

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**17 FEBRUARY 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor A Atkin (Chair)

Councillors: A Buckley, A Cave, T Fox, C Ross, S M Richards,  
J Satur and D Woodhouse

S Pick, M Jaworski, M McCarthy, L Noble and M McCool  
(South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat)

J Courtney, M Shaw, S Chu, B Sandy and J Roberts (South  
Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

F Foster (Barnsley MBC - Observer)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors  
J Andrews, A Bosmans, I Hussain and S Phillips

1 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

3 **URGENT ITEMS**

None.

4 **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That agenda item 14 entitled ‘Construction of New Fire Stations at  
Birley and Parkway’ be considered in the absence of the public and press.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN RELATION TO  
ANY ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA**

None.

6 **REPORTS BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Richards wished to convey thanks to the firefighters involved in  
successfully evacuating the elderly residents at the Roman Ridge Sheltered  
Housing, Sheffield last week.

Councillor Richards made reference to the assistance being provided by SYFR crews: The High Volume Pump (HVP) deployed in Somerset and a water rescue appliance deployed in Berkshire.

The Chief Fire Officer referred to an additional request for assistance received from the South of England; the Service would be deploying two appliances with crews, two station managers and a group manager.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 27 January 2014 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 BUDGET, PRECEPT AND COUNCIL TAX 2014/15

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted informing the Authority that it must set its Precept and Council Tax for 2014/15 by 28 February 2014. The first draft 2014/15 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme was considered by Members at the January 2014 Authority meeting.

Members considered whether to accept the Government's offer of a grant, for a two year period, and accordingly freeze the Band D Council Tax in 2014/15.

Members also considered the impact on reserves of funding the new appliances at a cost of £2.5m from revenue. Whilst a decision could be taken at the meeting, it would be possible to review the position later in the year in light of any further information which would be provided via budget monitoring reports, updates to the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Treasury Management Strategy.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approved the Authority's 2014/15 Revenue Budget at Appendix A.
- ii) Approved the Capital Programme as set out in Appendix B and approved the funding of the new appliances from revenue at a cost of £2.5m.
- iii) Approved the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy at Appendix C including:-
  - Affordable Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators.
  - The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement.

- iv) Agreed to increase Band D Council Tax by 1.975% for 2014/15 and approved the following in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Sections 40 and 49:
- A Council Tax Requirement of £21,160,230
  - A Basic Amount of Council Tax of £65.04
  - The following amounts in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands:

| <b>Valuation Bands</b> | <b>Rounded</b> |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Band A                 | 43.36          |
| Band B                 | 50.59          |
| Band C                 | 57.81          |
| Band D                 | 65.04          |
| Band E                 | 79.49          |
| Band F                 | 93.95          |
| Band G                 | 108.40         |
| Band H                 | 130.08         |

- The precepts payable by each Billing Authority:

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Barnsley     | 3,821,204         |
| Doncaster    | 4,830,326         |
| Rotherham    | 4,174,203         |
| Sheffield    | 8,334,497         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>21,160,230</b> |

- v) Councillors Ross and Woodhouse voted against an increase in Band D Council Tax for 2014/15.

## 11 CYCLE OF AUTHORITY MEETINGS 2014/15 - ROLLING PROGRAMME

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer was submitted which proposed a cycle of Authority meetings for 2014/15.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed the following cycle of meetings for 2014/15:-

31 March 2014\*  
 28 April 2014\*  
 19 May 2014\*  
 30 June 2014 – Annual Meeting\*  
 28 July 2014  
 29 September 2014  
 27 October 2014  
 24 November 2014

26 January 2015  
16 February 2015  
30 March 2015  
27 April 2015  
18 May 2015  
29 June 2015 – Annual Meeting

\*These meetings are already scheduled.

The meetings have been scheduled to commence at 10.00 am, at the Offices of the South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat, Regent Street, Barnsley, unless stated otherwise.

**12 QUARTER THREE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013-14**

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with the Quarter Three Performance Report for 2013/14.

Councillor Buckley commented that the Scrutiny Board had examined the performance report in detail, and Members were happy with comments received from the Service.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Scrutinised and commented on the information presented in the report.

**13 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Audit Committee held on 27 January 2014 be noted.

**14 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest not to disclose information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

**15 CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FIRE STATIONS AT BIRLEY AND PARKWAY**

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted regarding the construction of new fire stations at Birley and Parkway.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Agreed to the continuation of the project.

- ii) Acknowledged the projected increase in capital expenditure required to complete the project.
- iii) Acknowledged that Mott McDonald and Rider, Levett, Bucknall (RLB) were acting on behalf of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and would continue to monitor and seek to reduce the cost of this project.
- iv) Would receive a future paper seeking approval for capital expenditure to support the completion of the project.
- v) Councillor Fox voted against the decisions made, and Councillor Richards abstained.

CHAIR