

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

URGENCY COMMITTEE

31 MAY 2022

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Leslie Byrom
Cllr Brian Kenny
Cllr Andrew Makinson
Cllr Lesley Rennie
Cllr James Roberts

Also Present: Phil Garrigan, Ian Cummins, Ria Groves

Apologies of absence were received from:

1. Preliminary Matters

Members considered the identification of declarations of interest, any urgent additional items, and any business that may require the exclusion of the press and public.

Resolved that:

- a) Councillors Makinson and Roberts declarations that they are Councillors at Liverpool City Council.
- b) no additional items of business to be considered as matters of urgency were determined by the Chair; and
- c) no items of business required the exclusion of the press and public during consideration thereof because of the possibility of the disclosure of exempt information.

2. Procurement of Utilities

Councillor Makinson queried if the Authority paid Liverpool City Council any administration fees for providing Internal Audit services. Ian Cummins, Director of Finance and Procurement, advised that the Authority had outsourced internal audit services to Liverpool City Council and has a service level agreement with them for 112 days at a cost of £35,500 a year.

With regards to the forecast 2021/22 revenue underspend, Members were advised that any underspend would be used to increase the inflation reserve to cover higher than anticipated energy and pay costs in 2022/23.

Councillor Makinson asked what other service arrangements the Authority had with Liverpool City Council and was advised that the contract for supply of Gas was in place until March 2023.

In addition, the Authority buys in specialist treasury management support from the Council via a service level agreement at a cost of £23,000 a year.

It was explained that the proposal was to seek a fixed price contract in order to protect the Authority budget and the Chief Fire Officer explained that if the Authority were to seek other providers, the Authority would need to remain on a variable rate during that period.

RESOLVED that:

- a) note the contents of the report;
- b) agree to continue procuring utilities via the Liverpool City Council (LCC) energy contract whilst awaiting the outcome of an independent review of arrangement and therefore, approve entering into the Crown Commercial Services framework for the period from 1st July 2022 (or, if possible, sooner) until the 31st March 2023;
- c) instruct officers to prepare a report on the alternative options available to the Authority for the future procurement of utilities from March 2023 onwards; and
 - i) this report is to take into account the outcome of the LCC independent review into the Council's management of its electricity contract of which MFRA are an interested and affected party, and
 - ii) is to take into account the internal Audit report commissioned in response to this matter.

Close

Date of next meeting Date Not Specified