

Minutes of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority

**17 September 2018 at 1100 hours at
Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

Present: Councillor John Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Zafar Iqbal (Vice Chair)
Councillors Aston, Barrie, Barlow, Brackenridge,
Craddock, Dehar, Edwards, Hogarth, Iqbal, Jenkins,
Miks, Spence, Tranter, Young

Mr M Ager, Independent Member
Sarah Middleton – Co-opted Member

Visitor: Jodie Robertson WMCA

66/18 Apologies for Absence

Councillor Walsh, Professor Simon Brake

67/18 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Brackenridge declared an interest in items 5, 6, and 7 of the Agenda. The Chair declared an interest in the same items and stated they were personal and non-pecuniary.

68/18 Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Sarah Middleton to her first meeting of the Authority in her role as a Co-opted Member.

The Authority's attention was brought to:

A MacMillan Coffee Morning being held in the Safeside Building on the 24 September 2018 at 1115 hours followed by tours of Safeside.

A Band Concert on 29 September at 1930 hours at Shirley Methodist Church.

A Band Concert on 8 December at 1600 hours at Church of St John Church, Wolverhampton.

The Brigade Carol Service St Martins, Bullring, Birmingham on Sunday 9 December at 1600 hours.

Cllr Hogarth requested that an email detailing the events be forwarded to Members.

69/18 **Chief Fire Officer's Announcements**

The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) stated that over the last twelve months he had been informing the Authority of the progress of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Following initial inspections and the first tranche of inspections it had been confirmed that the West Midlands Fire Service would be part of the 2nd Tranche of Inspections. The following dates had been confirmed:

Discovery Week – week commencing 3 December 2018
Strategic briefing – week commencing 13 January 2019
Two week Inspection – commencing 28 January 2019

The results of the Inspection were due in May 2019. There would be some involvement for Members of the Authority.

Health and Safety Inspections had been consolidated in 2010/11 and recommendations were made at the time. The Health and Safety Inspectorate would be following up on their recommendations and visited the Brigade on the 6 and 7 September 2018.

No Interventions have been made known and nothing has been reported in the intervening years.

A full report will be presented once the Inspections are completed.

70/18 **Minutes of the Fire Authority held on 25 June 2018**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 25 June 2018, be confirmed as a correct record.

71/18 **Audit Findings 2017/18**

The Authority noted the Audit Findings Report (AFR) 2017/18. The report was submitted to inform the Authority of the audit work undertaken by the external auditors and the findings as a consequence of this work.

The report was presented by the Treasurer in the absence of the External Auditor who related the key messages given by the External Auditor at the meeting of the Audit and Risk Committee held on the 23 July 2018.

Following the Audit and Risk Committee held in July 2018, the external auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2017/18 financial statements and this was included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts.

The External Auditor had concluded that for 2017/18 the Authority had proper arrangements in all significant respects to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness and to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources.

The Auditor confirmed the narrative of the Statement of Accounts was consistent with the accounts and the level of detail was sufficient.

The Auditor was required to provide a Value for Money conclusion following the National Audit Office's Auditor Guidance Note 3 (AGN 03) following the criterion for auditors to evaluate.

"In all significant aspects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people".

The Auditor had identified one significant risk in respect of the specific area in relation to the development of governance arrangements with the West Midlands Combined Authority.

The Clerk would discuss an amendment to the Value for Money Section of the Report for the following 2 items:

- The Auditor stated in his report that Scrutiny will be provided by a Mayoral Fire Advisory Committee, however, it was confirmed that Scrutiny would sit with the West Midlands Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this issue would be addressed in the Route Map to Mayoral Governance.
- It was confirmed that Mayoral governance arrangements would be solely focused on governance and the sharing of corporate services would be considered post governance transfer.

72/18 **Statement of Accounts 2017/18**

The Authority noted the Statement of Accounts 2017/18 and summary of the Statement of Accounts. The Treasurer confirmed that the Statement of Accounts had been reviewed by the Audit and Risk Committee on the 23rd July 2018.

The Summary of Accounts sets out the Accounts in a more digestible way. The Treasurer explained the key issues as set out in the Report.

In the Independent Auditor's opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2018 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended;
- have been prepared properly in accordance with CIPFA/LASAAC code of practice on local authority accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement was set out in the Statement together with the Balance Sheet.

The Treasurer stated that Pension related issues had a distorting effect in many ways on the Statement of Accounts.

The Members received a detailed update on the table of the Movement of Reserves.

The Authority will need to draw on balances based on the February 2018 Budget report and the use of balances will accelerate.

The balance of General and Earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2018 was £43.734m, total usable reserves were just over £50m.

The Balance sheet shows a snapshot of the accounts at a fixed point in the year.

The Accounts show a net cost of service in 2017/18 of £118.445 million which includes the use of £5.596 million reserves. Earmarked Reserves have decreased by £4.750 million to £38.984 million and General Reserves have decreased by £0.846 million to £8.390 million.

A planned approach was being used for the use of reserves.

Other long term liabilities were £1,671.226 m. This was predominantly to cover pensions if the Authority were required to pay all of the pension liabilities and was a requirement of accounting standards.

Long term borrowing was £36.200m at 31 March 2018 compared to £37.363m in 2017 as some of the borrowing had been repaid. The Authority had long term assets of approximately £144m.

The Balance Sheet showed £50.027m in usable reserves and £51.379m in cash and cash equivalents. In 2017 the figure was £57.428m cash and cash equivalents this is linked to the use of reserves. There would be significant use of general and earmarked reserves during the year.

The Chair thanked the Treasurer and, in particular, for the explanation of the pensions liability and the use of balances.

The Chair also stated that the Authority had not received any transformation funding to support capital spending and no funding for capital projects.

Members of the Authority thanked the Treasurer for explaining the accounts in simplistic terms and found this very helpful.

In answer to a Members enquiry in respect of the use of reserves compared to other Metropolitan Fire Services, the Treasurer stated that the Authority's reserves were healthy based on the budget report but there would be a significant reduction over the next three years.

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer stated that the National Fire Chiefs Council had conducted a survey on reserves and said the comparison would be useful. The outcome of the survey would be shared with all Fire and Rescue Authorities in the next few months.

The Chair stated that the outcome of the survey would also help to inform the government on the use of reserves and hoped that the NFCC would report the outcome to the Fire Minister.

Members discussed the use of reserves in different organisations. From an accounting perspective the Fire and Rescue Service were required to show how it would use its reserves as part of a clear strategy over the next three years.

The Chief Fire Officer confirmed that reserves were part of a plan for building and vehicle maintenance including other capital projects. It should be noted that exhaustive collaborative opportunities had been considered including working with Ambulance Services and other Local Authorities which had delayed major capital projects which had impacted on the level of reserves.

The Authority is required to self-insure and reserves need to be held for this purpose and for unexpected events that may arise from incidents or other factors.

72/18 Monitoring of Finances

The Authority noted the Monitoring of Finances. As part of the Authority's 2018/19 budget setting process the current year's budget reflects an estimated transfer from general balances of £1.5m.

Appendix A showed the current position of the Revenue Budget and favourable variance of £32,000. The Treasurer referred members to the Corporate Budgets and in particular the most significant variances related to the Corporate Business Development budget where there was an adverse variance of £292,000 and the Corporate Finance and Resources Budget where there was a favourable variance of £178,000, arising from a successful rates rebate appeal for the Headquarters and Safeside buildings.

Appendix B of the report set out the position in respect of the Firefighters' Pension Scheme and this was in line with a full year statement.

The scheme analysis shown at Appendix C indicated the Capital Programme was set at £14.365m for 2018/19. Expenditure at the end of August was shown a £4.175m and this mainly related to the rebuilding of Coventry Fire Station and the Vehicle Replacement Programme. The Authority noted that the new Coventry Fire Station would be commissioned in December 2018/January 2019. In respect of the redevelopment of Aston Fire Station, the Authority noted that part of the station site had now been demolished.

The Treasurer highlighted that of the circa £14m forecast capital expenditure in 2018/19, £13.5m would be funded from ear marked reserves.

73/18 The Strategy 2018 – 2022

The Authority noted the context, including the financial and operating conditions, that had informed and shaped the current three-year strategy (The Plan 2018 -2021) and the need to consider revisions to the Authority's strategic direction.

The report had been designed to set the context of the position of the Financial Efficiency Plan to date.

The financial position and the gap in the Financial Efficiency Plan of £3m would require revisions to The Plan and the details were set out in the following two agenda items.

The report set out the significant Service changes during the period of substantial Government core funding reductions, since the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced the Government's four year spending plans in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on 20 October 2010.

The Service had suffered the loss of approximately £28m Government core funding, more than any other Fire and Rescue Service in the country. The cumulative reduction in core funding was due to reach approximately £38m by the end of the current 2016/18 to 2019/20 CSR period.

74/18 Delivery of Strategy 2018 – 2021 and associated 2018-2019 Budget Adjustments

The Authority noted the specific impacts of preferred option(s) on the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) and associated revisions to The Plan.

The Authority were asked to identify the preferred option(s) for short-term financial control measures to deliver a balanced budget for 2018-2019 and to approve the associated revisions to The Plan.

The Authority noted that the Chief Fire Officer, through Authority approved accountabilities, will manage resources to determine and manage fleet availability to support the delivery of options as appropriate.

The Executive Committee on 6 June 2018 agreed that as a result of withdrawing new entrants contracts, changes would be required to the strategy set out in The Plan 2018- 2021. It was recognised that there would be a requirement to change the Authority's Financial Efficiency Plan (FEP) and identify

the preferred option (s) to ensure a balance budget in the current financial year.

The new entrants' contracts would have enabled the ongoing delivery of new activities that were linked to the Authority's strategy.

The Authority were provided with options that considered the Authority's IRMP, whilst recognising that the baseline level of risk with the West Midlands has not changed. The options outlined the effect of revising its control measures currently established, to mitigate the risk to the community.

There are two key principles that underpin the staffing model:

- Optimum Crewing Levels
- Employing less station-based staff than needed to deliver the staffing model and using existing staff to delivery Voluntary Additional Shifts (VAS) and resilience cover.

It was noted that due to the immediate control of the new staffing model, an effective financial control measure can be utilised through reduced use of VAS within the Service, leading to a reduction in fleet availability. This approach is already applied to manage the staffing budget around first day absence whilst maintaining high levels of appliance availability.

Option A – Proactive and planned reduction in VAS to enable savings

In order to deliver a balanced budget and meet the gap from the estimated Alternative Funding shortfall within the FEP of £750k, there is an opportunity to fully manage the situation through a reduction in the use of VAS from 1 October 2018 until the end of the financial year. The impact on the IRMP was outlined to Members and confirmed that this is also flexible and can be dynamically scaled down, or increased if additional/reduced funding is applied to the gap.

This approach would not require negotiation or agreement with representative bodies and could also serve as a catalyst for change in future years.

Option B Use of General Reserves

It was highlighted that in order to assist with the Authority's transformation service changes the use of General reserves was already required in each of the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.

It was recognised that the use of General Reserves is not a sustainable means of funding the Authority's revenue budget.

The Chair moved that the Authority did not accept Option B, Use of General Reserves.

The Chair suggested that the Authority should enable the CFO to have flexible use of VAS from the 1 October 2018 and fleet availability to remain maximised in order to achieve a balanced budget in 2018/19.

The impact of the variation and fleet availability would be reported to Scrutiny Committee and the Authority to monitor the impact of this course of action.

Councillor Anne Young seconded the Motion.

In answer to a Member's enquiry it was confirmed that VAS has not been adjusted to date and was awaiting Authority approval. It was confirmed that this course of action would have an impact on the Safe and Well work.

A Member noted that although Option A most flexibly supports the outcomes of the IRMP and does not require negotiation or agreement with representative bodies, he recommended that officers discussed the Option with them.

The CFO confirmed that there was a collective agreement with the Representative Bodies outlining the use of Voluntary Additional Shifts (VAS) on a voluntary basis.

This is considered alongside the IRMP in terms of fleet availability. Discussions are ongoing with the Representative Bodies.

Option A was identified as the preferred option for short term financial control measures to deliver a balanced budget for 2018-19 and the associated revisions to The Plan were approved.

75/18 Strategy Options 2019 -2022

The Authority noted the need to generate ongoing revenue savings of approximately £3m, specifically to meet shortfall in the Financial Efficiency Plan (FEP) from 2019/10 and the need for further ongoing revenue savings in future years, due to additional anticipated Government funding reductions and the need for investment in the Protection function and Support Services.

The Authority considered the proposed options to be explored further and those to be discounted, in order to deliver the Authority's 2019-2022 strategy and budget.

In addition to the £3m annual savings which needed to be identified in order to meet the anticipated Financial Efficiency Plan (FEP) shortfall, in 2019/20 further Service changes would need to be identified from 2020/21 onwards, in order to achieve a sustainable revenue budget position. There was also a need for investment in the Protection function and Support Services as identified in The Strategy 2018 – 2022 report.

The CFO stated that there is a need for investment in certain areas of the Service these include Organisational Intelligence, and Protection following outcomes of the Grenfell report.

Members noted the impact on the FEP/Budget and the events that had led to this situation.

Five specific options were outlined:

- 1 – Staff/resource availability
- 2 – Resource configuration
- 3 – Shift arrangements (Risk based crewing)
- 3a – On Call Firefighters
- 4 – Management Review

The use of Voluntary Additional Shifts in the current year had been approved but subsequent use would be expected to be appropriate and within the Employee Relations Framework.

The Controlling Group accepted the recommendations and requested the CFO to bring back further information on the 5 options prior to budget setting.

5 options – further reports on financial consequences and related impact on service and employees in November 2018 and decide which of the options the Authority want to take forward and those options it does not want to take forward.

The Chair stated that there was nothing known from the government about budgets past 2020. There could possibly be another Comprehensive Spending Review and further reductions in public spending and the Authority may continue to receive more cuts. The Authority had lost 50% of its core funding since 2010/11.

The Chief Fire Officer informed the Authority that it had lost a third of its fire protection officers and reinvestment would be required to replace them as the Service was in a fragile position. The emerging burdens on the Service had not been taken into account via Government funding.

Further reports would be prepared for the Authority meeting scheduled for 19 November 2018 to develop the 5 Service change options.

One Member suggested taking out the on-call firefighters option as it would not generate the savings required and would not be an efficient way of managing the service.

Members did not want officers to waste time and energy on strategies that would not produce the necessary savings. The Chair felt that the Authority would need further information on all of the options.

The CFO has made arrangements for consultation and where necessary for negotiation with the Representative Bodies. The Authority is required to set a balance budget and it is acknowledged they wish to create the least disruption and to work in harmony with the work force.

Members agreed that the Authority were not in a pleasant position. There were recognised safety issues in reducing the number of riders to 4 on PRLs and 2 on BRVs and this would require in depth analysis. Members did not want appliances to be unable to attend some incidents due to a shortage of Breathing Apparatus or Pump Control operators.

Members considered savings of £100,000 from the Management review to be low and that the ratio of 4 managers to 10 staff to be high.

The Chair confirmed that the number of managers included crew and watch commanders. In two national reports, the West Midlands had the lowest ratio in terms of numbers of managers of all the Metropolitan Authorities.

The approach in talking to employees and further information was also welcomed.

The CFO would seek to reflect the comments and views of all employees and to maintain as much flexibility for the 5 options, whilst engaging with Representative Bodies through the Employee Relations Framework.

The Chair confirmed that through discussions, consultation and negotiations, the Representative Bodies were free to suggest alternatives or additions to the options.

The Authority unanimously agreed the recommendations as set out in the report and requested the Chief Fire Officer bring back further information on the five options to the 19 November 2018 Authority meeting.

The Authority requested that the report sets out details on the financial consequences and related impact on the Service and employees, prior to the budget setting to enable a decision on the preferred options and to develop the budget strategy.

76/18 Route Map to Mayoral Combined Authority
Governance: Draft Statutory Order to Enable Transfer of Governance

The Authority noted the Home Office response to the key asks of the seven West Midlands Local Authorities set out in the Scheme document (Appendix A of the report) and the proposed options to progress the key asks locally.

The Authority noted the local feedback to the proposals to secure the key asks and the changes required to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) constitution to secure the key asks locally.

The Authority noted the revised timeline and next stages in this direction.

The Authority noted the detail in the draft Order, received from the Home Office, which had been written in consultation with the Authority and the WMCA and was attached to the report at Appendix D.

The Clerk updated the Authority on the progress and developments made in the transfer of the governance of the West Midlands Fire Service

The WMCA Board considered the outcomes of the public consultation and agreed to formally submit proposals to the Home Office, to initiate the progress of drafting the required Statutory Order to enable changes to the governance arrangements.

There were extensive discussions between the Home Office officials, the WMCA and Service to provide comprehensive understanding of the proposals in order that the key asks are appropriately reflected in the Statutory Order, to enable

effective transfer of governance from the Authority to the WMCA in April 2019.

The Home Office had confirmed its position in respect of the key asks:

- Ring fencing of finances and reserves
The Home Office confirmed that it was unachievable to ring fence the fire budget and reserves within the Statutory Order.
- Composition of MFAC
The scheme proposes a 'minimum' of 18 members to be appointed to the MFAC. The Home Office has expressed concern with the potential to allow the composition of the committee to be increased.
- The CFO as Head of Paid Services for the Service and operational independence
The Home Office confirmed that it would be unachievable to provide for the CFO to be head of paid service of the Service within the Statutory Order due to the need for primary legislation to enable this.

As there was clear local will to secure the key asks, further proposed solutions were received from the Home Office.

All seven local authorities were requested to approve the draft Order via an urgent letter issued to council Leaders.

Six Leaders had agreed to the proposed way forward with two qualifications received in relation to:

- Corresponding amendments to the Constitution of the WMCA to be brought forward for approval alongside the Statutory Order process.
- The ring-fencing of budget and reserves to be considered by the WMCA Board during its budget setting process and included in the revised WMCA constitution.

Consent would be requested from the WMCA on 14 September 2018 and subject to approval from the Leader of Sandwell the draft order would be submitted to the Home Office on the 21 September 2018.

The final Order would be expected at the turn of the year to enable the transfer in April 2018.

WMCA and WMFS had formed a project team to ensure all areas of transfer of governance transferred as smoothly as possible.

The Chair was supremely optimistic that Sandwell would accept the proposals as the process would falter if they did not agree.

It was noted that the fire service budget cannot be ring fenced as it would require a change to primary legislation, however the WMCA would alter its constitution to build in ring fencing of the fire service budget.

The Clerk confirmed that there would be some minor tweaks to the Order before it is submitted to the Parliamentary process and Home Secretary's approval

The Governance and Transformation Committee will be looking specifically at the governance arrangements, Chaired by Councillor Adam Aston.

It was confirmed that all £144m of assets, including the Pension Fund deficit, will be transferred to the WMCA. The Chair stated the majority of reserves would be used on the rebuilding of Aston and Coventry Fire Stations, the Vehicle Replacement Programme and maintaining the Authority's assets.

It was confirmed that the governance only of the Fire Service would be transferred to the WMCA.

77/18 WMFS and Warwickshire FRS Collaboration Update Report

The Authority noted the progress made with the collaboration programme since the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in February 2018.

Although there is no specific duty for Fire – Fire collaboration, the Government are keen to encourage collaboration between emergency services.

All potential options were assessed against the following success criteria, which are based on the basic principles of the Policing and Crime Act 2017 and the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services themes and would help to improve the acceptance of Fire-Fire collaboration over Fire – Police and Fire – Ambulance collaboration.

The themes are:

- Public Safety
- Service Resilience
- Service Effectiveness
- Service Efficiency
- Service Quality

All decisions taken would ensure alignment with statutory expectations and each Fire and Rescue Service's strategic objectives.

A Programme Board had been established to oversee the work. A joint Programme team has also been established to deliver the work programme. The Programme Board will report progress to an Executive Group.

The first 60 day review commenced in May and was completed in July and appraised collaborative options for Fire Control, Training and Social vulnerability.

Three workshops were held with teams from both FRSs. They looked at:

- Shared Fire Control
 - A Single Training Function
 - Social Vulnerability (Prevention)
- This area was still being worked on because of difficulties but Warwickshire still continued to move in this direction.

The key decisions for Fire Control are expected in December 2018 and for Training in October 2018.

The Chief Fire Officer thanked Marisia Curran, the Programme Manager. This is an excellent achievement that had been an aim for several years but had not previously come to fruition. All of the stakeholders were also thanked for their hard work on the project.

The Authority also expressed their thanks for the work undertaken on this project.

The Chair confirmed that the Authority had a clear contract and Service Level Agreement with Staffordshire Fire and Rescue for the Fire Control function.

It was noted that the government have approved the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Fire Authority move to the PCC in Staffordshire. The PCC is now the Fire Authority and there was clearly a lot of work to be undertaken in this area.

The Chair informed the Authority that he would be meeting with the Staffordshire PCC before the next Fire Control Government Board on the 5 October to make sure the agreement cannot be lightly overturned as the Shared Fire Control provided huge savings and operational benefits to both organisations.

Following the meeting the Chair would report back to the Authority on the Staffordshire PCCs views on the Shared Fire Control.

78/18 Members Allowances Review Update

The Authority noted that an update on the Review of the Members Allowances scheme. The review had commenced and was being undertaken by the Local Government Association. The results of the review are to be reported to the 19 November 2018 meeting of the Fire Authority.

It was noted that there are few allowances in the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Mayoral Fire Authority

Committee (MFAC) may find there will not be any allowances.

The Clerk confirmed that the wording in the Order had been changed to read that the MFAC may receive expenses. The West Midlands Combined Authority do pay travel allowances.

79/18 Updating the Constitution

The Authority noted the amendments made to the Constitution following the changes made to Reformed Fire Authority as agreed at the Annual General Meeting on 25 June 2018. It was noted that the Constitution was available electronically on the Committee Management Information System on the internet.

80/18 Contract Awards Summary to 30 September 2018

The Authority noted the contracts in excess of £250,000 that have been awarded since April 2018.

81/18 Result of Recent Fire Safety Prosecution

The Authority noted the details of a recent prosecution under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Assistant Chief Officer Taylor outlined the outcome of the prosecution following a fire on 25 December 2013 at the Diamond Sheesha Lounge, Digbeth, Birmingham where two young people had jumped from a burning building both suffering serious injuries and mental health issues.

The cause of the fire was deemed as Arson and three responsible people were charged. Mr Rehman and Mr Rahid pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity. Mr Mashedi initially elected to go to trial but pleaded guilty on the day the trial began.

Mr Rehman and Mr Rahid each received 8 months immediate custody and are to pay £6,000 each towards costs. Mr Mashedi received 18 months immediate custody and is to pay £14,736 towards the remainder of the costs.

Officers advised and provided assistance to the Enforcing Authority to carry out statutory duties.

£26,736 covers the legal costs incurred by the Authority in preparing the prosecution and compensate for officers' time spent on the case.

Members congratulated officers on a great piece of work and a job well done.

The Chair stated that Fire prevention staff are involved in this type of work every day.

The case had taken five years to get to court due to one defendant pleading not guilty and the case had dragged on but this has been reflected in the sentencing and the Authority had met its Statutory Duties.

82/18 Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 23 July 2018

Councillor Craddock requested that the last line of paragraph 4 on page 265 of the pack be deleted as he stated that the comments were taken out of context. He requested that the final paragraph on page 265 of the pack be amended to state that the use of reserves was not a sustainable strategy.

It was requested that the word "accounts" at the end of the 2nd paragraph on page 266 be changed to read "accountants"

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee was content with the amendments.

The Authority noted the changes and the Minutes of the Audit and Risk Committee held on the 23 July 2018 were received.

83/18 Notes of the Joint Consultative Panel held on 26 July 2018

The notes of the Joint Consultative Panel held on the 26 July 2018 were received. The Chair of the Panel stated that the meeting had helped to “clear the air” during the recent dispute.

It was noted that the report and minutes wrongly referred to Point 3 of the Trade Dispute and should have read as points 4 and 5.

The Chair felt that all sides of the organisation were learning and reflected the root and branch actions of the Authority and employee representatives.

84/18 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 Section 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006 relating to any negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority.

85/18 Trade Dispute

The Authority received a verbal update regarding the current position in respect of the Trade Dispute.

The update was confidential and in line with the non disclosure agreement with the Assistant General Secretary of the Fire Brigades Union.

The meeting closed at 1245 hours.

Julie Connor
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