

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

23 NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT: Councillor R Taylor (Chair)
Councillor T Damms (Vice-Chair)
Councillors: S Ayris, A Buckley, T Cave, R Frost, P Haith,
C Hogarth, P Price, C Ransome, S M Richards, C Ross and
Dr A Billings

CFO A Johnson, DCFO C Kirby, ACO T Carlin and S Booth
(South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service)

M McCarthy, M McCoole and I Rooth
(Barnsley MBC)

M Buttery
(Office of the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner)

Apologies for absence were received from N Copley, M Potter,
L Noble, S Norman and A Mullen

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the recent Business Continuity Institute's Global Awards Ceremony, the Service had been awarded the Most Effective Recovery Award for the support provided in the recovery arrangements to the South Yorkshire flooding incident that had occurred in November 2019. The award had been presented to the Service's Internal Resilience Planning and Contingency Team, whilst recognising the wide ranging support that had been provided by the Control staff, operational firefighters, support services and senior officers. It had been recognised that the Service had rescued more than 300 people during the incident and had pumped away an estimated 363 million litres of flood water.

Members acknowledged the significant challenges and hardship that had been encountered by those individuals effected by the flooding incident. The Service would release a communication on the matter today, via social media.

3 URGENT ITEMS

None.

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

RESOLVED – That agenda item 19 entitled '2015 Trade Dispute' 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 Frost expressed his thanks, on behalf of the BMBC Members, to DCFO Kirby for the virtual meeting held on 17 November 2020. At the meeting the IRMP had been presented and discussions had ensued in relation to the consultation on the proposed response strategy, together with other topics.

Councillor Taylor also gave his thanks to DCFO Kirby, on behalf of the RMBC Members.

7 RECEIPT OF PETITIONS

None.

8 TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, OR COMMUNICATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIR OR THE CLERK AND TO PASS SUCH RESOLUTIONS THEREON AS THE STANDING ORDERS PERMIT AND AS MAY BE DEEMED EXPEDIENT

None.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 12 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 12 October 2020 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

10 COVID-19 UPDATE

Members were provided with an update on SYFR's response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Service and the communities within South Yorkshire continued to be effected by the local and national restrictions that had resulted from the rise in the number COVID-19 cases. In October 2020, the Service had published a set of operational parameters which had been aligned to the 3 tier system that had been introduced by the Government in terms of the local alert systems. This had enabled the Service to align its non-emergency response activity to the 3 tiers that the Service may operate in at any one time. The operational parameters had been communicated well with teams internally, whilst endeavouring to ensure that the Service continued to maintain some element of its core activities during the highest level of the restrictions. Physical visits would continue be made to commercial properties and homes, if it was warranted following thorough risk assessments from a fire safety perspective.

As a result of the increased restrictions, the Service had restricted the access to the 999 Control Room, which was a critical area of service. A compliance framework had been introduced across the Service to ensure that the guidance was being followed, and local managers undertook daily checks to ensure that the relevant arrangements were in place, to enable the workplace to be as safe as possible. Following the introduction of the new national restrictions, the support staff had been advised to continue to work from home wherever possible, unless it was essential to come into the workplace. The Service had observed the benefits of agile working, together with the experience and learning that had been gained from the first lockdown period.

The Service continued to play an active role in the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) which continued to meet twice weekly. CFO Johnson co-chaired the LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group. The meetings specifically focused upon the recovery and response arrangements. This provided an opportunity for agencies to seek support from across the LRF. The Service had been identified as an organisation which may be able to provide support within a number of areas. The Service continued to operate underneath a national tri-party agreement, which allowed fire and rescue services to apply their resources to a number of other areas to support the wider response and recovery efforts around the pandemic; an extension to this was being sought through the National Fire Chiefs Council. The Service had received very good feedback from partners in relation to its 'can do' attitude and the way in which the Service had responded to the pandemic.

The Service had observed a general reduction in the number of staff that had been effected by the pandemic, in comparison to the position a few weeks ago. On 20 November 2020 a total of 44 members of staff had been self-isolating, which on 23 November 2020 had reduced to 30 members of staff that were self-isolating and six confirmed COVID-19 cases.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

11 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2020/21

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive and Clerk and Treasurer was presented as the second in a series of reports that Members would receive throughout the financial year, to inform them as to the likely financial performance for the year ended 31 March 2021. The report included an estimated revenue outturn position when compared to the annual budget set on the 10 February 2020, together with an updated reserves position statement, an update on the capital programme, and a narrative commentary to explain the key financial changes that contributed to each of them.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- a) Noted the emerging underlying estimated revenue performance which showed a potential operating underspend of £2.785m for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.

- b) Noted the underlying and significant financial risks likely to be facing the Service and Sector and UK public services during the remainder of this financial year and into 2021/2022.
- c) Noted the latest estimated change in General and Earmarked Reserves as set out in Section C of the report and the proposed approach for using any operating underspend for the financial year ending 2020/21.
- d) Noted the adjusted capital programme for the financial year ending 2020/21, which was broadly in line with expectations due to Covid-19 restrictions.

12 WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PLAN NOVEMBER 2020 - MARCH 2022

A report of the Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive was submitted which outlined the business cases that had been approved in principle by the Senior Leadership Team at the workforce planning event in July 2020, for Members to consider as an investment as part of the wider Service Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED – That Members approved the business cases contained within the Workforce Investment Plan to support the Service’s strategic objectives and Service Improvement Plan.

13 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2021 - 2024

A report of the Clerk and Treasurer was presented which provided an early insight and understanding as to the likely financial performance and position of the Service ahead of the Government’s Spending Review and Settlement (November/ December 2020), and the proposed Annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax Setting report which was due to be considered by Members at the Authority meeting to be held on 22 February 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members:-

- a) Accepted the updated MTFP for the financial years 2021/22 to 2023/24 noting the contents of this report, and in particular the likely implications of the different funding scenarios for the operational service and future financial position.
- b) Endorsed the proposed approach for managing reserves as set out in Section C of the report in particular, the proposal to increase the Generally Available Reserve by any in year (2020/21) operating underspend until such time as there was greater clarity on the funding position in relation to the Covid pandemic and/or the longer term Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and to note the likely use of those useable earmarked reserves over the term of the Plan.
- c) Noted the up to date approved capital investment programme spending and financing projections 2020/21 to 2023/24 (Section D of the report).

- d) Agreed to consider new, additional capital investment schemes for approval into the current capital programme as part of the 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax Setting Report (Section D of the report).
- e) Noted the known financial risks, uncertainties and events that would need careful consideration and management in the run up to and when setting the 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax (Section E of the report) and beyond this date.

14 REGIONAL COLLABORATION UPDATE

A report of the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive was submitted which provided an overview of the Service's collaboration with regional Fire and Rescue colleagues, notably the advancements of Command Support collaboration and the co-procurement of Personal Protective Equipment.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the progress of the current regional collaborations.

15 POLICE AND FIRE COLLABORATION UPDATE

Members noted that the Service was working very closely with South Yorkshire Police (SYP) on a range of matters in relation to COVID-19 including the tripartite, information and intelligence sharing, and the Local Resilience Forum.

The Heads of Occupational Health at the Service and SYP were undertaking collaborative working in order to provide a more efficient and effective occupational health system. Both organisations continued to deliver training to each other whilst ensuring that the courses were at full capacity, and facilities continued to be shared. Work was underway across the board regarding equality, diversity and wellbeing to ascertain learning from SYP on the recruitment of a more diverse workforce. Rose Regeneration was in the process of undertaking an external evaluation of the collaboration programme, which would be presented to the Authority in the New Year. The Service's stores workshop at the Eastwood site was now up and running, which had a significantly reduced footprint and a more modern and professional racking system had been installed. The Joint Community Safety Department continued to operate as 'business as usual'. During the last calendar year, a total of 26,500 children had received fire school packages, 4923 home visits had been undertaken and almost 17,000 children had attended Crucial Crew.

A decision had been made at a recent Police and Fire Collaboration Board meeting, to commission work on the amicable uncoupling of the Estates joint management arrangements and to develop an accompanying exit strategy and plan.

CFO Johnson had produced a briefing note, which would be circulated onto the Members to provide further information.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update.

16 LOCAL PENSION BOARD KEY ISSUES AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2020

Members were presented with the key issues paper and the minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting held on 8 October 2020.

The Local Pension Board and the Chair of the Authority had submitted a joint response to the McCloud/Sargent consultation which had closed on 11 October 2020.

RESOLVED – That Members noted the key issues paper and the minutes of the Local Pension Board Meeting held on 8 October 2020.

17 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2020

RESOLVED – That Members noted the draft minutes of the Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Association Meeting held on 15 October 2020.

18 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.

19 2015 TRADE DISPUTE

RESOLVED – That Members noted the update provided in relation to the 2015 Trade Dispute.

Actions Table

No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
1	To present information to Members over the next 12 months to enable the Performance Management Framework to be shaped, prior to Authority approval.	CAG	ACO Carlin	On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i> <u>Update 24-11-20</u> Members received a presentation on the proposed revisions to the performance management framework.

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No.	Action	Timescale	Officer(s)	Status/ Update
				The Service will liaise with Cllrs Buckley and Cave on the detail with a view to a discussion at a CAG in the New Year.
2	To provide Members with an update on Power Bi at a future CAG meeting.	CAG	J Patrick	<p>On the CAG agenda for 9 November 2020 (provisional date) <i>(NB: slipped from 8th Sept CAG due to IRMP)</i></p> <p><u>Update 24-11-20</u></p> <p>Members received an update on the roll-out of Power Bi and the training for Members. <i>NB: Training for 12 Members of the FRA fixed for w/c 23rd November 2020.</i></p>
3	To provide sufficient detail on apprentices within the Financial Performance Reports.		S Booth	
4	Digital and ICT Development Plan 2020-2021 Update.	FRA 11-01-21	S Locking	
5	Workforce Development Strategy Report.	Future FRA meeting		
6	To present the final version of the IRMP.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	

7	To present a final Annual Service Plan to Members for approval.	FRA 11-01-21	DCFO Kirby	
8	To provide a final report on the SSCR Round 3 funding.	FRA 26-04-21 (Provisional)	M McCarthy	
9	To provide further transparency to the figures in future Procurement Service reports to enable Members to identify whether real budgetary revenue savings had been made, savings on the capital investment programme, cost avoidance or artificial savings.		S Booth and D Nichols	
10	To provide Members with a briefing note in relation to the Police and Fire Collaboration Update		M McCoole	<u>Update 23-11-20</u> Information provided by email. ACTION DISCHARGED

CHAIR

Please follow the link below for further information on the updates of the actions arising from the Fire and Rescue Authority meetings:-

<https://meetings.southyorks.gov.uk/ecSDDisplayClassic.aspx?NAME=SD1250&ID=1250&RPID=402996&sch=doc&cat=13039&path=13039&zTS=D>