

Minutes of the Audit Committee

19 December 2017
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road,
Birmingham B7 4HW

Present: Councillors T Singh (Chair), Aston, Idrees, Sealey,
P Singh
Mr Ager (Independent)

Apology: Cllr Williams

54/17 Declarations of Interests in contracts or other matters

There were no declarations of interest.

55/17 Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 13 November 2017

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 13 November 2017 be approved as a correct record.

Members confirmed that they had received a briefing note on Sprinklers as agreed at the meeting on the 13 November 2017.

56/17 Update on Topical, Legal and Regulatory Issues

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that the Provisional 2018/19 Financial Settlement was due to be published on the 19 December 2017.

The Treasurer stated that he had received official confirmation by email that the External Auditors for the Authority were Grant Thornton for the years 2018/19 – 2022/23.

(Official – WMFS – Low)

57/17 Exclusion of the Public and Press

Resolved that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 relating to information which was likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

58/17 Decision on Qualifying Injury

The Payroll and Pension Manager informed the Audit Committee, who act as the Scheme Manager, that the Regulator required the Scheme Manager to confirm their decision on a qualifying injury under the compensation regulations.

The Committee were informed of the details of the case and received the formal diagnosis from the Medical Adviser.

If confirmed, the Authority would be liable for the costs of any ill health injury claim and that these payments would be made by the Authority and not the Pension Scheme.

The Committee considered the specific points in relation to this case and it was confirmed that each case should be considered on its own merits and on the medical evidence provided. A decision in this case would not set a precedent for future cases.

The Committee also discussed the Injury benefits legislation and the future possible outcomes of confirming the case as a qualifying injury.

RESOLVED that the ill-health absence of the firefighter referred to the Committee be confirmed as a result of a qualifying injury under the rules of the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme.

The meeting finished at 1218 hours.

(Official – WMFS – Low)

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(Official – WMFS – Low)