



Minutes

Finance & Resources Committee

Date: 15 July 2016

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor J Dodds (in the chair), C Anderson, R Grahame, L Holmes, C Pillai (as substitute for P Harrand), M Pollard, D Ragan, B Smith, C Townsley, A Wallis

In Attendance: None

Apologies: Councillor P Harrand, Councillor G Hussain

1 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Committee at a meeting held on 21 April 2017 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 Urgent items

None.

3 Admission of the public

RESOLVED

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

AGENDA ITEM NO.	TITLE OF REPORT	MINUTE NUMBER	Description of exempt information by reference to the paragraph number in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
E9	ICT Capital Schemes 2017-18	9	Paragraph 3 – financial or business affairs

4 Declarations of interest

None.

5 Environmental Working Group – annual update

Members received a report from the Chief Legal & Governance Officer providing updated information on the activities of the Environmental Working Group and detailed information on electricity gas and water consumption during the recording period which showed an overall total utility cost decrease of £4422.41 for 2016/17 although there were individual instances of cost increases. Reasons for that included conversion of coal fired boilers to gas. Members were pleased to note that employees had raised a total of £27,269 for charity via the textile and book recycling scheme.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

6 Treasury Management Annual report 2016 – 17

Members received a report from the Chief Finance & Procurement Officer presenting the Treasury Management Annual Report 2016/17 which reviewed borrowing and investment performance, prudential indicators and risk and compliance issues. It was noted that FRA investments stood at £9.77 million as at 31 March 2017 with an average lending rate for the year of 0.41%. The presenting officer informed the committee that the FRA had fully complied with all statutory and regulatory risk and compliance requirements during the year. There was little risk of volatility on borrowing costs in the current debt portfolio as interest rates are fixed and remain low. The Audit Committee was responsible for detailed scrutiny of treasury management performance. The report contained appendices with detailed tables of investments and prudential indicators.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 Quarterly financial review

Members received a report from the Chief Finance and Procurement Officer presenting the quarterly review of the financial position of the FRA over the last 3 months of the current financial year including both revenue and capital expenditure. The current forecast projected a significant underspend of £1.464 million in the current year largely caused by a predicted underspending on employee costs. However the Chief Executive / Chief Fire Officer expressed a note of caution over this because of the potential impact of the pending firefighters pay settlement which was likely to significantly exceed previously anticipated

costs particularly if there was a shortfall on government grant support to meet these costs. Other predicted underspends were likely in Transport Supplies and Services Budgets and an extra £100,000 was anticipated in additional income from Primary Authority schemes and other schemes. Members asked for further information to identify the overall total for capital receipts covering the whole of the fire station reorganisation and disposal programme and whether it might be possible to improve creditor payment time scales. The report also set out in Appendix 1 the revised capital plan 2017/18 which the committee was required to approve.

RESOLVED

- a) That the report be noted;
- b) That the revisions to the current year's capital plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

8 Information Governance annual update

Members received a report from the Chief Legal & Governance Officer which provided an annual update on the implementation of Information Governance arrangements within the FRA and reporting on Information Security Management Systems along with information about the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations which will come into force on 25 May 2018. Difficulties with fluctuating levels of FOIA requests impacting on limited staff resources were discussed. Whilst members were informed that current obligations had been met this would present a challenge if there was any significant overall increase in such requests especially given the demands of GDP Regulations compliance.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

E9 ICT Capital Schemes 2017-18

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

Members received a report from the Director of Service Support requesting specific approval for the release of funds for the replacement of VMware servers and software which was part of the overall capital plan authorised by the FRA in February and in line with the ICT strategy for 2016/20. The cost of financing the plan is included in the approved revenue budget.

RESOLVED

That the specific sums detailed in the report required in connection with the required servers and storage facilities be approved.