

Minutes

Full Authority

Date: 27 June 2024

Time: 10:30

Venue: Dewsbury Town Hall

Present:

Cllr D O'Donovan (in the chair), Cllrs B Addy, I Ahmed, A Ali, J Bryan, C Burke, E Carlisle, R Dickenson, R Downes, D Hall, T Hinchcliffe, C Keith, A Parnham, M Pollard, K Renshaw, T Salam, F Shaheen, U Sutcliffe, S Tulley and R Wood.

Apologies:

Cllrs K Bruce and L Buckley

1. Appointment of Chair

Resolved

That Councillor Darren O'Donovan be appointed as Chair of the Authority for the 2024/25 year.

2. Appointment of Vice-chair

Resolved

That Councillor Steve Tulley be appointed as Vice chair of the Authority for the 2024/25 year.

3. Membership of the Authority 2024/25

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report which confirmed the membership and political balance of the Authority for 2024/25 as notified by the five West Yorkshire District Councils. The changes to membership are as follows:

	New Member(s)	Retiring Member(s)
Bradford	Cllr Taj Salam (Bradford Independent Group)	Cllr Nusrat Mohammed (Labour)

Calderdale	Cllr Israr Ahmed (Labour)	Cllr Mohammed Shazad Fazal (Labour)
	Cllr Regan Dickenson (Conservative)	Cllr David Kirton (Conservative)
Kirklees	Cllr Beverley Addy (Labour)	Cllr Tyler Hawkins (Labour)
	Cllr Cahal Burke (Liberal Democrat)	Cllr Habiban Zaman (Labour)
Leeds	Cllr Ali Asgar (Labour)	Cllr Gohar Almas (Labour)
	Cllr Karen Bruce (Labour)	Cllr Zara Hussain (Labour)
	Cllr Lyn Buckley (Conservative)	Cllr Caroline Anderson (Conservative)
	Cllr Ed Carlisle (Green)	Cllr Andrew Hutchison (Morley Borough Independent)
	Cllr Tom Hinchcliffe (Labour)	Cllr Jordan Bowden (Labour)
	Cllr Andy Parnham (Labour)	Cllr John Garvani (Labour)
Wakefield	Cllr Jordan Bryan (Labour)	Cllr Nick Farmer (Conservative)

Resolved

That the Authority membership for 2024/25 be noted.

4. Chair's announcements

New members were welcomed to the Fire Authority.

5. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

6. Admission of the public

There were no items that required to exclusion of the press and public.

7. Declarations of interest

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

8. Committee memberships 2024/25

Consideration was given to the appointment of Committees, their composition, the allocation of seats between the political groups in accordance with the principles contained within Part 1 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended) and to the appointment Chair and Vice chairs to the Authority's Committees.

In addition, consideration was given to the membership of the Briefing Groups convened prior to formal meetings of the principal Committees and of the Authority itself.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Authority that the Liberal Democrat members – Cllrs Cahal Burke and Ryk Downes, the Green Members – Cllrs Ed Carlisle and

Ursula Sutcliffe and the Bradford Independent Group Member – Cllr Taj Salam are to join a Constituted Political Group in accordance with The Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 Section 8

In view of this announcement the allocation of Committee Memberships was delayed until the next meeting of the Full Authority, which is the Extraordinary General Meeting scheduled for 12 July 2024.

Resolved

That, in accordance with the principles of determination set out in Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as modified) the allocation of Committee seats between the political groups be as follows;

Ordinary seats	45
Labour Group	27
Conservative Group	8
Constituted Group	10

and;

That the allocation of committee memberships and substitute memberships for 2024/25 be delayed to 12 July 2024

9. Nomination of Members to answer questions at meetings of constituent authorities and of District Community Safety lead representatives

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer which sought the appointment of members to answer questions at meetings of constituent authorities and of District Community Safety Lead Representatives.

Resolved

That the Members be nominated as required by the Local Government Act 1985 to answer questions within their individual Council on the discharge of functions etc by this Authority as follows;

Bradford	Councillor Shaheen
Calderdale	Councillor Ahmed
Kirklees	Councillor O'Donovan
Leeds	Councillor Renshaw
Wakefield	Councillor Tulley

And

That the Members approved at a) above be approved as District Community Safety Lead representatives in their respective Districts 2024/25.

10.Appointment of Member Champions 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer which sought the appointment of relevant Member Champions for 2024/25.

Resolved

That Councillor D O'Donovan be appointed Member Champion for Mental Health and Councillor Shaheen be appointed Member Champion for Diversity and Inclusion for 2024/25.

11.Representation on Outside Bodies for 2024/25

Members considered the appointment of representatives to serve on the Local Government Association and other outside bodies for the year 2024/25.

Resolved

That the following appointments be made for 2024/25;

LGA General Assembly	Chair, Councillors K Renshaw, S Tulley and D Hall (or their nominated representatives)
LGA Fire Commission	Chair and Councillor D Hall (or their nominated representatives)
Yorkshire and Humber (Local Authorities) Employers' Association	Councillor F Shaheen (or her nominee)
Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation Management Committee	Councillor S Tulley (or his nominee)
West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Partnership Executive Group	Chair (or his nominee)
Tri-Service Collaboration Board	Chair (or his nominee)

12.Appointment of Independent Person

Members considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services recommending that the appointment of Ishaq Mahmood as Independent Person for the Authority is renewed for a further two year term.

Resolved

That Ishaq Mahmood will continue in his role as Independent Person for the Authority for a further two year term.

13.Minutes of meeting held on 29 February 2024

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

14.Matters arising

Members requested an update on the proposal to allocate funding towards Youth Intervention Team projects and were advised this will happen at start of new academic year when a new programme of training will be implemented.

There were no further matters arising from the previous Minutes.

15.Minutes of Committees held since 29 February 2024 and of other relevant Outside Bodies

Resolved

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

16.Constitution Review

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided an annual update of the Constitution, with various small amendments proposed.

Resolved

That the constitution be updated as detailed in the report, circulated to members and published to the web.

17.Member Training and Development Schedule

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided an introduction to the Member training and development schedule.

Resolved

That the training and development schedule for 2024/25 as detailed in the annex to the report now submitted is approved

18.Member Strategic Briefings

Members received a report from the Director of Corporate Services which provided an introduction to the member strategic briefings schedule.

Resolved

That the schedule of member strategic briefings for 2024/25 as detailed in the annex to the report now submitted, is approved.

19.Calendar of Meetings 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval for an amendment to the approved programme of meetings for 2024/25

Resolved

That the programme of meetings 2024/25 be amended as detailed in the report now submitted.

20. Performance Management Reports 2023/24 and 1 April 2024 – 18 June 2024

Members received a report from the Deputy Chief Fire Officer which summarised the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and detailed the Authority's performance against key performance indicators for the period 1 April 2024 to 18 June 2024.

Members noted and discussed the following:

- That the number of fire related fatalities has increased in 2023/24
- That despite a peak in the number of false alarms in Wakefield during 2023/24, the figure has reduced for the year to date.
- Clarification of safe and well visits, the partnerships fostered with the voluntary sector, NHS, police etc and the focus on risk areas.
- Attacks on Firefighters and the work done throughout the year with local community groups.
- The introduction of body worn cameras to provide evidence of such attacks to support prosecutions and the work done with perpetrators through victim education and restorative justice.
- Number, location and severity of fires connected with lithium batteries and the progress of work focused in this area.
- The variance in response times across all districts due to varying nature of the population and landscape.
- Fire related injuries by age.
- The increase in water related fatalities and the presence of Firefighters at hot spots during periods of hot weather.

Resolved

That the report be noted

21. 50th Year Celebrations

Members received a presentation from the Head of Corporate Communications detailing the plans for the 50th anniversary year celebrations to take place across all Districts, over the 2024/25 municipal year.

Members noted the opportunities to reach out to communities to promote the work of West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and to highlight our Community Heritage, including the new memorial area to be unveiled at the newly redeveloped FSHQ site.

Chair