

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

13 FEBRUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillor A Atkin (Chair)

Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, P Haith, E Hughes,
C Ransome, M Rooney, J Satur and G Weatherall

CFO J Courtney, T/DCFO M Blunden, T/ACO M Mason,
S Booth, S Howe, A Mills and M Topham (South Yorkshire Fire
& Rescue Service)

D Terris, A Frosdick, A Brown, F Foster, L Noble, R Bywater
and M McCoole (Barnsley MBC)

Dr A Billings (OPCC) and M Buttery (Office of the South
Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Cave,
Councillor S Howard, Councillor B Johnson and M McCarthy

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Atkin informed Members that Councillor Nasima Akther had resigned from the Fire and Rescue Authority for personal reasons. He commented that Councillor Akther had brought an energy to the meetings, and he expressed his thanks to her on behalf of Members for her contribution to the work of the Authority. He added that he knew she would continue to work passionately in her community.

Councillor Atkin welcomed Councillor Mick Rooney to his first Authority meeting, and that Members looked forward to working with him.

Councillor Atkin also welcomed Stuart Booth, the new Director of Support Services, to his first Authority meeting.

Councillor Atkin informed Members that Frances Foster, Director of Finance, would leave Barnsley MBC on 31 March 2017. Councillor Atkin thanked Frances Foster, on behalf of Members, for her support during the transition of the South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat to Barnsley MBC and for her advice and guidance as Treasurer to the Authority. He wished her the very best for the future.

3 URGENT ITEMS - 'POLICING AND CRIME ACT 2017 - REPRESENTATION ON THE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'

A report of the Clerk to the Authority was submitted following the Royal Assent of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 on 31 January 2017, which allowed for Police and

Crime Commissioners to seek representation on Fire and Rescue Authorities, with voting rights where agreed by the Authority.

Councillor Ransome welcomed Dr Billings to the meeting, and she queried whether he would also attend the Authority's board and committee meetings.

Dr Billings commented that, at present, it was his intention to attend full Authority meetings only and that M Buttery, Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), would attend in his absence.

A Frosdick commented that Dr Billings would have full voting rights in supporting the Authority's business. Further discussions would be held with Dr Billings to determine his attendance at other meetings.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to the Police and Crime Commissioner or his nominee becoming a Member of the Fire and Rescue Authority with full voting rights.

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

RESOLVED – That agenda item 21 'Establishing a MTFA Team within South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue' 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 Satur had represented the Authority at the Lifewise Governance Board on 30 January. South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue had agreed to increase the annual contribution towards the running cost of the Lifewise Centre, to match that of the South Yorkshire Police contribution for 2017-18. A two stage review of the Lifewise Centre was underway to consider the future location for a safety centre, to identify future partners and the types of activities which would be delivered through a safety centre. The Audit and Governance Board had discussed the future contribution from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue in relation to the maintenance and dilapidation costs associated with the Lifewise Centre. It was noted that once the Strategic Collaboration Group, between South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue and South Yorkshire Police was in place, that consideration would be given towards the Authority overseeing the governance of the Lifewise Centre.

Councillor Ransome referred to the invitation made by R Winter in November 2016 to view the documentation for Wirral Cladding and Roofing Ltd. She commented that this had not happened, and that Members had been informed that the documentation could not be viewed as it was commercially sensitive. She queried the reasons for this.

A Frosdick informed Members that a complaint had been made to the Information Commissioner regarding access to this information, and what may or may not be

appropriate to be disclosed. The Authority was in dialogue with the Information Commissioner on the matter and the disclosure of the information in its entirety. Once a decision has been made by the Information Commissioner, A Frosdick would clarify the position in writing to Councillor Ransome. In the short term, the Authority was unable to disclose the documentation.

Given that the offer had been made in November 2016, Councillor Ransome queried when it was anticipated that Members would be able to have sight of the documentation.

A Frosdick expected to receive clarification from the Information Commissioner's office during the course of the week, and he would notify Councillor Ransome of the outcome.

D Terris added that the demands on the Information Commissioner were heavy, and the Authority was subject to their workloads and timescales. Councillor Ransome would be updated on the position as soon as possible.

Councillor Ayris reiterated Councillor Ransome's point. He considered that the issue regarding Wirral Cladding and Roofing Ltd had not yet been resolved.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2017

Councillor Ayris referred to the 'Items to be Considered in the Absence of the Public and Press' item. He felt the minute did not reflect the context of the comments he had made. He added that it had been difficult to talk about the previous cases that he had referred to, to demonstrate his opinion that the decision to take the item in the private section of the meeting was challengeable if an individual had taken this to the Information Commissioner, and he requested that this be recorded in the accuracy of the minutes.

A Frosdick commented that he had not been present at the last Authority meeting, but if the draft minute did not reflect the point he had tried to make, the minutes would be amended accordingly to reflect that. Councillor Ayris did not feel the item should have been taken in the private section of the meeting, and he was trying to explain the reasoning with reference to previous cases.

Councillor Ayris suggested that it may be helpful to review the webcast of the meeting, as he had talked at length on the role of the Information Commissioner.

Councillor Ayris referred to the 'Review of the FRA Constitution: Part 5E – Contract Standing Orders (CSOS), Part 6A – Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy' item. He requested that the minutes should reflect that, D Cutting had undertaken at the

meeting to provide him with a written response which he had received, together with a subsequent response from A Frosdick for which he was very grateful. He had not asked for the information for his personal use, but for the benefit of all Members of the Authority. He requested that the responses from D Cutting and A Frosdick be circulated to all Members of the Authority.

Councillor Ransome referred to the 'Appointment of Independent Member – Audit and Governance Committee: Progress Update' item. She had queried the composition of the interview panel, and what guidance was in existence.

L Noble said she had contacted other Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities, and every FRA had a different composition for their interview panel. The next time interviews were held for independent members, best practice from other Met FRAs would be taken into consideration when determining the composition of the interview panel.

Councillor Ransome referred to the 'Outstanding Financial Commitments' item. She queried the short recorded minute, as the item had involved a long discussion on which a vote had been taken, and she had requested that the vote be recorded.

A Frosdick commented that, in terms of legislation, if a Member wished a vote to be recorded, then they should indicate so at the time, and he had no recollection of a request being made. The minute reflected the legislation as the item had been taken in the absence of the public and press, and the legislation required that, where items are taken in private the minute must be produced as a summary to avoid disclosing the exempt information.

Councillor Ayris commented that Councillor Ransome was making the point that two Members of the Authority had voted against the recommendation. He acknowledged the fact that the request for that to be recorded should have been made at the time; however he wished to make it clear that Councillor Ransome and himself had voted against the recommendation.

Councillor Hughes commented that the agenda item had been taken in the absence of the public and press, and was an exempt item. She queried why the item had made headline news in the Yorkshire Post. She added that all Members had signed a Code of Conduct to adhere to confidentiality.

D Terris agreed that this was a very serious point and, as Clerk to the Authority, she took a dim view of any breach of confidentiality.

RESOLVED – That subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 16 January 2017 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 COMMUNITY SAFETY CAMPAIGNS PRESENTATION

The Authority received a presentation from T/Corporate Communications Manager A Mills, in relation to community safety campaigns. Work was undertaken with the Community Safety Teams, to devise a calendar of events for the year which was

based on historical incident data that the Service considered to have the most influence over i.e. electrical fires, cooking fires and older people.

Members were referred to a campaign that ran in May, June and July 2016 with the aim to reduce electrical fires in South Yorkshire by 5% versus the three year average for this type of incident. The objectives of the campaign had been:-

- To launch a high visibility campaign to reach at least 100,000 people via local media and advertising.
- DAX radio advertising to reach at least 50,000 people.
- To make direct engagement with at least 15,000 people via SMS, email or post.
- At least 10% of South Yorkshire's population to receive online engagement.

The following outputs had been achieved at the conclusion of the campaign:-

- 11 items of media coverage had reached 275,000 people.
- Social media had reached 120,000 people.
- DAX radio advertising had reached 101,000 people.
- SMS, email and post had reached 30,000 people.
- There had been a 27% reduction in electrical related house fires versus the three year average.

Members were referred to the #CHIPPAN campaign which ran in December 2016, which had attracted a considerable amount of media coverage including two national TV appearances. Following the campaign, it had been established that there had been 10 fewer accidental house fires in December 2016 in comparison to December 2015.

A campaign had recently been launched to target the reduction of house fires involving elderly people aged 65 and over. Members noted that it was harder to reach older people who did not respond to traditional communication methods, social media or online material. Therefore the campaign was targeted at the next generation i.e. their children or grandchildren, via an online video.

Nationally, the 'Fire Kills' campaign was one of the most notable fire campaigns run, by the Government for 18 years, although it had been scaled back due to austerity. There are now two 'Fire Kills' campaigns per year, which the Authority adapt for local use. The Chief Fire Officers' Association also ran campaigns and safety weeks, which the Service supported where appropriate. Road Safety campaigns were delivered in South Yorkshire by the Safer Roads Partnership and by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, both supported by the Service.

A Mills requested Members assistance in distributing campaign materials at Ward surgeries, community groups or online, and within their respective local authorities.

Councillor Atkin commented that himself, and others, re-Tweeted information put out by the Service. During the Sprinkler campaign, Councillor Atkin had suggested

that sprinklers be installed during the upgrade of the central heating system at the Beeversleigh high rise building in Rotherham.

Councillor Haith had observed a number of Fire Safety campaigns advertised on the TV screens in the Reception of the Civic building in Doncaster, which has many visitors each day.

Councillor Ayris added that it was important to obtain feedback to establish the effectiveness of each campaign. In relation to the #CHIPPAN campaign, he was pleased to observe that the campaign had resulted in fewer chip pan fires compared to the previous year.

A Mills commented that campaign feedback was provided to Members via presentations at Authority meetings and through the Stakeholder Planning Board. The annual report included a section on each campaign and results.

Councillor Hughes queried whether the #CHIPPAN campaign song had reached number one in the charts at Christmas.

A Mills commented that the campaign song had not reached number one in the charts, but it had achieved much more than anticipated in terms of media coverage and the boost to staff morale.

Councillor Ransome thanked A Mills for his presentation. She considered that the 'Lend a Hand' campaign had been exceptional and had targeted the right audience. Councillor Ransome referred to the average cost to society of a house fire in Yorkshire and Humber which totalled £46,000, and she queried whether that was a cost to the Authority or the cost to the individual who had encountered the fire.

A Mills commented that this referred to Government data, which was 8 years old. It was the cost to society i.e. the cost of the Service responding, the increase in insurance premiums, house repairs and other contributory costs. This was similar to the Government calculations around the cost of accidental death to society of £1.8m; he would provide Members with the full report to indicate how the figure had been determined.

Councillor Atkin thanked A Mills for an interesting and informative presentation.

11 CHANGE OF AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP

A report of the Clerk to the Authority was presented to inform Members that at the Sheffield City Council meeting held on 1 February 2017, it had been resolved that Councillor M Rooney would replace Councillor N Akther as its representative on the South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

L Noble suggested that consideration be given to Councillor Rooney filling the positions left vacant following the resignation of Councillor Akther, with the exception of becoming Lead Member for Learning and Development due to the Learning and Development Schedule for 2016/17 being almost complete; she recommended that this position remain vacant until the AGM in June 2017.

Councillor Ransome welcomed Councillor Rooney to the Authority. She sought clarification as to how replacement Members were appointed when someone resigned mid-year.

L Noble confirmed that individual local authorities dealt with their own Member nominations and replacements on the Authority; in this instance Sheffield City Council's Full Council had agreed to appoint Councillor Rooney on to the Authority.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted that Councillor Akther's membership of the Authority ceased on 30 January 2017.
- ii) Noted the appointment of Councillor Rooney to the Authority by Sheffield City Council at its meeting held on 1 February 2017.
- iii) Considered appointing Councillor Rooney to the positions left vacant by the resignation of Councillor Akther.

12 SECTION 73 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1985 APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER (CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER)

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was submitted advising the Authority of the requirement to appoint a statutory officer responsible for the proper administration of the financial affairs of the Authority as required by Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1985 and to reflect revised arrangements for the organisation of Core functions within Barnsley MBC with effect from 31 March 2017.

Members noted that Barnsley MBC had reconfigured its Core Services and F Foster, Director of Finance, would retire on 31 March 2017. As a result of the reconfiguration, A Frostdick would assume the role of Director of Core Services for Barnsley MBC with effect from 1 April 2017.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the report and approved the appointment of Mr Neil Copley, Service Director for Finance from Barnsley MBC as Section 73 officer to the Authority with effect from 1 April 2017.

13 SYFR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE REFURBISHMENT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted providing Members with an update in relation to the refurbishment of the Training and Development Centre (TDC) at Beaver Hill, Sheffield.

Members noted that the Service, through the provisions of the SCAPE Group Framework Agreement, were now able to utilise specialist project management and construction services. The Service had become a member of the NHS Shared Business Services Framework Agreement for National Minor Works in June 2016.

Councillor Hughes commented that at the stage when a plan was submitted to the Authority, if the tendering process were not complete then this might put the

Authority in the position of agreeing a figure for capital works which ultimately did not reflect the true cost of the projected works. Where this were the case the Authority would need to be informed of any change in costs.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that the procurement process did present issues of this nature but that over the last 18 months this had been acknowledged and the Authority duly informed. He assured Members, on behalf of the Chief Fire Officer, that the £1.204m figure would be the total spend on the Training and Development Centre. The industry standard approaches to costing out any design provided some greater degree of surety.

The Service would provide a very detailed costing to SCAPE, which would result in a fixed price for the Phase II works, to which the Service would enter into a 'pain or gain' agreement with Kier. If there was any variation on the £759,000, the increase would be shared between the Service and Kier; subsequently, if a saving was made, then this would also be shared between the Service and Kier. The works were envisaged to commence in March 2017 and be completed by June 2017. The Service was confident that the figures included within the Capital Programme were accurate for the next 3 years, and would be presented for Authority approval at its next meeting.

Councillor Buckley referred to the Phase II works for the bedrooms and showers, and he queried whether the recruits' course would be a residential course.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that the course would be wholly residential to enable the individuals to be introduced to the life of a firefighter.

Councillor Ayris thanked T/DCFO Blunden for his explanation. He commented that the report appeared to him to suggest the total cost proposal had doubled, and had given him concern that this had perhaps happened with similar projects. T/DCFO Blunden had, to some extent, provided him with the reassurance that the final cost would not change.

Councillor Ransome gave thanks to T/DCFO Blunden for his explanation, and she queried who would oversee the works.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that S Booth, Director of Support Services would oversee the works. The project management arrangements within the Service ensure that any projects or capital expenditure is reviewed on a 4 weekly basis to flag up any variants at an early stage and enable steps to be implemented to mitigate those. It was noted that arrangements were already in place for the new Maltby Fire Station to ensure the works were delivered on time, on budget and within scope.

S Howe referred to Members' questions in relation to the capital programme and the Service's ability to judge the prices and costings. Members noted that the Service produces a rolling 3 year Capital Programme, but it was necessary to consider the scoping of certain elements 1 to 2 years in advance of commencement of works. Any potential cost increases would be brought back to the Authority.

Councillor Haith queried whether officers considered SCAPE to be timely and of cost benefit.

T/DCFO Blunden referred to a 16% premium for the use of SCAPE, although in terms of a number of projects and the CPC bills, it was considered that SCAPE could be managed without using the 16% premium. Various options were being considered to reduce the expenditure on the capital scheme. Members had been provided with a report at the November 2016 Authority meeting, to provide an update on the success of using SCAPE with Maltby Fire Station, which had been a worthwhile investment. The Service was looking to reduce the 16% premium on other building works undertaken.

Councillor Satur commented that it was good to see that the Service had learnt lessons from the Parkway and Birley Fire Stations, both of which had involved significant price increases.

A Frosdick commented that Members were rightly concerned to establish cost certainty. The Service was moving to a situation where cost certainty could be ascertained contractually. It was noted that building contracts were subject to a number of variables beyond price certainty dependant on climate conditions etc. and there was scope for movement for reasons that were different to the pricing structure. He considered that for a relatively brief period of time, the scope around issues of claims and delays from inclement weather were likely to be limited.

Dr Billings queried the basis of T/DCFO Blunden's reference to the Brexit Referendum voting having an 11% effect on costs.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that he would request the Head of Property Services to share the information with Dr Billings. It was noted that the building market had changed over the last 12 months, and the Brexit vote had impacted on the pricing structure for all builders across the country. This was worrying when considering the wider context of house building in South Yorkshire and the impact it could have on house prices.

Councillor Atkin requested that the information be provided to all Members.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Noted the contents of the report and approved the TDC Delivery Agreement sign-off.
- ii) Be provided with more detailed information on the increase in costs post-Brexit.

14 2017/18 COUNCIL TAX SETTING

A report of the Clerk, Treasurer and Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was presented to inform the Authority that it was required to approve the 2017/18 budget and set the council tax and precept by 28 February 2017.

Councillor Satur queried the 2018/19 premises cost within the 2016/17 to 2020/21 Capital Programme.

S Howe informed her that this figure related to the rebuild of Barnsley Fire Station.

Councillor Ayris commented that he felt a proper Reserves Strategy was required before agreeing the budget. He expressed concern that the number of Control staff would be cut as part of the budget proposals, and he queried the risk assessment undertaken in relation to reductions to Retained Duty Staff and Control staff.

T/DCFO Blunden informed Members that the reduction of staff in Control equal to 24, had been made in July 2016. The budget reduction reflected the existing staffing arrangements as opposed to a reduction in the coming year.

Councillor Ayris referred to the capital receipts as a result of the sale of Mansfield Road, Darnall and Mosborough Fire Stations. He queried whether it was possible to quantify the capital receipts which came into the Authority from the sale of assets i.e. disused fire stations over the current financial year.

S Howe commented that the sale of Mansfield Road had been the only fire station that had been finalised, at a price of £300,000. The sale of Darnall and Mosborough fire stations had been planned and projected, with £1,000,000 of capital receipts for the sale of all 3 fire stations. The sale of Maltby fire station had not been included in the projections, as further consideration was being given to its potential use going forward. In the event that it was agreed to sell Maltby fire station, this would increase the total of capital receipts and reduce the requirement to use reserves by that value.

Councillor Ayris referred to the main pretext for the use of reserves. He expressed concern that the risk of using reserves to prop up the capital programme would not be a wise decision when Service reductions were being made to front line staff; he could not support the proposal on that basis. He referred to the information provided following a presentation to the Corporate Advisory Group, which had outlined the risks of transferring reserves to the capital programme. He commented that he was very wary to support something that did not have a proper Strategy, and he requested that this be brought before a decision was made.

Councillor Ayris referred to the fact that council tax payers that were facing an increase of 1.97% over 3 years on top of the adult social care levy, and the cost of living which had increased by 3 points since December and had increased since Brexit. He referred to the report on the failings in previous years over the capital programme and the estimates which were inaccurate. On that basis, he could not support the proposal until a proper Reserves Strategy was presented to the Authority.

CFO Courtney referred to the previous capital projects, and challenged the comment about an inaccuracy in terms of predicting the cost of those projects. He suggested that there had been no waste of tax payers' money as the Service had not overpaid for the projects which had been delivered, and had been of good quality. Lessons had been learned in predicting costs when the project would extend over a 2 to 3 year period. It was noted that systems and processes had put

in place to anticipate costs and reporting to the Authority. Members noted that this had been an investment that was required in order to facilitate an IRMP, to enable the Service to deliver a service within a significantly reduced budget.

F Foster said the Reserves Strategy had been presented at previous Authority meetings where there had been discussions in relation to the level and appropriate use of the reserves, which were one off in nature. It was proposed that those reserves be used to fund one off expenditure in support of the investment priorities within the IRMP. The associated risks would be dealt with through the process in terms of monitoring and managing the capital programme. Members would be provided with information and there was an opportunity to revise the use of reserves. Her professional opinion was that the FRA had an adequate general level of reserves. Members would be provided with regular reports to determine whether this would be appropriate in 12 months' time.

Councillor Rooney disagreed with the comments made by Councillor Ayris', and asked if there was an alternative suggestion to fund the capital programme.

Councillor Haith reminded Members that the Authority's Reserves Strategy formed part of the Efficiency Plan which had been approved by the Government.

Councillor Ayris proposed a different use of the reserves to mitigate the impact on the council tax payers and until the Reserves Strategy was submitted to the Authority, he considered that an informed decision could not be made as to what the council tax levy should be.

Councillor Atkin considered that the Authority did have a Strategy and that this had been considered by Members on numerous occasions.

Dr Billings thanked officers for the report presented, which he considered to be extremely clear and very well set out with good narrative. He queried the prudential level of the reserves.

F Foster commented that there was no rule in terms of what an Authority's general reserves should be, but they were in line with the 5% revenue budget generally used. The amount of money earmarked for the capital programme was over 3 years, which the Authority may wish to revisit if issues or other priorities arose; the Authority would continue to consider the situation.

Councillor Ransome commented that she was unhappy that the surplus would go to general reserves. She queried the reasoning why the reserves should be bolstered leaving council tax payers to take the 'hit'. She was unhappy that the number of support staff would increase against a decrease in the number of Control and Retained Duty staff, and that she would prefer the extra income be utilised keeping frontline firefighters safe. Councillor Ransome considered the Authority would be asking a lot from council tax payers in light of the proposed council tax increase of 1.97% each year for the next 3 years, together with the social care increase on council tax.

Councillor Atkin commented that the Authority was reacting to permission from the Government to increase council tax by 2%. He had sympathy for the council tax

payers, but noted the requirement for the Authority to set a balanced budget. An Efficiency Plan was in place and he noted that the number of the Service's staff would be reduced over the next 3 years, in line with retirement, with recruitment undertaken at the same time. He considered, that if approved today, the council tax for Band D would total just less than £69. Approximately 90% of South Yorkshire properties were either Band A or B, which would equate to an annual increase of approximately £50, which he suggested for £1 per week, provided the best insurance policy against fire.

Councillor Ransome queried how realistic the pay award was for all staff at 1%.

A Brown commented that the figure was realistic, there would only be a 1% pay rise nationally up to the next 2 to 3 years.

Councillor Ayriss also queried why the report did not reference the contribution to SSUK Ltd.

S Howe stated that there were no contributions to SSUK Ltd, as no costs were incurred to the Service. The Service paid for the Business Development Manager's staff salary which was recharged; the costs were shown within the employee line, and the recharge income was shown within the income line, which offset each other.

Councillor Ayriss queried whether it included costs 'in kind' for labour.

S Howe commented that there were no costs 'in kind'. The Service recharged SSUK Ltd for the costs of support staff through a Service Level Agreement.

Councillor Ayriss referred to the 'Contribution to Service Priorities' section of the report. He queried why only the finance and resources box had been selected to maximise efficiency. It was agreed that at all boxes within the section should be ticked.

Councillor Ayriss and Councillor Ransome requested that their vote against the Revenue Budget be recorded.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approved the Authority's 2017/18 Revenue Budget at Appendix A.

All Members, including Dr Billings, voted in favour of the Revenue Budget for 2017/18, with the exception of Councillors Ayriss and Ransome, who voted against the decision.

- ii) Approved the 2017/18 Capital Programme as set out in Appendix B.
- iii) Approved the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy at Appendix C.
- iv) Approved a Council Tax Increase of 1.97% for 2017/18.

- v) Approved the creation of an Earmark Reserve of £14.891m to fund the capital programme as set out in paragraph 60.

15 DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

A report of the T/Corporate Communication Manager was submitted to present Members with the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2017-20 and described the steps which would be undertaken to consult on the proposals with the public and other stakeholders.

Councillor Ayris referred to the action plan, and he queried whether any projections had been undertaken on the effect on response times for the second pump attendance.

T/DCFO Blunden confirmed that projections on the effect on response times for second pump attendance had been undertaken when the Authority had employed the current IRMP, which had removed the second pump at Barnsley Fire Station and had changed day time staffing to night time retained. It was noted that within the current IRMP, the same arrangements would be made at Rotherham Fire Station on 20 March and at Doncaster Fire Station in 2018/19. Analysis had been undertaken to ensure that, whilst there would be an impact on attendance times, it was minimised as far as possible to ensure that other appliances available on the other stations would attend as quickly as possible.

Councillor Ayris requested that Members be provided with the data.
T/DCFO Blunden would provide this information.

Councillor Haith queried when the Integrated Risk Management Plan would be brought back to the Authority for approval.

T/DCFO Blunden said this would be presented to the Authority meeting on 3 April.

Councillor Ransome referred to the Community Risk Model, and she queried the Doncaster high risk areas.

T/DCFO Blunden commented that the high risk areas related to deprivation and density of environment, which indicated the risk in terms of floods and fires to a particular area.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Approved the contents of the draft IRMP 2017-20.
- ii) Approved a six week consultation period on the proposals in the draft plan.

16 STRONGER SAFER COMMUNITIES RESERVE EVALUATION

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented seeking approval to commission Rocket Science to carry out a social return on investment analysis of the use of Stronger Safer Communities Reserve (SSCR) funds to date.

Members noted that a report had been presented to the Authority meeting in July 2016, which had outlined a revised delivery model for the use of the remaining funds and recommended that a small-scale research project be undertaken to evaluate the impact of £1.4m spent or committed to projects in Rounds 1 and 2 undertaken in 2013/14 and 2015/16.

RESOLVED – That Members approved £9,800 from the SSCR fund for the Social Return on Investment (SROI) evaluation contained in Appendix A to the report.

17 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 2017/18 for consideration of the full Authority, as required under the Localism Act 2011.

Councillor Ayris referred to a requirement under the Localism Act 2011 for the Authority to have a policy on pay multiples for senior staff. He queried whether the pay multiples took into account the overtime or time off in lieu awarded to senior officers.

A Brown commented that overtime or time off in lieu awarded to senior officers would not be included within the pay multiples, as it was the base grade that was taken into account.

Councillor Haith suggested that it would be helpful for year on year comparisons to be provided within future reports. For this year, Councillor Haith had obtained the information which indicated the ratio was similar to last year.

Councillor Ransome referred to other Fire and Rescue Services in the region, and queried whether the management pay structure was based on the size of the area and the number of staff, as South Yorkshire appeared to be one of the highest in the region for pay. She referred to the Thomas Review which had been discussed at the last Authority meeting, and had highlighted this issue.

Councillor Aktin specified that the Chief Fire Officer's salary was set against the national pay scales, and other salaries were set in comparisons based on an agreed ratio.

M Topham referred to a joint review undertaken in relation to the pay of the Chief Fire Officer with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service many years ago, using an external provider. The Chief Fire Officer's salary had been developed outside of the national pay spines and had moved forward on an Authority approved basis. Any changes made since the initial deviation from the national pay spines had been undertaken in partnership with Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. He referred to the Thomas Review which suggests a model for assessing principal officer pay, acknowledging the different pay scales across the fire sector and links between some authorities in the terms of resources and sizes.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the Pay Policy Statement.

18 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT (SLA) WITH BARNSELEY MBC: 1ST APRIL 2017 - 31ST MARCH 2018

A report of the Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority was presented to provide Members with an updated Service Level Agreement (SLA) for consideration, and sought Authority approval to implement the revised SLA with effect from 1 April 2017.

Councillor Ayris queried whether it was the intention to undertake a whole scale review of BMBC services over the coming year, to establish a revised position for Members' consideration as part of the 2018/19 budget setting.

A Frosdick anticipated that fees would remain the same. However, work would be undertaken during 2017/18 to enable more transparency around the services provided and the costs incurred. This work would be undertaken in collaboration with the 'new Director of Support Services and Barnsley MBC Finance. A more detailed SLA would be presented to Members in February 2018.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the revised Service Level Agreement (SLA).
- ii) Agreed its implementation with effect from 1 April 2017.
- iii) Reviewed the SLA on an annual basis.

19 QUARTER 3 2016/17 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was submitted informing Members of the projected revenue and capital spend for 2016/17 based on actual and committed expenditure to December 2016 and a projection of spend in the final quarter of the year.

Members were referred to the November Authority meeting, where the projected outturn report as at September 2016 had been presented, which projected an under spend of £103,000. Following a reduction of approximately £15,000 to the under spend there was a new projected value of £88,000. A number of variances within the third quarter had offset each other in the main.

Councillor Ayris referred to SSUK Ltd. He understood that Members had been assured that they would be provided with regular updates as shareholders. He queried whether the SSUK Board had met at the end of January and the reasoning why the SSUK Special General Meeting scheduled for today had been cancelled.

L Noble confirmed that the SSUK Board had met on 27 January. The SSUK Special General Meeting had been scheduled for today, but due to timing issues, that meeting would now take place on 3 April, and the Annual Shareholders meeting would be held on the 26 June, at the conclusion of the Fire Authority AGM. The SSUK Board would also meet again between the SSUK Special General Meeting and the Annual Shareholders meeting on 26 June.

Councillor Ayriss commented that it had been agreed at the last Special General meeting that the meeting would be held within 6 months, and that this time period would lapse if the next meeting was not held until 3 April.

L Noble informed Councillor Ayriss that she would raise the matter with D Cutting as Company Secretary.

Councillor Haith queried the excess of £48,000 from the budget of £900,000 for rates, and she also queried the total of £50,000 from the interest receivable that was budgeted at £85,000. She welcomed that expenses had totalled almost £8,000 less than budgeted.

S Howe commented that at the time the rates had been set, the rates for Birley and Parkway fire stations had been unknown, and an assumption had been made on similar builders and building works previously undertaken at Dearne Fire Station; for the rates had been higher than budgeted for which had been built into the 2017/18 budget. The interest income was due to the reduction in income rates.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the content of the report.

20 MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE & HUMBER EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2017

Members were presented with the minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire & Humber Employers' Association held on 19 January 2017, on which Councillor Haith was the Fire Authority representative.

Councillor Haith commented that she could raise any issues provided by Members at future meetings.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the minutes of the meeting of the Yorkshire & Humber Employers' Association held on 19 January 2017.

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 ESTABLISHING A MTFA TEAM WITHIN SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted in relation to the establishment of an MTFA team within South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- i) Considered the initial MTFA Business Case.

- ii) Approved the initial MTFA Business Case.
- iii) Considered the implications for South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

CHAIR