



Tuesday, 12 March 2024

(1) MEMBERS OF THE AVON FIRE AUTHORITY

Councillors B Massey, B Nutland, L Brennan, R Eddy, P Goggin, R Hardie, P Hulme, P May, Y Mohamud, R Moss, R Payne, M Riddle, O Saini, S Smith, J Stansfield, D Thomas, R Tucker, A Varney, D Wilcox and M Williams
Police and Crime Commissioner: M Shelford
Independent Person: J Mason

(2) APPROPRIATE OFFICERS

(3) PRESS AND PUBLIC

Dear Member

You are invited to attend a meeting of the **Avon Fire Authority** to be held on **Wednesday, 20 March 2024** commencing at **14:00 hrs.**

The meeting will be held at **Main Conference Room (above Reception), Admin Building, Police and Fire Headquarters, Valley Road, Portishead, BS20 8JJ.** Parking is available on site.

In order to ensure COVID-19 guidance is adhered to risk assessments have been undertaken for live meetings to identify and put in place, the measures required ensuring that meetings take place safely. Further information is available on our website [Avon Fire Authority](http://www.avonfire.gov.uk).

Please note that this meeting will be video recorded and published on our YouTube channel (see the Notes on the next page).

Yours sincerely

Amanda Brown
Clerk to the Fire Authority

PROVIDING AVON FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



Clerk to Avon Fire Authority
PO Box 37, Police and Fire HQ, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 8JJ
Telephone 0117 926 2061 Extension 231 the.clerk@avonfire.gov.uk



Notes

Attendance Register – Attendance will be recorded by the Democratic Services Assistant and recorded within the Minutes of the Meeting.

Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests: any Member in attendance who has a personal interest in any matter to be considered at this meeting must disclose the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent. A Member having a prejudicial interest must withdraw from the meeting room or meeting whilst the matter is considered.

Contact: for any queries about the Meeting please contact Democratic Services on 0117 926 2061 ext. 231; or by e mail at the.clerk@avonfire.gov.uk; or in person at Police and Fire HQ, Valley Road, Portishead, Bristol, BS20 8JJ (by appointment during normal office hours only).

Emergency Evacuation Procedures: these will be advised at the start of the Meeting if appropriate.

Exempt Items: Members are reminded that any Exempt Reports as circulated with this Agenda contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Clerk at the conclusion of the Meeting for disposal.

Inspection of Papers: any person wishing to inspect Minutes, Reports, or a list of the background papers relating to any item on this Agenda should contact Democratic Services as above.

Public Access: under Standing Order 21 and providing 2 clear working days' notice has been given to the Clerk (the.clerk@avonfire.gov.uk) any resident or representative of a business or voluntary organisation operating in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset or North Somerset Council may address the Fire Authority or one of its Committees (for no more than 5 minutes) by submitting a written petition or statement. If preferred, the Chair or Clerk can read out a written statement on the individual's behalf. There is a time limit of 30 minutes for all Public Access statements.

Reports: reports are identified by the relevant agenda item number.

Substitutes (for Committees only): notification of substitutes should have been received from Group Leaders by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

A G E N D A - Avon Fire Authority Wednesday, 20 March 2024

Pages

14:00

**RESPONSE TO PUBLIC ACCESS STATEMENT - AVON FIRE
AUTHORITY - 20 MARCH 2024**

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The Service thanks Ms Gwynne for her Public Access Statement.

I as Statutory Finance Officer will respond to the financial aspects:

Ms Gwynne raises questions around a provision made in prior years for some interim work required at the Bedminster Fire Station. We have previously responded to similar queries by email on 8th August 2023, during the public inspection period for the 2022/23 financial statements. The £203k provision remains within the accounts at 31 March 2023 and has been audited as part of the external audit procedures completed on the 2022/23 financial statements. This provision will be released during the 2023/24 financial year, during the same financial year that the refurbishment works at the Bedminster Fire Station commenced.

At the March 2019 Fire Authority meeting preconstruction spends for both the Bath and Weston Fire Stations were approved, £500k and £420k respectively. The Service has currently spent just over half of the approved allowance for Bath on the work required to complete up to the end of RIBA stage 2 and also on exploring options for collaboration with other emergency services to avoid potential future costs. There will be further preconstruction works, and associated costs, as the Service progresses through RIBA stage 3 and 4. The Service has spent around £200k to date on pre-construction work for the Weston Station, covering exploration of site disposal and alternative locations, retaining land and the option of rebuilding or refurbishing the Station. There will be further preconstruction work and associated costs as the Service progresses through RIBA stages 2, 3 and 4 associated with the Weston refurbishment.

The costs allocated within the proposed capital programme represent the current expected costs of construction for the works at both the Bath and Weston stations and includes allowances for both construction and non-construction costs. The non construction costs can be attributed to design work, consultancy costs, surveys, and other professional fees. The Service continues to work through the design stages for both sites, so the split of total costs between construction and non-construction has not yet been finalised.

Detailed papers will be brought to the July meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee to request approval to proceed with each of these projects. Once 'approval to proceed' has been granted our procurement department and premises team will conduct a tender process to ensure value for money to the Authority.

I will now hand over to the Clerk to deal with the remaining aspects of the PAS:

Ms Gwynne has again raised capital expenditure of £765K relating to Temple Back – she is attempting to re-open a matter which has been fully investigated by two firms of auditors (the court found no evidence of fault or flaws in those two Independent Investigations and accepted the findings of the auditors). Her request for documents made in June 2020 has been reviewed by The Information Commissioner. She appealed the Information Commissioner's decision to the First Tier Tribunal (Information Rights) and that Tribunal heard detailed evidence and refused her appeal on 30 November 2022 citing that the Appellant's persistent contact with the AFA has the effect of causing harassment and distress (the judgment is available

online). The Service consider this matter closed and will not be responding to any further comments about the topics covered by that Judgment.

Ms Gwynne's comments about the Chief Fire Officer's NJC pay award are addressed by paper 13 in the Agenda today.