



# Minutes

## Executive Committee

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Date: 19 February 2016

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

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Present: Councillor J Hughes (in the Chair), T Austin, P Harrand, B Smith, C Townsley and A Wallis

In Attendance: None

Apologies: None

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### **43 Minutes of the last meeting**

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of a meeting held on 5 January 2016 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **44 Urgent items**

There were two urgent items which the Chair had agreed to consider at the meeting as follows;

E7 Former Haworth Fire Station (Min no. 49 refers)

E8 Purchase of Land for replacement of Moortown and Cookridge (Min no. 50 refers)

These items were urgent on the grounds that communication had been received since the despatch of the committee papers from an interested party (Former Haworth Fire Station) which required consideration and that a valuation for the relevant site (replacement for Moortown and Cookridge) had only be received from Leeds City Council on 17 February 2016.

## 45 Admission of the public

### RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business specified below as it was likely, in view of the nature of business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during these items that there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of the descriptions specified.

| AGENDA ITEM NO | TITLE OF REPORT  | MINUTE NUMBER | Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number(s) in Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972. |
|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| E6             | Yorkshire and Humber Employers' Association – budget and staffing proposals  | 48            | Paragraphs 1 and 3 – relating to individuals and financial or business affairs  |
| E7             | Former Haworth Fire Station  | 49            | Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs   |
| E8             | Purchase of site – replacement site for Cookridge and Moortown Fire Stations | 50            | Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs   |

## 46 Declarations of interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

## 47 Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services – summary of consultation responses and next steps

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer which sought Members' views on the content of the Government response to the consultation "Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services" and a course of action for the Fire Authority.

The report set out the responses that had been received to the October 2015 consultation on proposals to achieve a greater level of joined-up and joint working between the emergency services. This committee had considered the consultation document at a meeting held on 16 October 2015 and submitted responses on behalf of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority (min no. 32 refers).

Members were advised that, nationally to date, the responses had indicated that there had not been a uniform approach to the Government's picture of collaboration to be led by Police and Crime Commissioners. A meeting had been arranged for the relevant parties in West Yorkshire (Fire, Police and Ambulance) to further the drive to greater efficiencies and improved outcomes for the community of West Yorkshire and this report sought guidance on broad policy decisions to inform those Members and officers who were to be involved in that and any future meetings.

The Executive Committee unanimously,

## **RESOLVED**

That, in recognition of the benefits that may be achieved from some degree of shared services (including shared premises, back-office functions, ICT and procurement) whilst recognising the non co-terminous footprint of the West Yorkshire blue light emergency services and the progress that was being made with the Leeds City Region deal, a letter of intent be sent to the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner setting out as follows;

- a) That it confirms unanimous opposition to the abolition of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service becoming part of the functional responsibility of the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner;
- b) That the Fire Authority should continue to work closely with and contribute to the ongoing work of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority in relation to the reform of public services and the development of closer working and greater collaboration across the blue light services;
- c) That the Fire Authority should not await primary legislation by the Government and the introduction of a high level duty to collaborate for it to cooperate fully with its partner emergency services and others to pursue opportunities for increased collaboration and improved efficiency; and
- d) That an invitation for the Police and Crime Commissioner to have representation on the Fire and Rescue Authority would not be extended.

## **48 Yorkshire and Humberside Employers' Organisation – budget and staffing 2016 – 17**

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12A (1) and (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to individuals and financial and business affairs)

The Chief Employment Services Officer submitted a report which sought advice on a response to the proposed alternative budgets and staffing arrangements for the Yorkshire and Humberside Employers' Organisation including a possible increase in the levels of annual subscription fees.

## **RESOLVED**

That a formal response to the budget and staffing proposals for 2016 – 17 be drafted by the Chief Employment Services Officer on behalf of the Authority to reflect the proposed responses at Annex 2 to the report now submitted together with the draft responses circulated at the meeting and to convey the main message that the budget for the Yorkshire and Humberside Employers' Organisation should be realistic and be not predicated on unachievable income generation.

## **49 Former Haworth Fire Station**

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to financial and business affairs)

Members received a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery which provided an update on the current status of the former fire station at Haworth which had remained vacant since December 2014. The site had remained unsold pending the outcome of discussions with local community interest groups with regard to a local, volunteer-based delivery of community safety services out of the building.

## **RESOLVED**

- a) That, in the absence of any formal funded proposals for the future community use of the site, authorisation be given to officers to dispose of the site to any preferred bidder (subject to satisfactory legal status and objectives) on the terms of disposal within defined West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority procedures which will include a maximum time of 3 months from the date of this meeting for a bid to be submitted and for the bidder to be in position to enter into a formal contract of sale and a maximum of a further 3 months for completion to take place; and
- b) That the decision at a) above be communicated to partners who have previously been involved in discussions relating to the future use of the former Haworth Fire station site.

## **49 Purchase of site – replacement site for Cookridge and Moortown**

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12A (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to financial and business affairs)

The Director of Service Support submitted a report which provided Members with an update in relation to progress with the procurement of a suitable site for the fire station to replace Cookridge and Moortown fire stations and which sought approval for the procurement of the most suitable and cost effective site as identified in the report now submitted.

It was reported that this site would replace the previously considered proposals for shared use of the police site at Weetwood. The new site would deliver the same efficiencies and there would be no significant changes to service delivery. No additional external consultation would, therefore, be required under the terms of the Authority's approved Communication and Engagement Strategy.

## **RESOLVED**

That approval be given to officers to enter into negotiations with Leeds City Council for the procurement of a site to replace Cookridge and Moortown fire stations as identified in the report now submitted.

Chair

