

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

15 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT: Councillor J Andrews BEM (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, A Cave, P Haith, R Munn,
C Ransome, S M Richards and J Satur

DCFO J Roberts, B Sandy, P Shillito and M Topham
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

D Terris, A Frosdick, J Bell, F Foster, M McCarthy, D Cutting,
L Noble, A Hunt and M McCoole (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from
Councillor G Furniss, Councillor E Hughes, R Bywater,
CFO J Courtney, ACFO M Blunden, I Rooth, G Kirk, D Hanson
and M Wright

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Richards informed the Authority that Councillor Furniss' husband, Councillor H Harpham had sadly died; his funeral would take place at Sheffield Cathedral on 16 February. Councillor Harpham had been the MP for Brightside and Hillsborough, and he had previously been the Deputy Leader of SCC and one of the few striking miners from Nottingham. Councillor Richards conveyed condolences, on behalf of the Authority, to Councillor Furniss.

Councillor Ayris also expressed his condolences.

3 URGENT ITEMS

RESOLVED – That an urgent item entitled 'Disposal of Former Station Site at Mansfield Road, Sheffield' be considered at Item 23 on today's agenda.

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

RESOLVED – That the following agenda items be considered in the absence of the public and press:-

Item 21 'Payment of Expenses to the Chair of the Local Pension Board'.

Item 22 'Fire Risk Assessment Services Through Safety Solutions'.

Item 23 'Disposal of Former Station Site at Mansfield Road, Sheffield'.

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

RESOLVED – That Councillors Andrews and Cave declared an interest at Item 14 on the agenda entitled ‘Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Barnsley MBC: 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017’, as they were Members of BMBC.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Ayris referred Members to a letter he had sent to D Terris, Clerk to the Authority, which indicated his intention to raise the issue of the Wirral Roofing and Cladding contracts that SYFR had entered into. Councillor Ayris commented that Members had had sight of the correspondence circulated; he suggested a discussion on the best approach, to address a number of serious issues which required further exploration.

Councillor Ransome commented that she felt alarmed that the issue had not been addressed over a long period of time; she hoped that the issue would be thoroughly looked into.

D Terris commented that the information at this stage was incomplete, and she suggested that the Internal Audit Team investigate the matter. It was imperative to have the full information available before drawing any conclusions.

Councillor Richards, Chair of the Audit Committee, commented that Rob Winter, Head of Internal Audit, would be requested to present a preliminary report to the next Audit Committee for discussion.

Councillor Munn had attended the opening of the National Emergency Services Museum on 20 January, and together with Councillors Atkin, Andrews and Ransome, he had attended the opening of the new Parkway Fire Station on 29 January.

Councillor Haith had accompanied CFO Courtney on a visit to Doncaster Fire Station, and she thanked White Watch for their full and frank discussions which ranged from fire hydrants to self-rostering.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That Members had received the questions submitted by the public.

9 NOTICE OF MOTION

Members considered the Motion received from Councillor Ayris which gave notice under Standing Order 6 of the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority’s Procedural Standing Orders, of his intention to move the following Motion at today’s meeting:-

“Considering the magnitude of the ‘unconventional’ payments outlined in the Review by the Internal Auditors of Overtime Payments to Principal Officers, finds the Chair of the Authority culpable in acting beyond his delegated authority in 2009 and again in 2013 by failing to report such action and associated expenditure to the Authority and therefore recommends he consider his position and resign as Chairman of the Fire and Rescue Authority”.

Councillor Haith commented that each Authority Member had received a letter from Councillor Andrews, which informed them of his intention to stand down as Chair of the Fire Authority in May 2016. In view of this, Councillor Haith wished to submit an amendment to the Motion:-

“This Authority recognised the considerable achievements of South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority under the long leadership of the current Chair of the Authority, including the opening of the new state of the art fire stations. It was noted that the Chair had already indicated that he will not be seeking re-election as Chair at the Authority’s annual meeting, so as to allow the Authority to provide an undivided focus on tackling the unprecedented massive financial cuts imposed on the Service by this Government and the previous Conservative / Liberal Democrat Government”.

Councillor Richards gave thanks to Councillor Andrews for his long and diligent service to the Authority, in which he had been very passionate about SYFR.

Councillor Cave commented that she would be very sad to lose such a superb colleague.

Councillor Satur thanked Councillor Andrews for his wonderful service to the Authority, and she added that the amendment to the Motion would provide continuity to the Authority until May to allow BMBC to find a suitable replacement.

Councillor Atkin reiterated the comments made above by Members.

RESOLVED – That:-

- i) Councillors Atkin, Buckley, Cave, Haith, Munn, Richards and Satur voted in favour of the amendment to the Motion, and asked that their votes be recorded.
- ii) Councillors Atkin, Buckley, Cave, Haith, Munn, Richards and Satur voted in favour of the substantive Motion, and asked that their votes be recorded.
- iii) Councillors Ayris and Ransome voted against both the amendment to the Motion and the substantive Motion, and asked that their votes be recorded.

10 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 4 January 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

11 PRESENTATION ON HIGH VOLUME PUMPS (HVP)

The Authority received a presentation on High Volume Pumps (HVP) in relation to the SYFR Flood Relief in December 2015. Members noted the following key points:-

- SYFR had been contacted by the National Coordinating Centre at 5pm on a Saturday afternoon in December 2015, to request resources be deployed in Cumbria to assist with flood efforts; within less than 2 hours SYFR had deployed its resources to assist in the affected communities. A total of 12 personnel had provided assistance in Carlisle and Cockermouth, with 5 vehicles plus a pod for a prime mover.
- On Boxing Day 2015 SYFR had been deployed to Croston, Lancashire where 19 personnel had provided assistance, with 7 vehicles used plus 2 pods for prime movers.
- SYFR's National Resilience Assets were located at Aston Park and Tankersley Fire Stations.

Station Manager Tottie provided Members with an insight into the SYFR Flood Relief work in December 2015.

Councillor Richards queried the lessons learnt and whether they could assist in future relief projects.

AM Shillito commented that SYFR recognised the benefits of training. A regional exercise had been held before Christmas 2015, to test and assess protocols and procedures in the event of such an incident occurring in South Yorkshire. AM Shillito gave credit to the resilience of SYFR personnel, who had engaged with communities at a time of need.

Councillor Atkin commented that the assets deployed were part of the national resilience and queried whether they were paid for nationally rather than SYFR, and also whether any additional equipment could have been used to provide additional assistance.

DCFO Roberts commented that the high volume pumps and incident response units formed part of the suite of national assets. Initially the vehicles had been paid for on the back of New Dimensions in early 2000. However, the Government had now paid for the assets and had handed them over to fire and rescue services. Constant reviews were undertaken on what national assets were required at any one time.

Councillor Buckley requested that a letter of recognition be sent on behalf of the Authority to the crews who had attended the incidents, to thank them for their hard work and efforts, and for continuing to uphold the reputation of SYFR.

RESOLVED – That the Authority noted the presentation.

12 PRESENTATION ON STOCKSBRIDGE EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONDER

The Authority received a presentation on the Stocksbridge Emergency First Responder (EFR). The following key points were noted:-

- The scheme formed part of a national trial across the country, which was being trialled with SYFR retained personnel. Greater Manchester and London Fire and Rescue Services were also trialling the scheme with wholetime fire crews attending medical emergencies.
- The voluntary scheme provided support to the ambulance services by professional organisations, as part of the paid duties of their staff, and it also complemented the gaps in the Community First Responder Scheme.
- Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) provided 2 day specific training which was assessed every 6 months, level 2 in safeguarding, YAS governance training, 4 CPD sessions per year and the option to ride with YAS once per year.
- EFR was now live at Stocksbridge, Rossington and Dearne Fire Stations, with 22 staff trained as EFR and a total of 17 staff actually responding (with others awaiting DBS checks).
- There had been a total of 125 calls received from 1 November 2015 to 1 February 2016.

Firefighter Richardson and Station Manager Tottie described a typical working day as an EFR. Members noted that simple basic intervention was key in saving lives; a large proportion of retained duty stations wanted to become involved in EFR.

Councillor Richards queried the age of paediatric patients treated by EFR. She also queried whether the dual purpose hybrid ambulance fire vehicle that was currently being developed in West Yorkshire could prove useful in the joint work with SYFR and YAS.

AM Shillito commented that paediatric patients 8 years and under required specialist interventions.

DCFO Roberts commented that the dual purpose hybrid ambulance fire vehicle had been on trial in the South West of the country. Lincolnshire Fire Service now operated 3 ambulances, which provided for a quicker turnaround time; there was the potential to expand the vehicles into the workforce. Members noted a great deal of work was required with the FBU nationally, on the 5 work streams which included EFR.

AM Shillito commented the EFR was a new work stream and new initiative for South Yorkshire. A working group had been established which took soundings from practitioners, representative bodies and YAS etc. to provide for a consistent operating model.

Councillor Richards commented that she had requested the presentations received today at the last Audit Committee Meeting. Given that Members had found the presentations to be very useful, and extremely positive, she requested that similar presentations be brought to the Authority in the future.

RESOLVED – That the Authority noted the presentation.

13 BUDGET, PRECEPT AND COUNCIL TAX 2016/17

A report of the Clerk, Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to inform the Authority that it must set its Precept and Council Tax for 2016/17 by 28 February 2016. The first draft of the 2016/17 Revenue Budget and Capital Programme had been considered by Members at the 4 January 2016 Authority meeting, and had since been revised and presented at Appendix A to the report.

The Council Tax options were presented and the Authority considered the impact.

Councillor Satur made a suggestion for an additional £2m of reserves to be set aside for another round of the Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR).

F Foster commented that the funding for SSCR would be utilised from earmarked reserves, and that a further report would be presented to the Authority on how the funding could be used.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approved the Authority's 2016/17 Revenue Budget at Appendix A.
- ii) Approved the 2016/17 Capital Programme as set out in Appendix B.
- iii) Approved the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy at Appendix C including:-
 - a. Affordable Borrowing Limits and Prudential Indicators.
 - b. The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement.
- iv) Approved a Council Tax increase of 1.97% for 2016/17.
- v) Approved the earmarking of £9.82m of Reserves as set out in paragraph 60.
- vi) Noted that a further report be brought around options for the Medium Term Financial Position.
- vii) Agreed that an extra £2,000,000 from earmarked reserves be used for SSCR.
- viii) Councillors Andrews, Atkin, Buckley, Cave, Haith, Munn, Richards and Satur voted in favour of the above resolutions iv) and vii), and asked that their votes be recorded.
- ix) Councillors Ransome and Ayris voted against resolutions iv) and vii), and asked that their votes be recorded.
- x) Noted that a further report be brought in relation to how SSCR funding could be used.

14 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) WITH BARNESLEY MBC: 1ST APRIL 2016 - 31ST MARCH 2017

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to provide Members with an updated Service Level Agreement (SLA) for consideration, and sought the Authority's approval to implement the revised SLA with effect from 1 April 2016.

Member feedback had indicated that Members wished to retain the level of service previously received going forward into 2016/17.

Members noted the facilitation of the Authority's £2m Stronger Safer Communities Reserve was undertaken by the SY Joint Authorities Governance Unit.

Councillor Ayris expressed his strong concerns in relation to the Policy Management section of the report, as he considered that information and advice had not been received in a timely manner in order to allow Members to make informed decisions in the fulfilment of their statutory role.

A Frosdick commented that he understood that positive feedback had been received at the Corporate Planning Workshop held in January on the service provided to the Authority; he would deal with any specific issues that Members wished to raise in respect of the wider services provided by Barnsley MBC.

D Terris added that the Authority was happy to receive any comments or constructive criticism in order to continually make improvements.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the revised SLA.
- ii) Agreed its implementation with effect from 1 April 2016.
- iii) Reviewed the SLA on an annual basis.

15 REVISION TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR JOINT LIAISON FORUM (JLF)

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to provide Members with draft revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Liaison Forum (JLF) and provided clarity on the consultation and negotiation arrangements within the Service.

Councillor Richards requested that Section 5 of the report be amended, to provide clarity that the agreement reached for the JLF to meet more frequently would assist in maximising Member attendance and strengthen JLF as a vehicle for employee representative bodies to raise issues of concern with the Authority.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the revised Terms of Reference for the Joint Liaison Forum (JLF) with immediate effect.

16 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to provide the revised Pay Policy Statement for the Authority for 2016/17 for consideration of the full Authority, as required under the Localism Act 2011.

J Bell commented that whilst the redundancy, retirement and re-employment information was currently up to date, legislation was going through to prevent the re-engagement of individuals who had been in receipt of a pension for a period of 12 months. An amended report would be submitted to the Authority once the legislation had been passed.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the attached Pay Policy Statement.

17 REVISED RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to present the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy. The revised document provided synergy by covering the risk management arrangements for both the Fire and Rescue Service and the Fire and Rescue Authority, and had already been endorsed and approved by the Audit Committee.

It was noted that the Audit Committee Members had positively received the risk management training provided on 3 November 2015.

RESOLVED – That Members accepted the revised Risk Management Policy and Strategy.

18 DECEMBER 2015 PROJECTED OUTTURN REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was presented to inform Members of the projected revenue and capital spend for the 2015/16 financial year based on actual and committed expenditure to December 2015 and a projection of spend in the remaining quarter of the year.

Members noted that a projected underspend of £580,000 had been reported to the November 2015 Authority meeting. The underspend was now projected to rise to £713,000, which was an increase of £133,000.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

19 BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to set out the proposed construction works to fire stations at Aston Park, Edlington, Lowedges and Tankersley, which would create permanent accommodation following the decision to introduce close proximity crewing (CPC) operations.

Members noted that the schemes would be delivered in two phases, with Aston Park and Lowedges in the first phase and Edlington and Tankersley in the second phase; the budget for the programme was £1,635,000.

Councillor Buckley queried whether CPC staff had been consulted.

DCFO Roberts commented that a positive response had been received from staff at the Phase 1 CPC station.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report.
- ii) Approved the proposals for the construction works at Aston Park and Lowedges.

20 PARKWAY AND BIRLEY UPDATE

B Sandy informed Members that Parkway Fire Station was now open and fully functional; the land on the outer side of the fence and the pathway remained areas to be resolved between Sheffield City Council and Bam, the contracted builder.

Members noted a number of ‘snagging’ issues at Birley Fire Station, and discussions were underway to rectify the problems with RLB, the construction and property consultants. Funding was currently being withheld for both fire stations, until the issues had been resolved.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

21 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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.

22 PAYMENT OF EXPENSES TO THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to request Members give consideration to the payment of an annual allowance to the Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority’s Local Pension Board, with effect from the inaugural meeting which was held on 13 July 2015.

Members noted that the Scheme of Allowances would next be reviewed in 2017.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Agreed that the annual allowance be paid to the Chair of the Local Pension Board (in line with payments to FRA co-opted Members) as stated within the report.
- ii) Agreed to backdate the allowance to 13 July 2015.

23 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT SERVICES THROUGH SAFETY SOLUTIONS

A report of the Business Development Manager SYFRS Safety Solutions was presented in response to increasing market demand, and in line with a number of Fire Service commercial operations offering similar services. Safety Solutions was looking to incorporate Fire Risk Assessments as part of its portfolio of products and services.

RESOLVED – That Members gave consent, in principle, to the provision of Fire Risk Assessment Services via the Trading Arm, Safety Solutions UK Ltd.

24 URGENT ITEM - DISPOSAL OF FORMER STATION SITE AT MANSFIELD ROAD, SHEFFIELD

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which summarised the offers received for the former fire station site at Mansfield Road, Sheffield.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Confirmed the acceptance of 'Offer B' for the Mansfield Road fire station site.
- ii) Authorised the Head of Asset Management to conclude negotiations and complete the disposal.

CHAIR