



Minutes

Executive Committee

Date: 08 April 2016

Time: 12 noon

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillors J Hughes (in the chair), T Austin, P Harrand, C Townsley and A Wallis

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor B Smith

50 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of a meeting held on 19 February 2016 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

51 Urgent items

None.

52 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.
6	Review of Lease Car Benchmarks	55	Paragraph 4 – relating to labour relations, consultations or negotiations
E7	Chief Finance and Procurement Officer – working arrangements	56	Paragraph 1 – relating to an individual
E8	Update on New Control Project	57	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

53 Declarations of interest

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

54 Appointment of External Auditors 2018 – 19

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer which advised of a statutory requirement under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 for the Authority to appoint an external auditor for 2018 – 19 and beyond.

Members were advised of three alternative methods as follows;

- establish a West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority external auditor appointment panel
- set up a joint panel with one or more other local authorities
- use a sector-led body as the appointment person under the Act (Local Government Association)

The report included detail of how the panel should be constituted together with its functions and funding arrangements, and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each of the three options.

RESOLVED

- a) That the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority notifies the Local Government Association of its interest in using the Association's resources (sector-led panel) to appoint external auditors for 2018 – 19 onwards; and
- b) That the notification at a) above be made in recognition of the fact that it did not constitute a formal commitment at this stage.

55 Review of Lease Car Benchmarks

RESOLVED

- a) That consideration of the report be deferred pending further negotiations with the relevant Trade Unions (representative bodies); and
- b) That the temporary suspension of the lease car scheme be lifted until such time as the negotiations at a) above are concluded and the Executive Committee is able to reconsider the benchmarking scheme.

56 Update on New Control Project

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

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Service Delivery submitted a report which updated Members on the continued progress with the Control Collaboration project and the options available to resolve the outstanding issues with the suppliers, Systel.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That the Authority continues to work closely with Systel to maintain recent progress as detailed in Option 2 of the report now submitted; and
- c) That Members of the Executive Committee be updated on a quarterly basis with regard to progress towards the “steady state”.

57 Chief Finance and Procurement Officer – working arrangements

(This item was considered as exempt information under Schedule 12A (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 – information relating to an individual)

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer which sought to address the balance between the contracted and actual working time undertaken by the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer since approval was given in 2012 to a reduction in contracted hours from 37 to 24 per week.

Due to a number of issues which had arisen since 2012, including the impact of the spending review, it had become apparent that an additional demand had been made on the officer’s time. Proposals were included in the report to address the imbalance whilst maintaining current working arrangements.

RESOLVED

- a) That a one-off pensionable payment be approved and made as detailed in the report now submitted in lieu of additional days worked compared to contracted hours by the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer; and
- b) That, in recognition of the fact that the additional hours worked were related to temporary / finite issues, no change be made to the contracted hours of the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer.

Chair