

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

16 JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillor A Cave (Chair)
Councillor A Atkin (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, P Haith, S Howard,
E Hughes, C Ransome, J Satur and G Weatherall

CFO J Courtney, T/DCFO M Blunden, AM S Helps,
WM S Brookes and M Wright (South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Service)

F Foster, A Brown, M McCarthy, L Noble, M McCoole,
D Cutting and A Hunt (Barnsley MBC)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Akther,
Councillor B Johnson, A Frosdick, D Terris, DCFO J Roberts,
S Howe and M Topham

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Cave informed Members that DCFO Roberts would be leaving the Service on the 20 January to become the Chief Fire Officer in West Yorkshire. She expressed her thanks to DCFO Roberts and wished him every success in West Yorkshire, on behalf of the Authority, for all his hard work and commitment, particularly around partnerships and industrial relations. DCFO Roberts' calm approach had been an asset to the Authority and to the Service. He had been held in high esteem by colleagues and peers and would be sadly missed.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

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

Councillor Ayris requested that agenda Items 12 and 21 not be considered in the private section of the meeting as a great deal of information contained within Item 12 was already in the public domain. There had also been discussions at previous Authority meetings in relation to Item 21.

L Noble commented that part of Item 12 'Appointment of Independent Member – Audit & Governance Committee: Progress Update' would be considered in the private section of the meeting as it concerned details of the applicant who had not been notified as to whether he/she had been successful until approval of the

Authority had been given. Therefore their name should not be identified within the public section of the meeting.

Councillor Ayris moved that Item 21 should be considered within the public section of the meeting.

Councillor Ransome seconded Councillor Ayris' motion that Item 21 be considered in the public section of the meeting.

M McCarthy explained that the report was justified within the Access to Information Act and exemption of information.

Councillor Ayris commented that it was difficult to talk about the matter as the individual concerned was still in the employment of the Authority, to which there was a duty to demonstrate to the public how public tax payers' money was spent, which justified the reasoning for the item to be taken in the open session of the meeting.

Those in support of the motion:- Councillors Ayris and Ransome.

Those against the motion:- Councillors Cave, Atkin, Buckley, Haith, Howard, Hughes, Satur and Weatherall.

The motion failed.

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

Item 19 Disposal of Site of Former Darnall Fire Station.

Item 20 Lease of Office Accommodation.

Item 21 Outstanding Financial Commitments.

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

None.

6 REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Satur commented that she had attended a Crisis event held on 20 December with Group Manager T Bernard, which had been an enlightening, fulfilling and humbling experience; she encouraged Members to attend a future event. She had also attended the Sprinkler Launch event held on 11 January which had been very well attended, with excellent speakers. Councillor Satur gave thanks to AM Helps and R Bywater for organising the event.

Councillor Weatherall had also attended the Sprinkler Launch on 11 January which had been very enlightening. He had represented Gleadless Valley as a Ward

Member a few years ago, during which time a fire had broken out on the eighth or ninth floor of Callow Mount, Sheffield. Following the fire, the Authority and Sheffield City Council had installed sprinklers into the whole block of flats, which had saved lives during the first 3 months of installation following a fire starting at the entrance to the only door. He highlighted the importance to continue to convey the sprinkler message. He requested the Authority impress upon the Government the importance of sprinklers being installed into all new houses; a housing application in Wales could not be submitted without the inclusion of sprinklers into the application.

Councillor Ransome and Councillor Cave had attended the recent Safe and Well training which had been very informative.

Councillor Haith had visited the Doncaster Watches as part of the IRMP Consultation and had found the firefighters' views to be very welcoming and constructive; the views would help to inform her future decisions on the IRMP.

Councillor Atkin commented that he had also attended the Sprinkler Launch and that he represented the Authority on the LGA Fire Commission which continued to press the Government on introducing sprinkler systems. He agreed that the event had been very well organised by AM Helps. He requested that thanks be sent on behalf of the Authority to everyone involved in organising the event together with the speakers.

Councillor Cave commented that she had also attended the Sprinkler Launch and commented on the excellent presentations.

Councillor Hughes commented that she had attended the Safe and Well training on 9 January. She suggested that it would be beneficial to roll the training out to all elected Members within South Yorkshire. She gave thanks for her invitation to the Carol Service held in Handsworth before Christmas; it had been a lovely evening with informative presentations and a wonderful start to the Christmas period. She had presented certificates to Crisis Skylight in Doncaster on 21 December, on behalf of the Service, to previously homeless people who had undertaken a great deal of training and had improved their lives.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2016

Councillor Ayris requested a correction to the minutes at Item 13 'September 2016 Projected Outturn Report'. He commented that he had asked two questions which had been omitted from the minutes, in relation to the £600,000 paid per annum to BMBC for secretarial audit services. He had asked whether there was any requirement within the Contract Standing Orders that this should be subject to

competitive tendering. He recalled that he had been given an answer that the matter would be looked into and reported back to himself regarding the level of spend required. He had also asked why there had been no reference to Safety Solutions within the report, or reference to any profits being made. He had been informed that the matter would be looked into and that Safety Solutions would be included into future reports.

M McCarthy commented that the minutes would be amended to reflect the issues raised by Councillor Ayris.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2016 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the above amendments.

10 ARC COURSE - ACHIEVING RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE REPORT AND PRESENTATION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided Members with an overview of the Achieving Respect and Confidence (ARC) Course.

S Brookes, Community Safety Watch Manager highlighted that ARC addressed fire safety and instilled discipline and life skills to young people attending the course. Approximately 20 ARC courses had been delivered since its inception in 2010. There was a minimum of four fire service instructors per course, including one lead instructor and at least one support officer from South Yorkshire Police; there was the potential to include the health service, substance misuse agencies, the ambulance service and prison service representatives.

Councillor Buckley referred to the potential to include other services into ARC, and he queried whether in-roads were being made to get those services involved.

WM Brookes commented that the Service was looking to include other services into ARC, in particular the health service, and that substance misuse was a considerable issue; it was difficult for an organisation to release an employee for a whole week to attend the course.

Members noted that ARC was available for students between the ages of 10 and 14 years, who would be referred from schools and had either been involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour, excluded from/disruptive in school or on a low level Court order. Each student would be allocated an instructor as a mentor. A yellow and red card system was used in terms of behaviour etc.

Councillor Ransome referred to the dangers of drugs and gang culture, and she queried whether alcohol issues were also focused upon. WM Brookes commented that ARC largely focused upon drug and alcohol issues.

Members noted that ARC activities included hose and water drills, the breathing apparatus pod, ladder drills, cutting equipment, extrication drills together with the consequence of actions. Family members and school representatives were invited to the passing out parade on the final afternoon of the course, where students

would march onto the drill ground and perform a display. All students completing the course received certificates. The short term evaluation had indicated that students had benefited immensely from taking part in the activities and had learnt the importance of good communication.

WM Brookes recommended Members to attend the passing out parades in the future. L Noble would circulate details when received.

WM Brookes referred to the long term evaluation. Work was ongoing to prepare an evaluation toolkit for all of the Service's education programmes, including the ARC course. Each ARC course totalled £5,000 which included direct costs i.e. instructor wages, buffet, refreshments, portfolios and scrap cars. Contribution costs included the repair and replacement of equipment and uniforms, the use of spare appliances, facilities and venue costs. Members noted that there was no longer a designated youth watch engagement officer within the Service, but that there was a watch manager with reference for youth engagement.

Councillor Ransome referred to the £5,000 cost per ARC course which had not risen in approximately the last 9 years.

WM Brookes commented that if the course fees had continued to rise, that there would be less chance of receiving funding. The Service facilitated the courses, but did not directly fund the courses. The Barnsley MBC South Area Council had funded the last two ARC courses in 2016. The Service could tailor each specific course to meet the individual's and/or organisational needs. The Youth Engagement Handbook was available on the Service's website.

Councillor Ayris queried whether WM Brookes signposted people to the South Area Council and other organisations.

WM Brookes commented that he worked with local businesses, councils, Safer Neighbourhood Teams and policing teams; a partnership officer dealt with the larger organisations. He requested Members to inform him of any organisations that might benefit from individuals attending a future ARC course.

Councillor Atkin referred to a number of contacts he had with Wath Comprehensive School, which was close to Dearne Fire Station. He commented that he would contact the school to ascertain whether they had a pupil referral unit. He queried whether the Service had a lot of secondary school contacts. Members noted that the Service had contacts for all schools to which full education programmes were offered.

Councillor Atkin considered that the Authority should be an advocate for school participants onto the ARC course. He had attended four/five ARC passing out parades over the years, which had been interesting to learn how the youths had changed as a result of attending the course. He queried how many youths had progressed onto becoming fire cadets. WM Brookes commented that he would ascertain the position and provide feedback to Members.

AM Helps thanked WM Brookes for an informative presentation. He added that ARC was an important programme which complemented the Schools Education

Package and Prince's Trust Cadets and opportunities to go into volunteering. He commented that this also presented an opportunity for Members to consider, with SSCR funding, becoming advocates to look into getting further programmes into local authorities.

Councillor Weatherall commented that he had visited both ARC passing out parades in Barnsley, which had been great events to observe the students with an opportunity to talk to them afterwards. The students when having initially started the ARC course had faced school rivalry, but the course had resulted in them working together. He referred to one ARC course where an individual had left the course due to family reasons. He queried whether the ARC course could be rolled out further, and he suggested that further funding could also be sought from other areas, and he looked forward to attending more of the events.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

11 REVIEW OF THE FRA CONSTITUTION: PART 5E - CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS (CSOS), PART 6A - ANTI-FRAUD & CORRUPTION STRATEGY

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented providing Members with the revised Part 5e – Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) and Part 6a – Anti-Fraud & Corruption and Anti-Bribery and Prosecution Policy.

Members noted that they had been provided with an update on Part 5e – Contract Standing Orders at the Authority meeting held on 19 October 2015 and at the Audit and Governance Committee held on 25 July 2016. The Chief Fire Officer had requested, following the Internal Audit review into contract procurement and compliance, that the Contract Standing Orders be further reviewed.

Councillor Ayris referred to paragraph 11.1 under Item 11 'Contracts above EU Thresholds' within the report, which related to the questions he had raised at the last Authority meeting, and which he had asked to be included in the minutes, regarding the services that BMBC supplied to the Authority. He queried that the report indicated that the contract with BMBC was above the EU threshold and should therefore be advertised in the open competition in the LG Magazine.

Councillor Ayris commented that his understanding was that any contract with BMBC was that over £600,000 should be open to competition. M McCarthy said it was a decision taken by the Leaders/Mayor of the four local authorities in supporting the Joint Authorities in South Yorkshire, and this had been in place since 1986.

Councillor Ransome queried how the Authority knew it was receiving value for money. She suggested that if the arrangement had been in place since 1986 that it should be looked at. M McCarthy commented that the arrangement had been in place since 1986 and had been independently evaluated on a number of occasions since then.

Councillor Ayris referred to section 6.2 at Item 6 'Investigating Allegations of Fraud, Bribery and Corruption' within the report. He queried how the reporting and liaison

protocol that was in place with South Yorkshire Police worked, how often it was used, and he requested a copy of the protocol.

D Cutting commented that the protocol was very rarely used. He was only aware of one incidence of an attempt of fraud in the Service some years ago. Following investigation, if there was sufficient evidence of a criminal act, there was a national fraud hotline and website for use by anyone whether a public body or member of the public, which would be cascaded down to the local fraud offices in South Yorkshire Police. He would make available a copy of the protocol to Councillor Ayris.

Councillor Ransome queried whether the Authority would prosecute or pursue an employee who had left the Authority in relation to a criminal act.

D Cutting commented that it would depend upon the significance of the issue, and on a case by case basis. If the employee had left employment and been dismissed, then the matter would be passed onto South Yorkshire Police who would determine whether there was sufficient evidence to pursue. South Yorkshire Police would need to be clear before they could prosecute due to the magnitude of fraud. He had previously passed matters, not relating to the Service, onto South Yorkshire Police, who had not actioned the matter further as it had not been deemed sufficient to do so. He commented that fine tuning and sense checking would be applied to the report.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approved the revised Part 5e – Contract Standing Orders (CSOs).
- ii) Approved the revised Part 6a – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (and associated documents).
- iii) Received Parts 5c and 5d when complete.
- iv) Be provided (Councillor Ayris) with a copy of the South Yorkshire Police Protocol.

12 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER - AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: PROGRESS UPDATE

A report of the Deputy Clerk was submitted providing Members with an update on the process to recruit an Independent Member to sit on the Audit and Governance Committee.

Members noted that from the six application forms circulated, four completed applications had been received; only one application had been received by the specified deadline of 16 December. The Evaluation Panel, consisting of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee, Councillor P Haith and A Bingham, Independent Member had met on 20 December 2016, where it had been agreed to progress the application for interview on 11 January 2017. The two late applications had been placed on hold until the outcome of the interview; all candidates had been notified of the outcome of the Panel.

Councillor Ransome queried how long Independent Members had sat on the interview panel. She also questioned why there had only been two Members on the interview panel, as it was thought good practice to have three Members.

L Noble commented that no guidance had been laid down for Independent Member interviews; the matter had previously been discussed, to which no issues had been raised.

Councillor Ayris referred to the two late applications that had been received on the 19 and 20 December, and he queried whether the Christmas rush on post had been taken into account.

L Noble commented that applicants had been given several opportunities to complete the applications including online and hand delivery with a deadline of 2½ weeks for submission. The interviews had been delayed into the New Year to allow the applications to be received and considered.

Councillor Ayris referred to the fundamental review of the role profile for an Independent Member to coincide with the review of the new governance arrangements in April/May 2017. He commented that it was incumbent on the Authority to look at the best practice for interviewing candidates. He reiterated that it should be part of the policy to ensure that an Independent Member was not a member of a political party and not related to anyone who was contracted to work with the Service.

L Noble commented that checks had been made to ensure that the applicants were not employed by the Service or related to any Member or employee of the Authority, to which this had been satisfied by the applicants. Members noted that in relation to the interview panel, best practice from elsewhere would be considered for the future.

M McCarthy added that the matter had been raised at the last Authority meeting where it had been said that best practice from elsewhere would be considered and incorporated into future exercises.

Councillor Ransome referred to the political party of an applicant.

M McCarthy commented that if the Authority considered that if an Independent Member was not upholding the same standards as Authority Members in their public role, then the Authority would intervene and take action.

Councillor Hughes challenged the comment made by Councillor Ransome. She stated that whatever an individual's political view when they applied for a job was a matter for them providing it did not undermine their role.

Councillor Ransome stated that she had made the comment following correspondence from the Chief Executive to the Authority's last Independent Member, which stated that she should not meet with Councillor Ayris or herself. She queried how another Independent Member could sit on a panel, considering that such a comment had been made to an Independent Member, and that an

independent route should be kept independent. She added that she was not privy to the pre-meetings.

Councillor Howard commented that the same rules would apply to the new Independent Member for them not to meet with any political group.

Councillor Buckley referred to Recommendation B within the report. He commented that in the private section of meeting the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee would present her recommendations and that it would be the decision of Authority Members to determine whether the applicant would be appointed as an Independent Member.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the action to date to recruit an Independent Member of the Audit and Governance Committee.
- ii) Agreed the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel as outlined at the meeting.
- iii) Noted the proposal to review the Terms of Reference for the Audit and Governance Committee, the role profile and remuneration for an Independent Member and requested officers to provide further reports as necessary to align with the review of the governance structure in April 2017.

13 SSCR SUPPORT POST

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to provide Members with the costs associated with the introduction of a dedicated coordination post in support of the Stronger and Safer Community Reserve (SSCR) fund.

AM Helps commented that the Authority had previously allocated £2 million of funding for SSCR, following which 44 community based projects had been funded, 14 of which would run throughout 2017. The Authority had agreed at its meeting in July 2016 to allocate an additional £2 million of funding to SSCR together with the provision of a post to support the coordination of future SSCR funding projects.

Members noted that the post would support the BMBC internal audit requirement for a dedicated post, which was anticipated to be advertised early in 2017. The post holder would work closely with officers from the South Yorkshire Fire Authority Governance Unit, at a cost of £110,000 over a three year period.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

14 FUNDING REQUEST FOR LIFE TEAM EXTENSION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer was presented to provide an update on the Local Interventions and Falls Episodes (LIFE) team which was being piloted within Sheffield, along with a request for further funding from the Stronger and Safer Community Reserve (SSCR) to extend the pilot for a further 6 months.

AM Helps commented that the LIFE team had been introduced as a joint emergency services pilot in Sheffield in August 2016 with SSCR funding for a 6 month period, consisting of four members of staff, two staff members from South Yorkshire Police and two staff members from the Service. Since the introduction of the pilot a total of 268 home safety checks had been delivered together with over 190 crime prevention activities. The LIFE team had been mobilised on 49 occasions to assist people who had fallen in their properties. It was the intention to ascertain long term funding through a bid to the National Police/Fire Transformational Fund or local commissioned funding; the Police National transitional funding would not be available until March/April 2017. South Yorkshire Police would contribute two PCSO posts until the end of August.

The LIFE team had won an award for the best National Health Service (NHS) Collaboration initiative at the 2016 Health Business Awards Event in London.

Councillor Weatherall commented that he had attended the Safe and Well Training, and he referred to the roll out of the self-referrals for Councillors and other organisations. He recommended that Members supported the funding request.

Councillor Ransome commented that she was a great advocate of the LIFE Team and that she had no problems in supporting the funding request. She queried the Authority's stance financially to extend the funding.

M McCarthy commented that it was the Authority's decision to extend the funding. The Authority had set aside £2m on two occasions in the last 3 years to support SSCR. If the Authority considered it a worthwhile initiative, and wished to see an extension to the funding, then it had the authority to support the initiative.

Councillor Haith queried when the Huddersfield University's independent evaluation of the LIFE team would come back to the Authority.

AM Helps commented that the Service had recently received an interim evaluation which was currently being worked through. A full evaluation would be undertaken after 6 months and was expected to be received within the next 3 months. The full evaluation would be submitted to the Stakeholder Planning Board for discussion and then progressed onto the Authority.

Councillor Hughes queried whether the evaluation from Huddersfield University would be included in the funding request of £22,816.

AM Helps commented that the funding request was for extension of two LIFE team staff members to continue for an additional 6 month period to August 2017. The full approved sum covered the evaluation previously.

RESOLVED – That Members agreed to extend the LIFE Team within Sheffield for a further 6 months from 31 January 2017 at a cost of £22,816 from the Stronger and Safer Community Reserve Fund.

15 INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR FIRE AND RESCUE STAFF IN ENGLAND

A report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Director of Service Development was presented to provide a broad précis of the Independent Review with a recommendation that the matter of progressing the recommendations detailed within the Review were monitored within an appropriate sub-committee of the Authority.

Members noted that in 2014 a government-commissioned review had been initiated and was led by Adrian Thomas with the following objective:-

‘To review of the conditions of service of Chief Fire Officers and Firefighters, and the processes by which they are determined to consider whether they present barriers to the reform, improvement and efficiency of the fire and rescue services’.

ACFO Blunden commented that Members had received by email on 11 January the full report of the Independent Review, to enable them to consider the 43 recommendations in full. There was an expectation from the Government that fire and rescue services should have made swifter progress and the Government at the time had said they wanted to understand what was preventing positive change from occurring within the fire and rescue service. He considered that there was an expectation at some stage in the not too distant future that both the Fire Authority, the Service and representative bodies would be subject to some formal scrutiny relating to the Independent Review and the progress being made across the country. Due to the detailed analysis undertaken with the 43 recommendations, the report had recommended that the full gap analysis was placed within the Performance and Scrutiny Board, to enable the Authority to support and challenge the decisions required to be made regarding the Thomas Review, and to be brought back to the Authority for discussion.

Councillor Ransome requested an explanation at item 7 under the key findings section of the Thomas Review which stated ‘Unconscious bias training should be rolled out across the fire and rescue service’.

CFO Courtney commented that having attended a presentation given by Adrian Thomas, it was clear that he had a view within the fire and rescue service, that there were certain pre-conceptions which influenced the management style and relationships without people necessarily recognising where they originated from. He added that without knowing it, there was a preference towards certain types of people, character and personality traits. He added that it would only be by explaining to people that the preconceptions existed within everyone’s minds, and for them to be aware of them in relation to decisions around performance, selection and personal development, that ultimately a position would be reached that was in its best interests of the Service.

Councillor Howard commented that she worked for DWP and had undertaken the unconscious bias training, which was normal practice.

Councillor Buckley commented that he had read the Thomas Review a number of times, and he felt very strongly that it should be taken to the next meeting of the

Performance and Scrutiny Board to look at in-depth, with a view to bringing something back to the Authority following initial consideration by the Board.

Councillor Ransome queried whether other fire and rescue services had received a similar report as the Service with a similar amount of recommendations.

ACFO Blunden commented that the 43 recommendations were for consideration by all fire and rescue services.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the content of the Independent Review.
- ii) Referred the Independent Review to the Performance and Scrutiny Board to ensure appropriate monitoring of the Service's and Authority's progress in relation to the recommendations detailed within the Independent Review.

16 DRAFT FINANCE SETTLEMENT AND 2017/18 BUDGET UPDATE

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to set out the implications of the provisional finance settlement and provided the latest draft budget for 2017/18.

On 15 December 2016 the provisional settlement had been announced, and the current indications were that the Authority would lose over £2m in settlement funding in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17.

The Government had announced that the Council Tax referendum limit would remain at 2% for 2017/18.

Members noted that notifications of any Section 31 Grants due to the Authority had not yet been received.

Councillor Ayris referred to paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report in relation to the reserves. He commented that it would be incumbent for the Authority, upon receipt of the report to the February Authority Meeting, to ensure that any proposed use of the reserves was both appropriate and timely.

RESOLVED – That Members received the report and considered the issues raised.

17 FRA BUSINESS PLAN - PERFORMANCE MEASURES: JULY 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted to provide Members with the eighth update on the progress against the agreed FRA Business Plan Performance Measures for July 2016 – December 2016, and to invite comments on the content and reporting format.

Councillor Cave reminded Members to read and adhere to the FRA Business Plan 2016/17 at Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the six-monthly update.
- ii) Provided feedback on the reporting format.

18 CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to update Members on the current arrangements with regards to contingency in the event of Industrial Action.

Members noted that it had been approved at the Authority meeting held on 27 June 2016 for Service Managers to commence negotiations with Securitas. On 21 December 2016 the Service had entered into a contract with Securitas for a 12 month period to run to January 2018, to guarantee the availability of officers-in-charge for 8 appliances during future periods of industrial action.

Councillor Haith queried when further details would be known on the FBU and pensions dispute.

ACFO Blunden commented that the pensions dispute had been taken to the High Court on 9 January 2017 and was currently being worked through. It was envisaged that an outcome would shortly be known, and a report would be provided to the Authority as soon as possible to keep Members appraised.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the contents of the report.

19 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.

20 DISPOSAL OF SITE OF FORMER DARNALL FIRE STATION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted to provide Members with an update on the planned disposal of the former fire station at Darnall, Sheffield.

M Wright also provided Members with an update on the development of the land of the former Mosborough Fire Station.

RESOLVED – That Members confirmed the acceptance of the revised offer received for the Darnall Fire station site, subject to the conditions set out in the report.

21 LEASE OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to advise Members of the planned lease of office accommodation to Age (UK) Ltd.

RESOLVED – That Members confirmed agreement to the term outlined.

22 OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS (RESTRICTED CIRCULATION TO FRA MEMBERS ONLY)

RESOLVED – That Members approved the reimbursement in respect of the outstanding time off in lieu to the officer concerned.

23 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER - AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: PROGRESS UPDATE

RESOLVED – That Members approved the immediate appointment of the candidate interviewed on 11 January 2017 as Independent Member to sit on the Audit and Governance Committee, for one year pending a review of the role profile for Independent Members to align with the review of the new governance arrangements prior to the Annual Meeting in June 2017.

CHAIR