

Minutes

Finance and Resources Committee

Date: 18 July 2025

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr Tulley (in the Chair) Cllrs Buckley, Carlisle, Downes, Garvani, Keith, O'Donovan Pollard, Renshaw and Shaheen.

Apologies:

Cllr Salam

1. Minutes of meeting held on 17 April 2025

Resolved

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 17 April 2025 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Urgent items

There were no urgent items

4. Admission of the public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public

5. Declarations of interest

There were no disclosures of disposable pecuniary interests.

6. Quarterly Financial Review

The Director of Finance and Procurement presented a report detailing the quarterly review of the financial performance of the Authority for the first 3 months of the current financial year and requesting approval of the revised capital plan and capital slippage into 2025/26.

Members requested and were given further information and background on the following:

- The one year industrial rate fixed term contract for electricity
- The delays to the 4x4 vehicles in the vehicle replacement programme, which are currently being built by the supplier to our specifications and any effects the delay may have on our operational capabilities, which is none.
- The revenue bidding process and any direct effects on operation.
- Possible effect of the pay awards for both green and grey book staff on budget planning
- Any delays to the new recruit training and assessment programme.
- The differences between Local Authority and Fire Authority formulas used in the Spending Review 2025.
- If our levels of our debt, are comparable with other Fire Authorities.
- The loan to Bedfordshire council.

Resolved

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That Members approve the revised capital plan
- c) That Members approve capital slippage into 2025/26

7. Incident Ground Radio Replacement

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report requesting approval to draw down funds approved in the capital plan for 2025/26, to purchase replacement incident ground digital radios.

Members sought confirmation that the new radios would have better cover in rural areas and their compatibility with other emergency services. Members discussed the timeline for completion of the procurement process, roll out of the radios and any required training. Members further discussed the options for disposal of the existing radios, which would be via FireAid or secure auction. They will not contribute to electrical waste and will be recycled.

Resolved

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That Members approve the draw down of funds to purchase replacement radios

8. Treasury Management Outturn

Members considered a report of The Director of Finance and Procurement which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2024/25, covering borrowing and investment performance, Prudential Indicators, and risk and compliance issues.

Members requested and were given further information and background on the Lobo loan.

Resolved

That the report be noted.

Chair