

SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

MONDAY 20th APRIL 2026

Present

Councillor A Cherryholme (Chair)

Councillor R Taylor (Vice Chair)

Councillors: S Alston, G Aston, B Anderson, R Bannister, M Elliott, A Jones, M Morrell

David Peet (South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority SYMCA)

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue (SYFR):CFO Chris Kirby, ACFO Simon Dunker, Linda Haigh (Director of Finance & Procurement) , Jill Nanson (Director of People & Culture) , AM Paul Heffernan, AM Matt Gillatt, (Area Managers South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service), Paul Buttery (Group Manager), Michelle Kenny (Programme Manager) , Mark Lloyd (Procurement Manager), Martin McCarthy (Monitoring Officer), Zoe Duddell, Rob Longley (Authority Governance Team)

Item 1 Apologies

- Councillors S Ayris, S Ball and J Ridler
- DFO Andrew Strelczenie & Area Manager - John Billings (SYFR)
- Kilvinder Vigurs (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime SYMCA)

Item 2 – Announcements

The CFO reminded Members that SYFR were hosting the Festival of Fire Sport on the 22nd –23rd April. He noted a brochure had been circulated to all Members providing times and locations of all the sporting events taking place and that all Members were welcome to attend. The CFO highlighted the opportunity for SYFR to showcase the service and how well they can organise national events.

Item 3 – Urgent items

None

Item 4 – Items to be considered in the absence of the public and press

The Monitoring Officer highlighted Item 18 to Members on the agenda.

Item 5 – Declarations of interest by individual members in relation to any item of business on the agenda

None

Item 6 – Reports by members

None

Item 7 – Receipt of petitions

None

Item 8 – Receipt of questions or communications

None

Item 9 - Minutes of the Fire Authority meeting held on Monday 23 March 2026

That the minutes of the Authority meeting held on Monday 23 March were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Item 10 – Matters Arising

None

Item 11 - Minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee held on Monday 9 March 2026

That the minutes of the Audit & Governance Committee held on Monday 9 March 2026 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Item 12- Minutes of the Performance & Scrutiny Board held on Thursday 19 March 2026 P

That the minutes of the Performance & Scrutiny Board meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2026 were signed by the Chair as a correct record

Item 13 - The Efficiency and Productivity update and Forward Plan

The Director of Finance & Procurement presented The Efficiency and Productivity update and Forward Plan to Members noting that the report is required to be created under national framework and submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) by the 30 of April each year.

She advised Members that the full productivity update would be shared as soon as possible, with the information largely being used from the annual report taken to the Performance and Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED - That Members:

- a) Noted the contents of the report and consider if sufficient assurance has been provided.

Item 14- Firefighter Pensions Update on Immediate Detriment Sargeant and Matthews

The Director of Finance & Procurement presented the Firefighter Pensions Update on Immediate Detriment Sargeant and Matthews to Members.

She highlighted to Members that following the publication of the report the number of complex cases had reduced from 33 in January 2026 to 6 and SYFR were waiting for the statements from the West Yorkshire Pension Fund (WYPF) to be provided before being verified internally.

The Director of Finance & Procurement added that the Local Government Association (LGA) had now set up a weekly oversight board to oversee work being undertaken by the WYPF. The oversight board were overseeing the creation of a detailed action plan for all outstanding cases across the sector.

The CFO added the oversight board had been established following a number of Scheme Managers recognising that the pension administrator (WYPF) had grown their portfolio of Fire and Rescue Services they were undertaking pension administration for. That also happened at the same time as amendments made to the scheme via the Government.

He added that the Scheme Managers needed to see an improvement in the performance from the WYPF and the oversight board were working on initiatives for this, with the board also now being able to scrutinise their casework.

RESOLVED - That Members

- a) Considered that the report provided adequate assurance regarding progress against the LGA timeline and noted the actions underway.

Item 15 - Finance and Procurement Strategy

The Director of Finance & Procurement presented the Finance and Procurement Strategy to Members.

RESOLVED - That Members:

- a) Reviewed and approved the Finance and Procurement Strategy.

Item 16- The Procurement Service - Annual Update

The Procurement Manager presented The Procurement Service - Annual Update to Members.

He highlighted point 21 of the report under Savings to Members advising that following the publication of the report the figure had been updated to £214k saved from the £191.6k published. The increase in savings was a result of the end of 5-year cycle for insurance premiums and insurance coverage, with some specialist insurance coverage coming with better premiums than initially expected.

RESOLVED - That Members

- a) Noted the contents of the report and endorsed the ongoing positive work of the Procurement Services team.

Item 17 - Service Improvement Board update Q3 2025-26

The ACFO presented the Service Improvement Board update Q3 2025-26 to Members.

RESOLVED - That Members

- a) Noted the contents of the report and to provide further scrutiny and support to enable continuous service improvement.

Items to be Considered in the Absence of the Public and Press

Item 18 - Fleet Replacement Update

Area Manager Heffernan presented the Fleet Replacement Update to Members.

RESOLVED - That Members:

- a) Approved the procurement of vehicles as part of the fleet replacement programme.