

Minutes

Finance and Resources Committee

Date: 18 October 2024

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr Tulley (in the Chair) Cllrs Buckley, Carlisle, Downes, Hinchcliffe, Keith, O'Donovan, Pollard, Shaheen and Cllr Wood (as substitute for Cllr Butt)

Apologies:

Cllrs Butt and Salam

11.Minutes of meeting held on 19 July 2024

Resolved

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 July 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

12.Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

13.Urgent items

There were no urgent items

14.Admission of the public

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public

15.Declarations of interest

There were no disclosures of disposable pecuniary interests.

16.Quarterly Financial Review

The Director of Finance and Procurement presented a report detailing the quarterly review of the financial position of the Authority for the first six months of the financial year and requesting approval of the revised capital plan.

Members requested and were given further information and background on the following transfers to General Contingencies:

- over provision of pension contributions
- reduction in on-call employee budget

Members discussed the spending review and the costs associated with the Grenfel Tower reports Phase 1 and 2.

Members were advised that many options on the budget forecast have been considered but that the true picture would not be known until late December and a draft budget will be presented to the next Finance and Resources Committee. The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) explained that the service has written to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) regarding the business case requesting increased funding to cover the new statutory duties requested by the NFCC, i.e. flooding and inland water rescue, and the risks posed by lithium-ion batteries and electric vehicle fires.

Members further discussed

- The need to involve Fire and Rescue Services at the planning stage of new builds
- Ethical investments
- Debtors, the low written off debt figure and the comparison to other Authorities
- The slippage scheme, in particular the vehicle replacement scheme and the welfare unit.

Resolved

That members note the contents of the report and approve

- a) the revised capital plan
- b) the revised budget

17. Reserves Strategy

Members considered a report of the Director of Finance and Procurement which sought endorsement of the Reserves Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29.

Members challenged the report author regarding the FSHQ redevelopment and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and the reserves as a result from grants.

Resolved

That members approve the Reserves Strategy.

18. Control Replacement Project

The Director of Service Delivery presented a report requesting funding for a DIMETRA Dispatch Communication Server (DCS) which is required to maintain compliance with information transfer security requirements.

Members noted collaborative work with other partners and services, and the need to work from the same system which allows access to the Emergency Services Network (ESN). Members further noted that even though this is a virtual system, both the system currently in use by Service Delivery Centre, and the proposed new system, need to be run concurrently during the transition to the new headquarters.

Resolved

That members approve

- a) A capital budget of £94076.00 to purchase the DCS
- b) A revenue budget of £5374.00 for continued use of both systems over the transition period

Chair