



Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 17 September 2021

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor D O'Donovan (Chair), G Almas, C Anderson, C Burke, R Downes, P Harrand, A Hutchison, J Illingworth, D Kirton, M Midgley, N Mohammed, S Nazir, M Pervaiz, M Pollard, S Press, K Renshaw, I Sanders, F Shaheen, J Sunderland, S Tulley and L Whitehouse

In Attendance: None

Apologies: None

22 Chair's announcements

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee would meet upon the rising of this meeting.

Visit to the Smokehouse

As part of the Member development programme, a visit to the Smokehouse had been arranged for several Councillors following this meeting.

23 Admission of the public

The meeting determined that there were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

24 Urgent items

None.

25 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter under discussion at the meeting.

26 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 June 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

27 Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes.

28 Minutes of Committees held since 24 June 2021 and of other relevant outside bodies

Information was sought and given regarding the installation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) storage units as detailed at Min. no. 10 of the Finance and Resources Committee Minutes dated 16 July 2021.

An enquiry was also made about the auditing arrangements for the procurement of mobile devices (Audit Committee Min no. 6, 30 July 2021)

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of Committees and other relevant outside bodies as circulated be received.

29 Performance Management report

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April 2021 – 30 June 2021. A copy of the latest performance figures up to 17 September had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Sadly another two fire fatalities had been recorded since 30 June.

Members commented on the following issues;

- Safe and Well visit referral procedures for those people living with partners with dementia
- Time taken off work and publicity of attacks on firefighters and apprehension of those involved.
- Use of body worn cameras
- Legislation and licencing arrangements relating to the storage of tyres
- Suspected cause of the large furniture warehouse fire in Bradford

- Programme of youth intervention days and how community groups might make referrals, and
- Consideration of a revision to future performance management reports to include statistics relating to the constitution of the workforce

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

30 Calendar of meetings 2021 – 22 - amendment

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report seeking approval for the amendment of the date of the annual meeting of the Authority in June 2022 for the reasons as detailed in the report now submitted.

RESOLVED

That the annual meeting of the Authority in June 2022 be amended to 30 June 2022.

31 Fire Service Headquarters business case

Members considered a report of the Director of Service Support which advised of the formal business case (attached to the report now submitted) to develop the Birkenshaw site to deliver the headquarters, Fire control and training functions.

Following approval of the preferred Option 6 within the business case, including a capital budget spend of £15,379,609 over the next three years, it was anticipated to enter Stage 2 of the programme in October 2021 with site completion in early 2024.

Members raised the following issues;

- Inclusion of reference to carbon neutrality
- Sufficiency of contingencies and accuracy of OPEX revenue costs
- Transfer of Fire Control and impact on agreement with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Possible co-location with partners eg. West Yorkshire Police
- Employee and stakeholder engagement
- Social value

It was reported that progress reports would be submitted to Members as appropriate and in accordance with the timeline attached as an annex to the report now submitted.

RESOLVED

- a) That, through the SCAPE framework (public sector owned procurement specialist), West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service progress with Option 6 of the business case to demolish the main Training Centre building, build a new headquarters to incorporate Fire Control, a new training area, conferencing facilities, the build of a new Fire Station (to replace Cleckheaton station), refurbish other properties (as detailed) and release Oakroyd Hall and land to the west for sale,

- b) That a budget of £18,707,545 be allocated to the HQ development programme, to be reviewed and refined during the detail design and consultation phase at Stages 2 and 3,
- c) That any revisions to the budget at b) above be presented to the Authority for approval,
- d) That the engagement and employment of a project management team for the duration of the build and redevelopment be approved (as detailed at paragraph 11.3 of the report now submitted),
- e) That a spend of £945,595 be approved for the completion of the detailed design with a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) being obtained prior to the commencement of construction, and
- f) That, in the absence of a suitable GMP or design, the Framework be closed and not progressed to construction (all design work and costings completed becoming the property of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service).

32 Grenfell Tower Programme update

Members received a report submitted by the Director of Service Delivery which provided an update on the work being undertaken in response to the findings of the Grenfell Tower Phase One inquiry.

It was reported that a gap analysis had been undertaken of all 46 recommendations from the inquiry and an action plan had been developed around ten thematic areas as follows;

- Buildings and fire safety measures
- Operational pre-planning
- Command and control
- Operations
- Control
- Communications
- Equipment
- Human factors
- Training
- Miscellaneous

In addition to the national legislative changes of the new Fire Safety Act 2021 and the Building Safety bill and in view of the recent restrictions related to COVID19, progress in the ten thematic areas across West Yorkshire was reported as follows;

- 100+ buildings identified over 18m high with unsafe external wall systems (including timber balconies, missing fire breaks and poor/limited fire stopping). The majority of these had interim measures in place and work would continue to assess ongoing risks and impact to residents and firefighters (including possible issue of prohibition / restriction notices)
- Building risk review to be completed by the end of 2021 (550 buildings in scope with 300 having had a recent Fire Protection audit followed by the creation of tactical information plans)

- Support being given to the academic research, commissioned by the Home Office, regarding safe evacuation and of the work being undertaken by the National Fire Chiefs' Council (NFCC)
- Production of a suite of documents including an Evacuation and Fire Survival guidance policy (including firefighter training in a realistic environment)
- Commissioning of an internal audit inspection into arrangements for effectively managing the risk associated with failure to implement the inquiry recommendations – “substantial assurance”
- Smoke curtain installed on each front-line appliance during February – March 2021
- Procurement of two National Air Police Service receivers allowing images and videos to be streamed directly from police aircraft to command units
- Introduction of a number of relevant practical and theoretical training packages
- Continued communication with a range of internal and external stakeholders (including an internal survey of operational crews)

Members were advised that, of the 46 recommendations, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service had;

- Completed - 20
- Ongoing – 25
- Not started – 1

and, of the total 88 internal Grenfell project objectives, 32 had been completed, 47 were ongoing with the remaining 9 to date not having been started.

It was further reported that a Grenfell infrastructure grant had been received from central government including, but not limited to, staff costs, procurement and exercise planning.

The following issues were raised by Members;

- Availability of government funding and sufficiency of the government grant to date
- Impact on the resources of the Fire Protection team and additional work to be undertaken as the work became Business as Usual (BAU), and
- Consultation with residents and lobbying of Government

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

33 Programme of change 2021 – 22 - update

The Director of Service Support submitted a report which detailed progress made in relation to the Programme of Change 2021 – 22. The projects were not ranked in order of priority but would be remain flexible to meet the demands of each relevant department.

Since the publication and circulation of papers, it was reported that Phase 2 of the Mobile Working project had been delivered and the delay in the vehicle CCTV project had now been overcome with the award of the tender.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair