

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY****7 DECEMBER 2018****PRESENT:****Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:**

Councillors Chadwick, Finlay, Green, Healing, Matthews, Smith and Whittle.

**Representing Kingston upon Hull City Council:**

Councillors Belcher, Dad, Nicola and Rodmell.

**Representing North Lincolnshire Council:**

Councillors Briggs (Chairperson), Grant and Sherwood.

**Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:**

Councillors Barfield, Shepherd and Swinburn.

Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director Service Delivery, Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer/Secretary, Director of Public Safety, Director of Service Support, Director of Human Resources, Director of Operational Training, Head of Joint Estates Service Committee Manager, Mr. G Barker, External Audit (Mazars) and Mr D Chapman (Chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) were also present.

Mr A Smith (Independent Co-opted Member of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) also attended as an observer.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Chambers, Randall (Mrs), T Walker, V Walker and Waltham MBE.

The meeting was held at the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull. Meeting commenced at 10.30 a.m.

*(The Chairperson welcomed Mr A Smith, Mr G Barker and all other persons who were present.)*

**6006 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations.

**6007 MINUTES** – **Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 26 October 2018 having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairperson.

**6008 RETIREMENT OF COMMITTEE MANAGER** – The Chairperson reported that Mr J Smith was attending his last meeting of the Authority prior to his retirement on 31 December 2018 and on behalf of Members thanked Mr Smith for his service and presented him with a gift to mark the occasion. The Chairperson, on behalf of Members, expressed Members best wishes for a long and healthy retirement.

**6009 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS** - The Monitoring Officer/Secretary stated that no questions had been received from Members in accordance with Rule 12, Part 4 of the Constitution.

**6010 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS** - The Monitoring Officer/Secretary stated that no petitions had been received and no requests for a deputation had been received under Rule 13, Part 4 of the Constitution.

**6011 COMMUNICATIONS** - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported orally on the following items:

- Local Government Association (LGA) Masterclass for Elected Members – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that details had been circulated to all Members of forthcoming LGA events and asked that any Members wishing to attend an event express an interest via their respective Group Secretaries.
- Community Awards - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive referred to the Service's recent Community Awards evening which had been a great success.
- International Men's Day Celebrations – 19 November 2018 - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported on the second International Men's Day celebrations held by the Service at Costello Stadium, Hull which was intended to be an annual event.
- Letter to MPs re Employer Pension Contributions – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported that for the financial year 2019/20 the Authority's pension contributions will increase by approximately £2.4m and reminded Members that whilst the Government had always provided funding to meet any additional cost in this regard, the Government had recently consulted on a mechanism to only distribute funding to meet some of this additional cost. This would mean that the Government's new proposal would leave a cost of around £250k to be met from the Authority's budget in 2019/20. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that following this meeting a letter would be sent on behalf of the Authority to local Members of Parliament making them aware of the impact that this additional cost could have on the Service. It was anticipated that further updates might be received on this issue as part of the funding settlement for 2019/20 from the Government which was now expected later this month.
- Appointment of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Humberside as a Member of the Authority – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members of the previous consultation undertaken by the Home Office regarding the provisions in the Policing and Crime Act 2017 regarding the appointment of PCCs as Members of a Fire and Rescue Authority and the concerns that had been raised regarding the application of those provisions to Combined Fire and Rescue Authorities. Having considered the representations received the Government had now published a response stating that Combination Schemes could be amended to allow a PCC to apply to a Combined Fire and Rescue Authority, such as Humberside, to become a voting Member of the Authority. The Authority would therefore need to await until its Combination Scheme is amended before any action can be taken in this matter.
- Funding for the Ark Project - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported that the Chairperson and himself had met the Environment Minister recently in order to seek support for funding for the Ark project.

**6012 MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER** – This item was included on the Agenda to allow Members an opportunity to ask questions regarding any items included in the Members' Newsletter that had been emailed recently to all Members of the Authority. There were no questions.

#### **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**6013 Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee** - The Chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee presented the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 November 2018 and in doing drew Members' attention to the following items:

- (i) Scrutiny Programme 2018/19 – Timetabling of Topics (Minute 5991 refers).

- (ii) Service Performance and risk Report – End of the 2nd Quarter Period 2018 – 2019 (Minute 5997 refers) – Mr Chapman drew Members attention to the reference in the minute reminding the Authority of the outcomes of the scrutiny undertaken by the GAS Committee in 2015 regarding the burden of Automated Fire Alarm (AFA) false alarm calls and suggested that this subject might be a topic for a future Member Day.

The Chairperson of the Authority acknowledged the work undertaken by Members of the GAS Committee.

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 26 November 2018 be received.

**6014 HER MAJESTY’S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS)** – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that following the conclusion of the inspection the Senior Leadership Team had received an initial de-briefing from the Inspectors and that the information received had been conveyed to Members at the recent Member Day and had also been circulated to staff. Following the inspection some additional documents had been submitted to the Inspectors with regard to matters that had been raised.

The Chairperson, on behalf of Members, expressed thanks to everyone involved in the inspection and stated that the Authority would have to await the publication of the Inspector’s final report in 2019.

**Resolved** – That the report be received.

#### **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

**6015 TECHNICAL UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT** – Mr G Barker, External Audit (Mazars) submitted a report indicating that Mr R Woodley (Manager) and himself had met with senior management of the Service to commence their planning work in respect of the January 2019 audit which was beginning to shape their Audit Strategy Memorandum for the 2018/19 audit which Mazars intend to present to the January 2019 meeting of the GAS Committee and the February 2019 meeting of the Authority. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5992 refers). The report also highlighted a number of national publications and other updates which were currently having an impact in local government.

**Resolved** – That the report be received.

**6016 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR UPDATE REPORT 2018/19 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018** – The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer submitted a report providing an update on the Authority’s treasury management activities for the first half of the financial year 2018/19. The Authority on 16 March 2018 had approved the annual Treasury Management Policy Statement and agreed a range of Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, aimed at ensuring effective treasury management and affordability of capital plans. The report ensured compliance with recommended practice as outlined in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIFPA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2009 by providing Members with an update on treasury management undertaken since the beginning of the financial year and highlighting key Prudential Indicator information. Appendix 1 to the report detailed the Prudential Indicators agreed by Members at the Fire Authority on 16 March 2018 and showed for comparison the actual figures as at 30 September 2018. During the period April to September 2018, the Authority had operated wholly within the limits approved. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5994 refers).

**Resolved** - That Members note the treasury management activities undertaken during the first half of 2018/19 and the Prudential Indicators as outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16 and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

**6017 FINANCIAL PLANNING 2019/20 ONWARDS** - The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer submitted a report considering the Authority’s Revenue Budget for the period 2019/20 onwards. The current financial position of the Authority was sound but there would continue to be significant challenges to that position in the medium-term from what is now a very uncertain financial planning environment. The report set out the Service’s financial planning through to 2022/23 and the assumptions applied to arrive at the position shown. The requirement to make some further efficiencies would continue into the medium-term. The report also set out the likely timescales for the precept/council tax consultation for 2019/20. Appendix 1 of the report set out the latest position on the Authority’s Revenue Budget for 2019/20 onwards. The key assumptions that had been incorporated into the budget were included in the Table 1 at paragraph 8 of the report. Appendix 1 of the report set out a broadly balanced budget over the medium-term to 2022/23. The report drew attention to important assumptions that had been made with regard to the following:

- Pay Awards
- Employer Pension Contributions
- Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2020
- Fire Funding Formula Review
- Brexit

The Government last year had announced the principles for council tax/precept increases for 2018/19 and 2019/20. For Fire and Rescue Services this was set as 3% with any proposed increase above that level requiring an area-wide referendum. The assumption was that the 3% level will hold for 2019/20. It was intended that after the release of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the Authority will commence a council tax/precept consultation for 2019/20. It was originally anticipated that the Government would announce the Provisional Settlement on 6 December 2018, but the announcement had been postponed and it was anticipated that the announcement might not now be made until late December 2018. The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer stated that details would be circulated to Members as soon as they were available. The consultation will be web-based with articles in the local press and on social media to highlight the process. The report set out the key dates leading up to budget setting in February 2019. The report concluded that the Authority’s financial position remains sound, however significant challenges will occur in the period 2019 to 2023 and to that end it was essential that the Authority continues to carefully identify efficiencies and maximise its funding wherever possible.

**Resolved** – That Members note the report and the financial challenges for the period 2019/20 onwards and that the precept/council tax report be considered at the February 2019 Authority meeting.

**6018 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 ONWARDS – VEHICLES, ESTATES AND ICT** – The Director of Service Support submitted a report setting out for approval the proposed capital programme for vehicles, estates and ICT for 2019/20 onwards. The programme as set out below had been approved by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) on 20 November 2018. The detailed vehicle and operational equipment replacement programme summarised below was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

	2019/20 (£)	2020/21 (£)	2021/22 (£)	2022/23 (£)
Heavy Vehicles	0.45m	Nil	2m	1.82m
Light Vehicles	0.37m	0.38m	0.154m	0.215m
Equipment / PPE	1.069m	0.193m	0.351m	0.35m
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.889m</b>	<b>0.573m</b>	<b>2.506m</b>	<b>2.389m</b>

With regard to the Estates programme 2019/20 onwards the report indicated that 2018/19 saw the merger of both estates teams from Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and Humberside Police (HP) to form the Joint Estates Service (JES) with effect from 1 April 2018, with the aim of providing a more integrated and resilient service and delivering

efficiencies for both organisations. As the Service was in its transition year and processes currently being developed and refined, there had been some slippage on the delivery of the current year’s capital programme, although planning for existing schemes was now picking up pace. The Capital programme for estates detailed below reflected the additional capital areas of work identified in the report. To enable this to come to fruition it was proposed that an allocation of future years budget is rolled forward which will enable works to be complete while remaining within the existing budget envelope. Due to the extent of works over the next year it was foreseeable that some elements of this might run into 2020/21. The Capital programme for estates was as follows:

Scheme	2018/19 £k	2019/20 £k	2020/21 £k	2021/22 £k	2022/23 £k
<b>Station refurbishments</b>					
Bransholme	27				
Bridlington	450				
Scunthorpe	100	400			
Goole	100	300			
<b>Training facilities upgrades</b>					
Clough Road Training	566	250			
B.A. Training refurbishments	391				
SHQ OTC upgrade	150				
<b>Other schemes</b>					
SHQ Phase 2	420				
Spend to save	142				
Dignity schemes	355	435			
Co-location fund	50	50			
Cleethorpes boiler and roof		85			
Howden		200	200		
Block Allocation		80	200	500	500
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>2,751</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>

In order to fund the programme of works outlined it had been necessary to bring forward a proportion of the funding allocation for future years however it was noted that the overall budget envelope for the period 2019 – 2023 remained the same at £5.951m.

With regards to ICT 2019/20 onwards the report indicated that the core ICT Replacement Programme had been brought together with the agile/flexible working programme to ensure that replacement equipment is agile-ready. This meant that the maximum use and value can be obtained from all ICT equipment. The ICT Capital Programme was as follows:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
ICT Replacement Programme and Agile/Flexible Working Services	£150k	£175k	£250k	£250k
Emergency Services Network Devices	£200k	£100k	-	-
Data Centre Hardware Upgrade	£150k	£150k	£150k	£100k
Information Systems Upgrades and Development	£175k	£175k	£175k	£175k
<b>Total</b>	<b>£675k</b>	<b>£500k</b>	<b>£575k</b>	<b>£525k</b>

Subject to approval of the recommendations contained within the report, the financial effect of the proposals would be incorporated into the Authority’s revenue and capital plans for 2019/20 onwards that will be presented for consideration and final approval at the Fire Authority in February 2019. The most appropriate method of financing the assets set out in

the report would be determined on the basis of value for money and risk to the Authority. That assessment would be undertaken prior to the start of the financial year in liaison with the Authority’s Treasury Management advisors.

**Resolved** – That Members approve the capital programme for vehicles, estates and ICT for 2019/20 onwards and that it is incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2022/23 to be considered at the 11 February 2019 Authority meeting.

**6019 SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT END OF THE 2ND QUARTER PERIOD - JULY-SEPTEMBER 2018** - The Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director Service Delivery submitted a report providing information relating to the Service’s Performance and Risk Framework for the 2nd quarter period 1 July – 30 September 2018 which was highlighted in the following summary table:

<b>Prevention Performance</b>		
Accidental Dwelling Fires	13.5% above 3 year average.	
Other Accidental Fires (exc. Vehicles)	38.4% above 3 year average.	
Deliberate Primary Fires	2.6% above 3 year average.	
Deliberate Secondary Fires	31.6% above 3 year average.	
Automatic Fire Alarms	0.8% below 3 year average.	
Fatalities	3 fatalities (aspirational target 0)	
Injuries	31 injuries (aspirational target 0)	
<b>Response Performance</b>		
First engine response	9.36% better than target	
Second engine response	8.00% better than target	
<b>Projects Update</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure</li> <li>• ICT</li> <li>• Collaboration</li> </ul>	A summary of progress for Strategic Projects is provided at Paragraph 9 within the body of this Report.	
<b>Strategic Risks</b>		<b>Score</b>
Reduction in external financial support	No change in risk. Medium term financial planning for 2019/20 onwards has started with a report to the September 2018 HFA.	<b>72</b>
East Coast and Hertfordshire Control Room Project (ECHCR).	Slight reduction in risk. Capita have now put forward a new proposal which is currently under consideration by the board. This will push HFRS transition into 2019.	<b>30</b>
Impact of Brexit	Recently added to the risk register	<b>36</b>
<b>Complaints</b>		
<b>Quarter 2 Detail</b>		
Driving related	1 Upheld	0 Not Upheld
Conduct of employees	1 Upheld	3 Not Upheld
Performance of employees	0 Upheld	1 Not Upheld
Damage to property whilst responding to incidents	1 Upheld	0 Not Upheld
Other	2 Upheld	3 Not Upheld
<b>Current and Previous Quarter for comparison</b>		
	Current Quarter	Previous Quarter
Totals	5 Upheld   7 Not Upheld	0 Upheld   3 Not Upheld
<b>Compliments and Messages of Thanks</b>		
31 compliments and messages of thanks were received and posted on the Website: <a href="#">Compliments and Messages of Thanks</a>		

Further detailed information was contained within Appendix 1 to the report which identified a number of performance issues of note that had arisen during the reporting period and also Appendix 2 which included charts for each constituent Unitary Authority area showing the trend for accidental dwelling fires over the last three years and also the severity level for the same incidents, over the same period. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5997 refers).

A Member referred to paragraph 14 of the report and sought clarification regarding the final snagging stage at Peaks Lane Fire Station, Scunthorpe. The Director of Service Support stated that any issues identified will be rectified and Members of the Authority will be informed.

**Resolved** – That Members take assurance as to the Service's proactive approach to performance and risk management.

**6020 HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - 2ND QUARTER JULY–SEPTEMBER 2018** - The Director of Service Support submitted a report providing information with regard to Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes for the 2nd quarter period July – September 2018. A summary of the statistical data was set out in Appendix 1 to the report. During the reporting period there were 29 incidents recorded (Figs 1 & 2 to the report) that resulted in some form of personal injury or ill-health. This was identical to the same period last year and was marginally lower than the five-year rolling average for quarter two of 29.6 (Fig 3). Twenty-three of the 29 injuries/ill-health episodes were reported by operational staff. Eleven were fulltime, ten were on-call and two were flexible duty staff. This made up 79% of the total for the quarter. This was usual considering the proportionate makeup of the workforce and the nature of the activities carried out by operational staff i.e. more potential hazards encountered. It was less than last year's quarter 2 which was made up of 83% (24 out of 29) operational staff. Non-operational staff reports had increased from 2 to 4 largely due to minor incidents such as knocking into furniture, however one incident related to a dog bite during a safe and well visit (the dog was from a different property). As shown in (Fig 3), the number of accidents for quarter 2 was only slightly lower than the five-year rolling average (29.6). However, it should be noted that the total for this year had fallen significantly from the 2014 highest figure of 35; a reduction of almost 17%. Once again, training activities made up the highest number of the total injuries reported which was the same as quarter one for this year and quarter two for the previous year with 11 of the 29 reports (38%). Positively though, that proportion had reduced as the percentage of the total for last year's quarter two was 55% (15 out of 29). Every other activity type had shown an increase in comparison to last year's quarter, these were Physical Training, Routine Activities, Fire and Special Service. Another similarity with last year's quarter two was the number of RIDDOR reports (Fig 5) which was again two. Both those injuries resulting in sickness absence over seven days were sustained during Physical Training. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5998 refers).

In response to a query by a Member regarding the possible need to revisit the Service Redesign Programme the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that a review of operational training was currently being undertaken and so the SRP was being reviewed as part of that process, and that it would be included as a topic for a future Member Day.

**Resolved** – That Members take assurance as to the Service's proactive management of Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes.

**6021 OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE REPORT - 2ND QUARTER JULY–SEPTEMBER 2018** - The Director of Service Support submitted a report providing information with regard to Operational Assurance outcomes for the 2nd quarter period July – September 2018. A summary of the statistical data was set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The report indicated that during the reporting period 112 incidents were operationally assured compared to 78 for the same period last year. This was a significant increase of 44%. As a result, the number of hot debriefs carried out had risen by almost one and a half times. More structured, tactical debriefs had increased by four times, allowing a greater detailed picture and analysis

following larger more complex incidents. Understanding the quality of information gathered from all types of debriefs continued to improve significantly through increased education and awareness of assessors. This in turn allowed for the key lessons to be captured in order to continually improve firefighter safety. Each assessment undertaken was broken down into three key areas; safety critical, areas of concern and exceptional practice. All areas had significantly increased. These were all positive indicators in promoting continuous development through robust reporting. The utilisation of appliance CCTV to assure operational incidents had highlighted a number of areas of concern, however, the majority of incidents had been managed in accordance with the principles of National Operational Guidance and HFRS standard operating procedures. Over this reporting period, two thematic reviews had taken place. The message review is moving into business as usual following a period of review and challenge. As part of the review, Operational Assurance had recommended that Service Control along with FDS Officers continue to challenge poor performance when necessary, with associated learning taking place to improve the quality in this area. The Site-Specific Risk Information review was completed on 30 September, 2018. The Operational Assurance team were currently analysing the assessments and compiling a report which will highlight recommendations and areas of good practice arising as a result. One key area that had emerged was the need for timely risk critical information of buildings for crews. While systems are in place to capture and disseminate information, improvements are being explored to ensure a more robust process moving forward. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5999 refers).

Following a query by a Member regarding the safety critical events listed at paragraph 10 of the report the Chairperson stated that the third item (suitability of equipment at road traffic collisions and concerns with working at height relating to safe systems of work) will be included as a topic at a future Member Day.

**Resolved** – That Members take assurance as to the Service's proactive management of Operational Assurance outcomes.

**6022 ETHNICITY PAY REPORTING** – The Director of Human Resources submitted a report indicating that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy had issued a Government Consultation to seek organisational views on ethnicity pay reporting by employers. The Government viewpoint is that by reporting ethnicity pay information enables employers to identify, then tackle barriers to creating a truly diverse workforce. The consultation paper set out options and asked questions on what ethnicity pay information should be reported by employers to allow for meaningful action, who should be expected to report and next steps. The objective of the consultation is to enable the Government and employers to move forward in a consistent and transparent way. Consultation responses will inform future government policy on ethnicity pay reporting.

The Chairperson thanked the Director of Human Resources for the work she had done on this matter.

**Resolved** – That Members approve the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service response set out in Appendix 1 to the report to the Government Consultation paper set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

**6023 ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT** - The Director of Human Resources submitted a report providing an update with regard to absence management for the 2nd quarter of 2018/19, as reported at the Authority meeting on 26 October 2018 (Minute 5981 refers). For the second quarter in a row, absence remained below the targets agreed. Appendix 1 to the report provided a detailed analysis of absence figures from this quarter compared with the same period last year and again showed significant improvements. Appendix 2 to the report provided a comparison of local Quarter 2 absence management with the national data available which was given to Members at the October 2018 Authority meeting. Again that showed a broadly favourable picture save for that of support staff, where the Authority is slightly above the national average for duty days lost. The report stated that the approach taken with the introduction of the Case Review Boards co-chaired by the Deputy Chief Fire



Officer and the Director of Human Resources is having a positive impact on both the consistency of management of absence and the absence data, and that the HR Service Partner model had introduced a coaching approach with managers to improve their understanding of the management of absence which is also having a considerable positive impact as the cases coming before the CRB are increasingly better managed.

At the 17 March 2017 Authority meeting, it was agreed that a quarterly report would be brought before Members with an update on the management of absence to include detailed data on absence levels by staff group, as well as development and dissemination of fair and appropriate mechanisms for the same. The data in Table 1 at paragraph 9 of the report showed, as previously reported, that as a comparison with the same quarter last year, absence had reduced considerably across all staff groups and was below target in performance management terms. The data attached in Appendix 1 to the report described the sickness absence data by staff group, reason for absence and the split between long-term and short-term absence. The staff group who work in Control had, once again, been excluded due to the low numbers of staff, which might have revealed identity and breached data protection legislation. Table 2 at paragraph 12 showed a significant shift in the split between short and long term sickness when compared to the same quarter last year and also the comparison in the differences between the duty hours lost due to sickness, which also showed a significant decrease.

**Resolved** – That Members note the content of the report and take assurance from the actions taken in the HR Directorate to continue the significant improvement in the management of absence and the support offered to staff who are unwell.

**6024 RE-ENGAGEMENT OF STAFF FOLLOWING RETIREMENT** – The Chairperson reported that he had been asked to meet with the Minister to discuss this issue and therefore suggested that this item be deferred until the next meeting of the Authority.

**Resolved** – That this item be deferred to the February 2019 meeting of the Authority.

**6025 REDUCTION OF UNWANTED FIRE SIGNALS** - The Director of Public Safety submitted a report indicating that Unwanted Fire Signals (UwFS) account for 14% of operational mobilisations to commercial premises. Despite a robust call challenge process, Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) continued to respond to 1400 (three year average) Automatic Fire Alarms incidents per year. Public Safety delivery was now becoming core work within Emergency Response teams, as such the Public Safety SRP had now progressed to a position of more effectively addressing the demand presented by UwFS. The impact of crews attending UwFS reduced the opportunities to deliver Public Safety activities (Community and Business Safety), train for operational incidents and attend genuine 999 calls requiring an emergency response. Within the HFRS Family Group, Humberside was 6<sup>th</sup> highest for automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises last year. In the HFRS Family Group, the top 5 performing services (exhibiting the lowest volumes of UwFS) all have a non-attendance approach supported by policy. In the Yorkshire and Humber Region all 3 other FRS had a non-attendance for UwFS and 2 had charging mechanisms within their policy provision. Nationally, over 20 services had a non-attendance policy (Fire Industry Association, 2015). The proportionality of incidents attended by HFRS in 2017/18 (excluding Emergency Medical Response) was currently dominated by UwFS that can be engineered or managed out of existence, returning capacity opportunities to the Service. The report set out the outcomes of public consultations undertaken in 2017 and stated that the Director of Public Safety believed it is appropriate to revise the services approach to reducing UwFS, utilising an education, influence and enforcement approach underpinned by a change of policy position to reduce the demand from UwFS. The report set out the Emergency Response resourcing implications for UwFS in 2017/18 and also the resourcing demand for UwFS in each Unitary Authority area. Only 68 premises account for over 400 UwFS attended by HFRS appliances and crews. Responding to such incidents represents a total exposure of the public and the Service to over 139 hours of operational (blue light) road risk, excepting where a confirmed false alarm is encountered, and the Service are requested to attend at normal road speed. It was notable that the 2018

HMICFRS inspection had particular focus upon UwFS. It was anticipated that recent NFCC work undertaken on UwFS with the Home Office will translate into a further thematic focus in future rounds of inspection

Following on from the 2017 consultations, the Public Safety SRP had now progressed to a stage to revise the services approach to reducing UwFS to utilise an education, influence and enforcement approach underpinned by a change of policy position to reduce the demand from UwFS. In order to raise the profile of UwFS, provide more detail around the proposals to reduce UwFS and obtain an increased level of responses from its communities, Public Safety recommended that the Service re-consults with the public on UwFS and asks for views upon future changes to policy. It was recommended that consultation commences 10 December 2018 for six weeks until 18 January 2019, with the results and subsequent recommendations being provided to the Authority on 11 February 2019.

**Resolved** – (a) That Members endorse the recommendation for the Service to re-consult with the public to ask for views upon future changes to Unwanted Fire Signal and AFA policy position statements specifically to support:

- (i) A non-attendance approach to commercial (non-sleeping risk, non COMAH) sites within identified regular business hours;
- (ii) A cost recovery mechanism to support and influence fire alarm management practises with false alarm frequent callers, and

(b) that a report on the outcome of the public consultation exercise be submitted to the Authority meeting to be held on 11 February 2019.

**6026 POCKLINGTON FIRE STATION – BLUE LIGHTS COLLABORATION** – The Director of Service Support and Head of Joint Estates Service submitted a joint report reminding Members that the Authority on the 8 December 2017 had approved the inclusion of a budget allocation ‘Co-location Fund’ within the Capital Programme 2018/19 Onwards – Vehicles, Estates and ICT’, with the objective of progressing co-location schemes with other blue-light services as an element of the broader collaboration agenda. In line with that decision the Joint Estates Service (JES) had undertaken a preliminary review of all the Service’s premises, with a view to identifying potential sites for collaboration with blue-light partners. Three sites including Pocklington, Driffield and Hornsea were identified as potential locations to undertake further feasibility work associated with their development. Whilst feasibility work at Hornsea had concluded that a co-location scheme would be unviable due to space and cost constraints, schemes for Pocklington and Driffield had been developed further in conjunction with respective operational teams. The report now submitted detailed a co-location proposal with Humberside Police, for Pocklington Fire Station, including three potential options for re-modelling the facility. The report also sought formal approval to progress a preferred option intended to facilitate greater integration between front-line ‘blue-light’ services. The proposal also provided an opportunity to achieve financial efficiencies for the public purse and was aligned with making the best use of the available estate resources.

**Resolved** – (a) That Members approve the proposals to develop and implement a collaborative project with Humberside Police to co-locate services at Pocklington Fire Station, and

(b) that Members give approval for Option 3 to be progressed as the preferred scheme, subject to resolution of Land Registry issues noted in paragraph 15 of the report.

**6027 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS/PUBLIC - Resolved** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following items (Minutes 6028 and 6029) on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

*(In making its decision the Authority confirmed that having regard to all the circumstances it was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information).*

**6028 INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT 1 APRIL 2019 ONWARDS** – The Executive Director Service Support/Section151 Officer presented a joint report by the Monitoring Officer/ Secretary and himself reminding Members that a report recommending the commencement of a tendering process to secure Internal Audit Services for 2019/20 onwards was submitted to the Authority on 28 September 2018. The report now submitted updated Members on the Tender and Evaluation approach taken and recommended the appointment of TIAA to provide Internal Audit Services for a three year period (with the option of a two-year extension), from 1 April 2019. The detail of the report had been reported to the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee on 26 November 2018 (Minute 6005 refers).

**Resolved** – That Members approve the appointment of TIAA to provide Internal Audit Services for 2019/20 onwards as outlined in the report.

**6029 EAST HULL FIRE STATION - UPDATE** - The Head of Joint Estates Services reported orally, further to Minute 5985 of the meeting held on 28 September 2018, on discussions with local ward Councillors from Hull City Council regarding the disposal of East Hull Fire Station. Arrangements were now being made for a public consultation exercise to be undertaken so that there is a clear view of the community's views regarding the future development of the site after disposal.

**Resolved** – That the report be received.

*Meeting closed at 12 noon.*