

# Minutes

## Audit Committee

Date: 7 February 2025

Time: 10:30

Venue: FSHQ

Present:

Cllr Renshaw (in the chair) Cllrs Ahmed, Buckley, Carlisle, Parnham and Wood

In Attendance:

Simon Straker (Kirklees Audit) Sarah Jassal, Gareth Mills and Greg Charnley (Grant Thornton)

Apologies:

None

### **29.Minutes of last meeting held on 25 October 2024**

#### **Resolved**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2024 be signed by the Chair as a correct record

### **30.Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **31.Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

### **32.Admission of the public**

There were no items requiring the exclusion of the public and press.

### **33.Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to any item of business on the agenda.

### **34. Abridged Performance Management Report**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Services which informed members of the Authority's performance against Key Performance Indicators where targets are not being achieved during the period.

Members noted there was just one red indicator in the report which was Fatal Fires. The classification as "preventable" for 5 of the 17 fatalities was discussed, along with processes taken by WYFRS in the aftermath of tragic events, including fire investigations, reports to the coroner, lessons learnt, shared practices with partner agencies.

Members further noted that the increase in fires relating to e-scooters and lithium batteries was being tracked as a growing problem.

A Member expressed their thanks following personal experience of a visit from a Fire Officer, in their role in the community, and members were advised of the processes involved to identify individuals accessing such visits.

#### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### **35. Risk Management Strategy Group Quarterly Report**

Members were presented with a report from the Director of Corporate Services giving details of the risk management activity and developments reported to the Risk Management Strategy Group (RMSG) in December 2024 and highlighting any future risks or risk related areas.

Members were advised there are 43 risks on the register, including 8 very high risks. In the period considered, 17 risks have been reviewed and there were no changes in the scores of these.

Members were asked to note that a new section has been added to the risk matrix entitled Monitored Potential Risks. This is to monitor possible future risks that should be added to the register.

Members challenged the report author on the appetite for risk and requested the background of PRMS1.S (Failure to provide an effective commercial premises risk management system for operational response, which could have a significant impact on fire fighter safety, operational effectiveness, and organisational reputation)

Members challenged the report author on why there was no risk on the register relating to the increased usage of lithium batteries and battery storage sites and discussed the WYFRS Cyber Response Plan. Members further challenged the report

author on the classification of high for the risks relating to pay increases and industrial dispute.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### **36. Internal Audit Quarterly Report**

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted a report which provided a summary of the audit activity for the period October to December 2024.

In the period two audits have been completed; Efficiency & Productivity Plan 2024/25 and Headquarters Re-development - Main Contract, both of which received a substantial assurance opinion. Two Audits are ongoing: National Fraud Initiative 2024/25 and Keighley Fire Station Re-development.

Members challenged the report author regarding the ongoing Audits and the delays to the audit of the Keighley Fire Station Redevelopment and implementation of Grenfell Recommendations, which will be carried forward and charges adjusted accordingly.

Members further challenged the report author on the amounts that are still in dispute with the Headquarters Redevelopment Contractors, which relate to the identification of a mine shaft that was not found and the installation of an area of floor protection.

Members were advised there remains 3 audits to complete in this municipal year and that the plan for the 2025/26 Audit schedule will be brought to the next meeting.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

### **37. External Audit Annual Report 2023/24**

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted the Auditors Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Members were pleased to note that that the key message from the Auditors was that the Value for Money Report has gone well and no significant issues have been identified and that the Authority remains in a healthy financial position, with good contingency arrangements.

Members challenged the External Auditors on the processes employed to agree and implement their recommendations.

Members discussed the ongoing effect of the disclaimed opinion issued by the previous external auditors and it was noted that this was an issue across the sector and would gradually become less significant.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

Chair