitment earmarked reserve
- b) the revised revenue budget
- c) the capital slippage into 2024/25

## **7. Multi Role PPE Approved Kit**

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report requesting the virement of funds from an underspent capital budget to purchase multi use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Members were advised this is new updated, multi use kit with a shelf life of up to 10 years at a cost of £900 per Firefighter.

### **Resolved**

That the purchase of multi use PPE is approved

## **8. Treasury Management Outturn**

Members considered a report of the Director of Finance and Procurement which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2023/24.

Members challenged the report author on the income figure and the assumed investment income.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted

## **9. Environmental Working Group Activities 2023/24**

The Head of Corporate Services presented a report informing members of the activities of the Environmental Working Group during 2023/24.

Members welcomed the report and were pleased to note the use of renewable energy sources, including the installation of solar panels on all new builds across the estate.

Members were advised that alternative fuel sources for the new appliances had been investigated but were not sufficiently developed as yet, although the use of biodiesel is being considered.

Members discussed the increase in water usage indicated in the report, which is expected to be connected to the FSHQ redevelopment and were pleased to be informed that water usage at incidents and during training is not chargeable and all stations have a separate domestic usage meter.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted

## **10. Information Governance Annual Report 2023/24**

Members considered a report of The Head of Corporate Services which provided an annual update on the implementation of Information Governance and Security arrangements throughout the Authority.

Members welcomed the informative, detailed report and particularly expressed their thanks to the team working in Corporate Services for their hard work and dedication.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted

Chair