LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 6 July 2022, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

D O'Toole (Vice-Chair)
M Pattison
P Rigby (for T Williams)
S Rigby
A Sutcliffe

Officers

J Johnston, Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
K Mattinson, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS)
B Warren, Director of People and Development (LFRS)
J Hutchinson, Human Resource Business Partner (LFRS)
M Nolan, Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Authority
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)
L Barr, Member Services Officer (LFRS)

In attendance

K Wilkie, Fire Brigades Union

1/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Tony Williams and County Councillors: Lorraine Beavers, Jennifer Mein, Sean Serridge and Ron Woollam.

2/22 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

3/22 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4/22 YEAR END TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN

The report set out the Authority's borrowing and lending activities during 2021/22. All treasury activities undertaken throughout the year were in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22.

Economic Overview

There were a number of key economic issues in 2021/22. Initially, the continuing economic recovery from coronavirus pandemic was a dominant feature but as the year progressed concerns about inflation, the potential for higher interest rates and possibility of a future recession were major issues.

The Bank rate was 0.1% at the beginning of the financial year. Although April and May saw the economy gathering momentum as pandemic restrictions were eased, market expectations were that the Bank of England would delay rate rises until 2022. However, the rise in inflation changed the position and saw the Bank Rate increase the rate late in 2021.

UK Consumer Prices Index (CPI) was 0.7% in March 2021 but thereafter began to steadily increase. Initially driven by energy price effects and by inflation in sectors such as retail and hospitality which were re-opening after the pandemic lockdowns, inflation then was believed to be temporary. However, a combination of rising global costs, strong demand and supply shortages saw large increases in inflation. CPI for February 2022 registered 6.2% year on year, up from 5.5% in the previous month.

As a response to the increase in inflation the Bank of England made the following increases in the Bank Rate: December 2021 increase to 0.25%; February 2022 increase to 0.5%; and March 2022 increase to 0.75%. In its March interest rate announcement, the MPC noted that the invasion of Ukraine had caused further large increases in energy and other commodity prices, with the expectation that the conflict would worsen supply chain disruptions around the world and push CPI inflation to around 8% later in 2022.

The continuing uncertainty had seen gilt yields increase. The costs of authorities borrowing from the Public Loans Work Board were related to the bond yields and therefore the cost of borrowing had increased. For example, for a 10-year PWLB fixed rate loan taken on the 1 April 2021 interest was at a rate of 1.7%. An equivalent loan taken on 31 March 2022 was at 2.81%.

Borrowing

The borrowing of the Fire Authority had remained unchanged at £2m. The current capital programme had no requirement to be financed from borrowing until 2025/26 and the debt related to earlier years' capital programmes. While the borrowing was above its Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes, this was because the Fire Authority had a policy of setting aside monies in the form of statutory and voluntary minimum revenue provision (MRP) in order to repay debt as it matured or to make an early repayment. Consideration had been given to repaying the £2m but the penalties incurred on repaying the loans early would incur significant costs estimated at £0.9m. Also, any early repayment meant that cash balances available for investment would be reduced and hence interest receivable would also be reduced. It was concluded that the repayment was not considered to be financially beneficial at the time. However, the situation was periodically reviewed by the Director of Corporate Services.

Investments

Both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

Guidance required the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. Throughout the year when investing money, the key aim was to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return.

In order to reduce credit risk to the Authority, Lancashire County Council (LCC) (credit rating by Moodys Aa3) was the main counterparty for the Authority's investments via the operation of a call account. However, the Treasury Management Strategy did permit investment with other high-quality counterparties including other local authorities. During the year the cash held by the Authority had been positive with the highest balance being £46.7m and the lowest £30.8m. The monies invested with Lancashire County Council ranged between £36.7m to £17.6m.

By placing monies in longer term fixed rate investments it was anticipated that a higher level of interest would be earned. However, having fixed term deals did reduce the liquidity of investments and therefore their use was limited. At the year-end fixed investments of £15m were in place. During the year one fixed term investment had matured and one new investment was made. The table on page 13 of the agenda pack showed the interest earned on fixed term investments.

The call account provided by LCC paid the base rate throughout 2021/22. Each working day the balance on the Authority's current account was invested in this to ensure that the interest received on surplus balances was maximised. The average balance in this account during the year was £25.8m earning interest of £0.047m.

The overall interest earned during this period was £0.205m at a rate of 0.56% which compared favourably with the benchmark 7-day index (Sterling Overnight rate 7 day rate) which averaged 0.2% over the same period.

All of these investments were made in accordance with the current Treasury Management Strategy and the CIPFA treasury management code of practice.

Cash flow and interest rates continued to be monitored by the Director of Corporate Services and the County Council's treasury management team, and when rates were felt to be at appropriate levels further term deposits would be placed.

County Councillor O'Toole queried whether the Authority benefitted from the success of the County Council Treasury Management Strategy. The Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority had a different risk appetite and therefore did not share the County Council's rate of return.

Prudential Indicators
In order to control and monitor the Authority's treasury management functions, a number of prudential indicators had been determined against which performance could be measured. The revised indicators for 2021/22 were presented alongside the actual outturn position.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the outturn position report.

5/22 YEAR END CAPITAL OUTTURN

The report presented the year end position for the Authority's capital programme including how this had been financed and the impact of slippage from the 2021/22 capital programme into the 2022/23 programme.

The final capital programme for 2021/22 was £4.451m. Total capital expenditure for the year was £3.350m, reflecting £1.083m of slippage and an underspend of £18k, as set out in the report as now considered, and in appendix 1. The programme had been financed in year, from a combination of revenue contributions (£2.373m) and a drawdown of capital reserves (£0.977m).

Prudential Indicators 2021/22

Under the prudential framework the Authority was required to identify various indicators to determine whether the capital programme was affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The revised indicators, after allowing for the various changes to the capital programme, were set out in the report alongside the actual outturn figures which confirmed that performance had been within approved limits.

The Impact of Slippage from the 2021/22 Capital Programme into the 2022/23 Programme

The original approved capital programme for 2022/23 was £8.9m. This had been updated for slippage as set out in the report. In addition, a review of likely timing of capital schemes had been undertaken and as a result £0.9m of property and £0.2m of ICT schemes needed to be slipped into 2023/24.

As a result, the final proposed capital programme for 2022/23 was £9.0m, which was funded from capital grant, revenue contributions, earmarked reserves and capital reserves. The revised programme and its funding were considered by Members as set out in appendix 2. It was noted that additional budget requirement for vehicles included 5 additional vehicles for flexi duty officers which reflected how many officers had chosen to move to a provided vehicle. The Director of Corporate Services explained that as new Officers took up posts the vehicle requirement could change hence it was proposed that the Treasurer be able to agree an increase in vehicle provision up to a maximum of a further 3 vehicles per annum.

The report set out revised prudential indicators for 2022/23-2024/25, showing that the revised programme, despite requiring some borrowing in 2024/25 remained affordable, prudent and sustainable.

Capital Reserves

The capital programme over the next 5 financial years would use all the capital reserves and receipts.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor Steve Rigby the Director of Corporate Services advised that new vehicles were hybrid vehicles and a policy decision was taken many years ago to purchase vehicles outright (rather than lease) based on a view that this was marginally cheaper and it gave greater flexibility.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor O'Toole regarding the policy on vehicle usage, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Service policy prohibited private use (unless staff were on 24-hour duty).

RESOLVED: - That the Committee: -

i) Noted the capital outturn position and the financing of capital expenditure 2021/22;
ii) Approved the revised 2022/23 capital programme, and the financing of this and the prudential indicators;
iii) Delegated approval to the Treasurer to increase the capital programme in respect of Flexi Duty Officer cars up to a maximum of 3 additional vehicles in any one year, such approval to be retrospectively reported to the Committee.

6/22 YEAR END REVENUE OUTTURN

This report presented the revenue outturn position and the impact of this on usable reserves. The annual budget for the year was set at £58.175m. The final outturn position showed net expenditure of £57.844m, giving a total underspend for the financial year of £0.331m which was broadly in line with previous forecasts.

As set out in the Year End Usable Reserves and Provisions Outturn report (reported elsewhere on the agenda) it was proposed to transfer the full amount into capital funding reserve, reducing future borrowing requirement.

The detailed final revenue position was set out in Appendix 1, with major variances being summarised in the report.

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted:

Covid-19
Funding of £1.6m had been received since March 2020. In addition, as previously reported £0.2m of travel/mileage budgets had been transferred into this reserve to reflect savings in respect of differing working practices, resulting in a total funding of £1.8m. As at the end of January the budget had been fully utilised.

TOR
The year end underspend was consistent with previous reports largely reflecting the position with apprentice levy income for wholetime recruits, which had seen an increase due to an increase in the base funding level and the co-investment income received in respect of these apprentices, once our own levy pot had been exhausted.

Non DFM
Overall the final outturn position was broadly consistent with previous reports which reflected: i) the £0.3m funding gap identified at the time of setting the budget; ii) additional RCCO of £0.1m approved during the year; iii) the transfer of £0.5m into the PFI earmarked reserve, reflecting the confirmed inflation increase of 8%; iv) the PFI re-financing gain of £0.2m; and v) an additional

£0.1m of section 31 grant reflecting the final position in respect of business rate reliefs and income tax guarantee scheme relating to 2020/21 collection fund shortfalls.

Support Staff
The final outturn position was consistent with previous reports, with the current vacancy factor being circa 12%-13%, far in excess of budget. This was partly offset by the unfunded pay award for green book staff and by the use of agency staff to cover some posts.

Grant Funding
The Authority received specific grants from the Government in respect of various new initiatives. These were included in the revenue budget position presented with any unspent funding being carried forward as an earmarked reserve.

Delivery against savings targets
It was noted that performance was ahead of the annual target, largely due to savings in respect of staffing vacancies and procurement savings on several vehicles.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the outturn position on the 2021/22 and the associated transfer of this to the capital funding reserve.

7/22 YEAR END USABLE RESERVES AND PROVISIONS OUTTURN

The report presented the year end outturn position in respect of usable reserves and provisions based on the information reported in the Revenue Outturn, Capital Outturn and Treasury Management Outturn reports.

The Authority approved the reserves and balances policy as part of its budget setting process in February, with the year-end outturn position being reported to Resources committee and included in the statement of accounts. The previously reported Revenue Outturn, Capital Outturn and Treasury Management Outturn all fed the Authority's overall reserves position, which was considered by Members as summarised in the report.

General Reserve
These were non-specific reserves kept to meet short/medium term unforeseeable expenditure and to enable significant changes in resources or expenditure to be properly managed in the medium term.

The Authority needed to hold an adequate level of general reserves in order to provide:-

- A working balance to help cushion the impact of uneven cash flows and avoid unnecessary temporary borrowing;
- A contingency to cushion the impact of unexpected events;
- A means of smoothing out large fluctuations in spending requirements and/or funding available.

As a precepting Authority any surpluses or deficits were transferred into/out of reserves in order to meet future potential commitments. Given the Authority's current general fund balance stood at £6.0m and the scale of the capital programme was proposed that the revenue underspend, £331k was transferred into the capital funding reserve, reducing future borrowing requirement, hence the year-end General fund balance would remain at £6.0m compared with the target range agreed by the Authority at its February meeting of £4.0m to £10.0m.

Earmarked Reserves
The reserve covered all funds, which had been identified for a specific purpose. The overall reserves level had reduced from £10.8m to £9.8m, with the detailed position in respect of the various earmarked reserves considered by Members as set out in the report.

The Director of Corporate Services highlighted:

PFI Equalisation Reserve – This reserve was to smooth out the annual net cost to the Authority of both PFI schemes and would be required to meet future contract payments. The level of reserve required to meet future contract payments had been updated to reflect current and forecast inflation levels.

Insurance Aggregate Stop Loss – The Authority had aggregate stop losses (ASLs) on both its combined liability insurance policy (£0.4m) and its motor policy (£0.3m). This meant that in any one year the Authority's maximum liability for insurance clams was capped at the ASL. As such the Authority could either meet these costs direct from its revenue budget or could set up an earmarked reserve to meet these. Lancashire had chosen to meet the potential costs through a combination of the two. Hence, the amount included in the revenue budget reflected charges in a typical year, with the reserve being set up to cover any excess. As such, the reserve, combined with the amounts within the revenue budget, provided sufficient cover to meet 2 years' worth of the maximum possible claims. It was noted that the revenue budget allocation had also been reduced in recent years, reflecting the claims history. Without holding this reserve to cushion any major claims that may arise, this would not have been possible. There was no utilisation during 2021/22 as the costs were met from the revenue budget and existing insurance provision.

Prince's Trust – This reserve had been established to balance short term funding differences and to mitigate the risk of loss of funding and enable short term continuation of team activities while alternative funding was found. Without this reserve any significant loss of funding would have an immediate impact on our ability to deliver the Prince's Trust programme and hence improve the lives of younger people.

Section 21 Business Rate Relief Grant in 2020/21 the Government had provided Section 31 rate relief grant to individual billing authorities in order to cover the additional in-year reliefs provided as a result of the pandemic. Business rates were split between the Government, billing authorities, Lancashire County Council and ourselves; we received 1% of the total, as such this grant should be split in line with business rates. However, the Government allocated all of this to billing authorities to aid cash flow, with the correct distribution anticipated in the new year, once the outturn business rates position had been agreed. As such, we accrued £1.9m for our anticipated share of this in 2020/21 and carried this forward via this reserve in order to meet the business rate collection fund shortfall that had arisen. This was drawn down in 2021/22. However a similar exercise was undertaken in respect of 2021/22 resulting in an estimated £1.1m now being due to the Authority, ie: a net reduction of £0.8m.

It was noted that a number of the reserves were short-term holding reserves and as such it was anticipated drawing down these and reducing the earmarked reserves to approximately £7m by March 2027, the majority of which would be attributed to the private finance initiative reserve and the insurance reserve.

Capital Reserves and Receipts
Capital Reserves had been created from under spends on the revenue budget in order to provide additional funding to support the capital programme in future years; as such they could not be used to offset any deficit on the revenue budget, without having a significant impact on the level of capital programme that the Authority could support.

Capital Receipts were generated from the sale of surplus assets. In 2021/22, £977k was utilised of capital reserves. However, this was partly offset by the proposed transfer of £336k from earmarked reserves. £3k of unused RCCO and of £331k from the general reserve, representing the in-year revenue underspend. In addition, the sale of vehicles generated £3k of capital receipts.

As a result of this the Authority currently held £19.4m of capital reserves/receipts. However, the 2022/23-2026/27 capital programme, after allowing for slippage, showed all of this being utilised over the next 3 years of the capital programme.

North West Fire Control Reserves
The North West Fire Control (NWFC) reserves brought forwards formed part of the opening balances, and the draft accounts' balances were included in the report and the draft accounts. This was not available for use as it was the Authority's share of the NWFC required reserves.

Provisions
The Authority had two provisions to meet future estimated liabilities:-

- Insurance Provision, which covered potential liabilities associated with outstanding insurance claims. A review had not yet been undertaken.
- Business Rates Collection Fund Appeals Provision, which covered the Authority's share of outstanding appeals against business rates collection funds, which was calculated each year end by each billing authority within Lancashire based on their assumptions of outstanding appeal success rates, as part of their year-end accounting for the business rates collection fund. A review had not yet been undertaken.

The overall position at year end showed the Authority (excluding draft North West Fire Control balances) holding £36.7m of reserves and provisions compared with the anticipated £35.3m identified in the Reserves and Balances Policy, agreed in February; the majority of the difference reflecting the additional capital slippage.

At this level the Treasurer believed these were adequate to meet future requirements in the medium term.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor O'Toole, the Director of

Corporate Services advised that the official deadline for local authority returns for the business rates collection fund was the end of June. He acknowledged that capacity was a common theme and advised that if the returns were not submitted, an estimate would be provided in the accounts.

County Councillor Steve Rigby queried the contract lengths of the PFI schemes and whether it was possibly to buy out of them, given the rise in inflation rates. In response, the Director of Corporate Services advised that the Authority had 2 separate Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts: i) for 2 stations which went live in 2003/04 and ii) another much larger scheme across the North West for 16 stations (4 in Lancashire) which went live in 2011/12. The first contract was for 30 years and the second for 25 years. He advised that national contracts had been adopted which had 3 cost elements: i) fixed, ii) increased with a fixed inflation rate and iii) facilities management (repairs, maintenance, energy and cleaning etc) which increased with RPI. Even if we ran the buildings ourselves we would suffer from inflation increases. It was possible to buy out of the scheme but this would be costly and more complicated with the second contract as it was in partnership with Cumbria and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Services and would have to be agreed jointly. Consideration would need to be given to the level of reserves and the potential for borrowing therefore this was not considered at the moment to be a viable option.

County Councillor Steve Rigby commented that PFI schemes had been discredited because the impact on revenue from having a set maintenance schedule. The Director of Corporate Services advised that there were conversations on what maintenance was required throughout the life cycle of the programme and there was a requirement in the contract regarding the building condition at the end of the contract.

<u>RESOLVED</u>: - That the Committee: -

i) noted the utilisation of £690k of earmarked reserves;
ii) agreed the year end transfers associated with the revenue outturn, £331k to the capital funding reserve;
iii) noted the transfer of £336k from earmarked reserves into capital reserves;
iv) agreed the year end capital outturn drawdown from capital reserves of £977k;
v) noted the transfer of £15k of unused RCCO to capital reserves;
vi) noted £3k of capital receipts;
vii) noted that NWFC accounts had not yet been received in order to calculate our share of their reserves, nor were we able to calculate our share of the Business Rates Collection Fund Appeal Provision; and
viii) noted and endorsed the overall level of reserves and provisions as set out in the report.

8/22 <u>FINANCIAL MONITORING</u>

The Director of Corporate Services advised that this report set out the current budget position in respect of the 2022/23 revenue and capital budgets. The overall position at the end of May was an overspend of £0.1m, largely as a result of price increases associated with energy and fuel.

The year-to-date positions within individual departments were set out in the report with major variances relating to non-pay spends and variances on the pay budget being shown separately in the table below: -

Area	Overspend/ (Under spend)	Reason
	£'000	
Fleet & Technical services	38	The increase in fuel prices was reflected in the overspend to date. The budget allowed for 12.5% increase in fuel costs, but the actual increase was significantly higher than this, approx. 50%, which equated to approx. £125k. In terms of usage it was too early to base any year end forecast on this, but this would continue to be monitored.
Property	94	The increase in energy prices was reflected in the overspend to date. The budget allowed for 25% increase in fuel costs, but the actual increase was significantly higher than this, approx. 100%, which equated to approx. £300k. In terms of usage it was too early to base any year end forecast on this, but this would continue to be monitored.
Wholetime Pay	(55)	The majority of the underspend was attributable to the slight shortfall in recruit numbers in April / May; 19 as opposed to 25. Retirements and leavers were broadly in line with forecast. In addition to this, there were some timing issues in terms of claims for overtime etc., which were particularly relevant in April, whereby outstanding claims were fully accrued as part of the year end process but where there can be a delay in personnel submitting claims for these.
On Call Pay	14	This was broadly in line with budget.
Associate Trainers pay	13	Associate trainers were used to provide greater flexibility to match resource to demand, offsetting shortfall in trainer numbers and meet peak demands in activity at Training Centre. Expenditure was broadly in line with budget.
Support staff (less agency staff)	(1)	The budget was adjusted to take account of the increased level of vacant support post within the Service. Whilst a number of posts remained vacant, agency staff were being utilised to fill some of these, resulting in a broadly balanced budget.

Apprentice Levy	(4)	The apprentice levy was payable at 0.5% of each month's payroll costs. Expenditure was in line with budget.

It was noted that the budget allowed for 2% pay awards for both grey and green book personnel. The pay claims for both groups were significantly higher than this and hence the budget may come under increasing pressure from this, as well as the general cost of living increase.

<u>Capital Budget</u>
The Capital budget for 2022/23 stood at £9.0m. There had been very little spend against the resultant programme, just £0.2m mainly against Support Vehicles. The current position against the programme as set out below:

	Spend to 31 May	
	£m	
Operational vehicles	-	The budget allowed for the replacement of various operational vehicles. 13 pumping appliances had already been ordered (7 this year and 6 next year) , 2 Command Units and an ALP, but these wouldn't be delivered until much later in the year, hence no costs have been incurred to date.
Support vehicles	0.1	This budget allowed for the replacement of various operational support vehicles, whilst some of these had already been delivered, the shortage of raw materials was affecting both the timeframe for delivery and the cost of vehicles, and hence this budget/timing may need adjusting during the year.
Operational Equipment	-	This budget allowed for the piloting of CCTV on a number of pumping appliances and the replacement of light portable pumps, both of which had been ordered but again had not yet been delivered. In addition, the budget allowed for the replacement of cutting and extrication equipment where the project was in the early stages, where costs may change depending on the type of equipment purchased and whether this was a whole scale replacement or not.
Building Modifications	0.1	This budget allowed for: • The replacement of 4 drill towers, where one tower, Blackpool, was completed in June, and where contracts had now been let for a further 2 towers, Tarleton and Bolton le Sands. • Enhanced facilities at Hyndburn fire stations, where a contract had been awarded

		• £0.2m in relation to fees associated with developing plans for the replacement of Preston Fire Station.
IT systems	-	The majority of the capital budget related to the national Emergency Services Mobile Communications Project (ESMCP), to replace the Airwave wide area radio system and the replacement of the station end mobilising system. The ESMCP project budget, £1.0m, was offset by anticipated grant, however the timing of both expenditure and grant was dependent upon progress against the national project. This national project had suffered lengthy delays to date, hence was included within slippage into the next financial year. The balance of the budget related to the replacement of various systems and ICT hardware, in line with the ICT asset management plan. Whilst no costs had been incurred in the year so far, it was noted that contracts had been awarded or were in the process of doing so for several of the systems, totalling over £1.0m of capital spend.
Total	0.2	

The costs to date would be met by revenue contributions.

It was noted that significant cost increases continued to be seen across various supply chains, and in particular in construction projects and this would affect some of the capital projects as they progressed through the procurement stage. In addition, shortages of raw materials were more frequently being cited as reasons for delays in delivery of goods ordered, which may lead to further slippage.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the financial position.

9/22 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on 28 September 2022 at 1000 hours in the Main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

Further meeting dates were noted for 30 November 2022 and 29 March 2023 and agreed for 10 July 2023.

10/22 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: - That the press and members of the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, indicated under the heading to the item.

11/22 GREEN BOOK SUPPORT STAFF SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

(Paragraphs 3 and 4)

The Director of People and Development provided a verbal update on the positive steps the Service had taken to improve support staff sustainability.

RESOLVED: - That the report be noted.

12/22 PENSIONS UPDATE

(Paragraphs 4 and 5)

Members considered an update report on the current position regarding pension schemes that applied to the uniformed members of the Fire Sector.

RESOLVED: - That the ongoing situation be noted.

13/22 IDRP - STAGE 2

(Paragraphs 1, 4 and 5)

Members considered a report from the Director of People and Development regarding a number of Stage 2 applications under the Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure. He explained the procedure to Members and the report outlined the facts of the cases presented.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee declined the applications presented.

14/22 HIGH VALUE PROCUREMENT PROJECTS

(Paragraph 3)

Members considered a report that provided an update on all contracts for one-off purchases valued in excess of £100,000 and high value procurement projects in excess of £100,000 including: new contract awards, progress of ongoing projects and details of new projects.

RESOLVED: That the Committee noted and endorsed the report.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood