

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY**  
**GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**15 JULY 2013**

**PRESENT:** Independent Co-opted Members Mr D Hughes (Chairperson), Mr M Allingham, Mr D Chapman, Mrs G Hardy, Mr J Jepson and Mr C Vertigans.

Councillors Briggs, Swift and Whittle attended as observers.

Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Officer/Director of Operations, Secretary/Director of People, Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer, Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety, Head of Human Resources, Committee Manager and Mr D Murray (External Audit - KPMG) and Ms Y Mehmood (Internal Audit - H W Controls & Assurance) were also present.

An apology for absence was submitted from Independent Co-opted Member Mrs M Thomlinson.

The meeting was held at the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull. Meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m.

The Chairman welcomed all who were observing the meeting.

**4190 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive declared an interest in Agenda Item 20 (Accountability of the Chief Fire Officer).

**4191 MINUTES – Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2013, having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairperson.

**4192 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA** – There were no items.

**4193 UPDATE: MATTERS ARISING/FEEDBACK FROM FIRE AUTHORITY** - The Secretary/Director of People submitted a report summarising the consideration given by the Authority to the report presented by the Chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 June 2013. The Secretary/Director of People reported that the Chairperson of the Fire Authority and the three Group Secretaries had met on 5 July 2013 to discuss those matters referred to them by the Fire Authority on 24 June 2013 and that a report would be submitted to the Fire Authority in September 2013 on the outcome of their deliberations in respect to the following matters:

- Review of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, including the term of office of Independent Co-opted Members and also the appointment of a Vice-Chairperson.
- Member representation on the Board of 'HFR Solutions' Community Interest Company.

A Member queried why the matters had been referred to Group Secretaries as they did not appear to be political issues and also whether the group was some form of Sub-Committee. The Secretary/Director of People explained that the Fire Authority at its meeting on 24 June 2013 had agreed that the Chairperson and the three Group Secretaries consider the Matters Arising Report and while it was not a formal Sub-Committee as such and had no delegated powers it would report back to the Authority. A Member stated that the matters had initially arisen at the Committee meeting on 11 June 2013 and had been discussed by

the Authority on 24 June and discussed further on 5 July and queried whether this Committee would see the report prior to it being submitted to the Fire Authority in September 2013. The Secretary/Director of People advised Members that reports to the Fire Authority normally came to this Committee first. He stated that it was felt by Members that by September the Authority would be in a better position to undertake its review of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee as almost a year would have elapsed since its appointment.

The Chairperson referred to paragraph 2 of the report with regard to Minute 4164 (Findings of the Review of Efficiencies and Operations in Fire and Rescue Services) and sought clarification regarding the comment by a Member of the Authority that the role of this Committee was scrutiny and that it would be duplicating work if this Committee was involved in drafting the response to Sir Ken Knight's report. The Secretary/Director of People stated that the comment probably related to the Member's experience of scrutiny arrangements in his home authority. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive pointed out that the draft response was the subject of a separate report on the Agenda for this meeting.

**Resolved** – That the content of the report be noted.

**4194 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 MAY 2013** - The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer submitted a report containing the Authority's Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators for the period ending 31 May 2013. The summary estimated outturn position from the Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators was as follows:

- Revenue Budget - on budget;
- Capital Programme - £2.879m total expenditure (before 2012/13 slippage);
- Pensions Account - £9.307m deficit

The Accounts had been previously submitted to the Fire Authority on 24 June 2013 (Minute 4178 refers).

A Member referred to the surplus generated by 'HFR Solutions' on page 36 of the accounts and suggested that it would be helpful if future reports could indicate whether the surplus is gross or net. The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 undertook to implement the request. The Chairperson referred to the slippage on the Capital Programme set out in paragraph 2 of the report and comments by Officers at a previous meeting about delays due to staff not being able to progress schemes due to other work, and queried whether that meant that there would be similar slippage in the current year. The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer stated that it was almost inevitable that there would be some delay but stated that in respect of the major schemes he anticipated that Clough Road, Hull scheme would be at least 75% delivered and the Breathing Apparatus replacement scheme should have a significant part of the equipment delivered. A Member asked if a full explanation could be given as to the reasons for any slippage in future reports. The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer reminded Members that the Outturn report included an explanation but that he would aim to include notes within the monthly Management Accounts. A Member referred to the comment that it was anticipated that the expenditure on the Clough Road scheme would be about 75% of the scheme cost and stated that if that was so the budget should reflect the projected expenditure within each year of the project. The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer stated that the next accounts will incorporate the slippage from last year and show expenditure within the year. The Chairperson commented that the accounts had already been presented to the Authority rather than coming to this Committee first. The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer stated that this was due to the Authority's Calendar of Meetings and the preparation date of the accounts and indicated that the meeting cycle would not synchronize until October 2013.

**Resolved** – That Members take assurance from the report and the Authority's financial position for the period ending 31 May 2013.

**EXTERNAL AUDIT**

**4195 Progress Report 2012/13** – Mr D Murray (External Audit, KPMG) submitted a progress report indicating that KPMG had completed the planning and control evaluation phases of the four stage audit approach outlined in the Audit Plan presented to the Committee in February 2013 and had carried out their interim audit and discussed the findings with management. KPMG had not identified any significant control weaknesses as reported in a letter to the Fire Authority which was received at the June 2013 meeting. KPMG were currently undertaking their substantive testing of the financial statements and would present the Audit Highlights Memorandum (ISA 260 Report), to the Fire Authority on 27 September 2013. The report also indicated that as this was the first year that the Authority had prepared Group Accounts to consolidate the accounts of 'HFR Solutions' additional audit work was required which was not included in the original Audit Plan and scale fee set by the Audit Commission and consequently an additional fee of £1,074 had been agreed with the Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer. In terms of the Value for Money (VFM) audit KPMG were currently carrying out their assessment of the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money and ensure financial resilience. The report also included a calendar of key dates for the Audit Plan.

**Resolved** – That the letter be noted.

**INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS**

**4196 Annual Performance Report 2012/13** – Ms Y Mehmood (H W Controls & Assurance) submitted a report presenting the annual Internal Audit performance against set targets for the financial year 2012/13.

A Member referred to the Targets Underachieved in the summary of annual performance and sought assurance that the circumstances would not be repeated. Ms Mehmood stated that she could not give an assurance that the circumstance which was beyond her control would not re-occur but that she hoped to keep within the targets set.

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

**4197 Internal Audit Monitoring Report 2013/14** – Ms Y Mehmood (H W Controls & Assurance) submitted a report updating the Committee on the progress of the 2013/14 Internal Audit Plan.

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

**4198 COMPREHENSIVE SPENDING REVIEW (CSR) 2015/16** - The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer submitted a report updating Members on the key messages from the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2015/16 announcement on 26 June 2013. The report highlighted the main likely impacts for English Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) and Humberside Fire Authority. A letter from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) dated 26 June 2013 with regard to the 2015/16 Spending Round was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The letter stated that "From the 10% reduction that would otherwise be applied to fire and rescue authority funding, a £30 million (2.5%) resource fund will be available on a bid-for basis through the local government settlement to encourage joint working between fire and rescue authorities, collaboration with other blue lights services and help to meet up-front costs of service transformation". Clarification had been sought from DCLG by the Fire Finance Network on whether funding for English FRSs will be reduced by 10% or 7.5% before the £30m collaboration bidding process is undertaken. £45m of capital funding had been confirmed for FRSs for 2015/16. This was lower than the £75m a year that had been made available in the years 2011/12 to 2014/15. The mechanism for the allocation of the £45m was not yet clear.

An outline of the Council Tax mechanism for 2014/15 and 2015/16 was set out as follows:

- Referendum limit 2% - 2014/15 and 2015/16
- Grant equal to a 1% increase for those authorities that freeze or reduce council tax - 2014/15 and 2015/16

Confirmation was also given that freeze grants would continue to be provided in 2015/16 for previous council tax freezes. There was no confirmation of whether this would continue for 2016/17 onwards. Public sector pay awards were also expected to average at no more than 1%. The report concluded that the announcement was broadly in line with the Authority's planning assumptions for 2015/16. A 10% or 7.5% reduction in the Authority's funding for 2015/16 would be a significant challenge with a 10% reduction equal to £2.2m on top of the £5.3m that had been removed from the Authority's funding for 2011/12 to 2014/15. In parallel options on council tax increases were also severely constrained. A further report would be submitted to the September 2013 round of meetings setting out the financial projections for the Authority for 2014/15 onwards in light of the new information and any subsequent clarification over the coming weeks.

The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that the 10% reduction headline was worrying in the extreme as the processes adopted by the Authority so far had been incremental and that it might not be possible to achieve that level of reduction within the projected retirement profile of the Authority's staff, and that consequently the Change Board would shortly start looking at the scenario planning.

**Resolved** - That the report be noted.

**4199 FIRE AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO 'FACING THE FUTURE'** - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report, further to Minute 4164, reminding Members that at its meeting on 11 June 2013 this Committee had received a report introducing Sir Ken Knight's report "Facing the Future" and also indicating that the Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, had encouraged elected Members to comment on the report so he could consider those comments prior to the Government's response in Autumn 2013. Fire Authority Members considered the report at the meeting on 24 June 2013 and had subsequently formulated a draft response to it at their Member Day on 5 July 2013. The draft response was attached at Appendix 1 to the report now submitted and the appendices to that draft response were attached at Appendix 2 and Appendix 3. The Fire Authority would be asked to approve a final response at their meeting on 26 July 2013 which will then be submitted to the Fire Minister. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that he had recently heard that the likely response from the Fire Minister would come in the form of a White Paper to be published in October 2013 which rather suggested the possibility of some proposed legislative changes.

Members commented on the content and style of the draft response. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that he would make some amendments to the draft response in the light of the comments made.

**Resolved** – That Members note that the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive will amend the draft response to be submitted to the Fire Authority taking account of the comments by Members of this Committee.

**4200 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-16 – CONSULTATION** - The Secretary/Director of People indicating that the Fire Authority at its meeting on 15 March 2013 approved the draft Strategic Plan 2013-16 to go out for formal consultation. In total 11 completed questionnaires were received during the 12-week consultation period. The responses to the questionnaire set out in the report and the comments made were shown in Appendix 1 to the

report. It was not considered surprising that the response to the consultation had been low as the Authority had undertaken a number of consultations recently, for example around the Vision and Precept. In addition, the Authority was embarking on engagement around the Operational Efficiency Programme, which will undoubtedly generate a much greater response. The views of consultees would be considered when preparing the final version of the plan. The Authority should take into account the views of consultees before approving the Strategic Plan at its next meeting.

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

**4201 DRAFT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13** - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report reminding Members the Fire Authority publishes Annual Performance Reports which include the full performance information for the previous year. The draft report for 2012-13 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and would go before the Authority for approval to publish at the meeting on 26 July 2013. The report incorporated detailed information covering the delivery of the Strategic Plan, a 'health check' of the Service and information relating to Preparedness, Prevention, Protection, Response and Recovery. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported that there was an error on page 93 of the report with regard to the East Riding Community Protection Unit information.

**Resolved** - That Members note the report and take assurance from the proactive approach to performance management.

**4202 SICKNESS ABSENCE 2012-13** - The Secretary/Director of People submitted a report drawing Members attention to the sickness absence figures for 2012/13 set out in the Annual Performance Report (Minute 4201 above refers). Given the role of the Committee it was felt a fuller report would be welcomed and accordingly the report provided detailed sickness absence data for Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) for the year 2012/13. Relevant statistical information was presented along with commentary on current sickness levels and trends over recent years. The overall average number of working days sickness absence in 2012/13 had increased to 7.4 days from 6.2 days the previous year, and, the figures for all employee groups had increased apart from a slight reduction in the figure for Control staff. The data for operational employees working the Retained Duty System was shown differently because of the different nature of their working arrangements and showed an increase in the average number of days' absence. Further detail and explanation of all these figures was included in the report.

The Service's overall average absence rate of 7.4 working days remained favourable when compared with national public sector figures. HFRS was also in fourth position of the seven Fire and Rescue Services in the Authority's family group which provided statistics on working days/shifts lost to sickness absence for wholetime operational staff only. It was not possible to make full and wider comparisons with local authorities regionally or nationally as year-end figures were not yet available. Fire service comparisons were produced by the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) which commenced collation of sickness absence data after the Department for Communities and Local Government ceased to do so. The sickness absence information for 2012/13 produced by CFOA was included as an Appendix to the report and key comparisons were drawn out within the report.

The data indicated that the commonest cause of sickness absence in the Service was musculoskeletal problems (42%), which was in line with national statistics although the percentage of days lost in HFRS had decreased compared to previous years. Recognising the benefit of early intervention and the difficulties of health service provision HFRS continued to support employees with musculoskeletal issues by providing some sessions, where appropriate, of private physiotherapy and sports therapy and proactively supporting physical fitness activity. Further analysis indicated that back and knee problems were the main musculoskeletal health issue in operational staff and upper limb issues in the support group. A refocus on health promotion and improving posture and ergonomic use of computers etc. was being developed to address this. A breakdown of employee groups and

reasons for absence was included in Appendix 4 to the report. The second commonest cause of sickness absence in the Service was that related to stress, anxiety and depression. Comparative annual data for 2006 to 2013 showing total days lost due to these and analysis by staff group and average length of absence per case was shown in Appendix 3 to the report. Further proactive measures were being developed as a priority to support individuals and managers, provide training and awareness and enhance practice in this area against the background of the current financial climate and service changes. E-learning was one such area being developed. There was no identifiable monthly pattern or particular employee group or area of work highlighted as a problem although absences related to work issues tended to last longer. Confidential counselling was provided by HFRS and mental health first aiders in the workplace support those in work to maintain mental health. Occupational Health staff also support affected individuals to recovery.

For 2012/13, HFRS was in fourth position of the seven Fire and Rescue Services in the Authority's family group which provided statistics on working days/shifts lost to sickness absence for wholetime operational staff only. Full details were shown in Appendix 5 to the report. Fire service comparisons were produced by the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) which commenced collation of sickness absence data after the Department for Communities and Local Government ceased to do so. The sickness absence information for 2012/13 produced by CFOA was included in full at Appendix 6 to the report. It was noted that not all services participated in the CFOA data. Members had previously requested information regarding absences of HFRS employees due to injuries sustained at work and details for 2012/13 were shown in Appendix 7 to the report.

Attendance management remains a key issue for the Service in terms of improving both organisational performance and employee well-being. This includes support to managers in applying the Service's Attendance Management Procedure, an attendance management action plan, health promotion and sickness prevention work, support for individuals in rehabilitation and effective management, at corporate level, of long term sickness cases. The Service's approach is to apply/build on preventative measures as well as making every effort to support absent staff in achieving a timely return to work. Regular (monthly) case reviews of long term absences take place involving senior managers, HR and Occupational Health to support an equitable, consistent and timely management approach. Similar regular meetings are held with managers at Community protection Unit (CPU) and section head level to monitor and review sickness absences locally. The Service's Conduct and Performance Procedure is used where appropriate.

Members' expressed their appreciation for the comprehensive report and the inclusion of national data. A discussion ensued during which Members' questions were answered by Officers. The Secretary/Director of People suggested that Members might find it helpful if comparison data with neighbouring authorities could be obtained for submission to the next meeting of this Committee. In addition the Secretary/Director of People said that the data for the first three months of 2013/14 would be available, which would help to identify any trends emerging.

**Resolved** - That the Committee is very encouraged by the quality of the report and the data; takes assurance from the approach adopted to effectively manage employee sickness absence levels and look forward to the next report which will hopefully include comparison data with neighbouring authorities.

#### **4203 PERFORMANCE REPORTING AND SERVICE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

**2013-14** - The Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety submitted a report providing information regarding the reporting of Service performance for the period 2013-14 and the proposed Service Performance Indicators for that period which were included at Appendix 1 to the report. Performance against all of the Authority's Strategic Objectives would be monitored and reported to the Authority on a quarterly basis following scrutiny by this Committee. The Authority would receive three quarterly reports, followed by the Annual Performance Report which would incorporate performance information from the fourth

quarter. This was in line with the reporting for 2012-13 and the Annual Performance Report for that period which was elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting (Minute 4201 above refers).

**Resolved** - That Members acknowledge the progress made against Service targets as set out in the report.

**4204 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (CLG) – GUIDE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE** - The Secretary/Director of People indicating that CLG had released guidance in June 2013 called 'Your council's cabinet – going to its meetings, seeing how it works'. A copy of the guidance was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Whilst the guidance was aimed directly at local authority 'Cabinet' governance structures (and therefore more relevant to the four constituent authorities) there were a number of parallels, particularly around openness and accountability. The report stated that this Committee should be aware of the Guidance, how it might apply to the Fire Authority and to what extent the Authority should give further consideration to the following themes:

- Exempt Information
- Filming of Meetings
- Tweeting/Blogging
- Knowing About a Public Meeting
- Key Decisions
- Decisions – Records

In terms of the Fire Authority then so far as the Guidance was applicable to the Authority, then the Authority was fully compliant. In respect to internal decisions, for example Corporate Management Team or an internal Board, then decisions were made available internally (by minutes and action logs). The external release would be subject to normal Freedom of Information rules.

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

**4205 MEDICAL RESPONSE TRIALS IN POCKLINGTON AND GRIMSBY** - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report updating Members on the progress made so far during the medical response trials taking place at Pocklington and Grimsby. Participating staff had been trained and provided with a response vehicle. Both schemes had been in place since April 2013 and both have been deployed to medical emergencies. Feedback from participating staff had been positive. Recent discussions with Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) concluded with agreement to form a working group to identify further opportunities for collaboration. Firefighters in Scunthorpe had expressed interest in crewing a medical response car therefore research was underway to see if that is feasible. The North East Lincolnshire LIVES Response scheme had stimulated a great deal of interest amongst firefighters. In view of this the scheme was likely to be expanded to cover the whole of Northern Lincolnshire. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive also reported on recent discussions with East Midlands Ambulance Service regarding possible opportunities for collaboration.

**Resolved** - That Members endorse further discussions with Yorkshire Ambulance Service, LIVES and East Midlands Ambulance Service with a view to exploring further collaborative opportunities.

**4206 INSPECTION OF MEMBER REGISTERS** – The Member Registers of Interests and Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality were made available for inspection by any Member of the Committee as part of their monitoring role.

**4207 INSPECTION OF OFFICER REGISTERS** – The Officer Registers of Interests and Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality were made available for inspection by any Member of the Committee as part of their monitoring role.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**4208 Firefighter Fatality, Manchester** - The Chairperson referred to the sad loss of life of a firefighter at a recent incident in Manchester. It was agreed that the Committee's condolences be conveyed to the firefighter's family and to his Fire Service colleagues.

**4209 July Humberside Fire Authority Meeting** – The Chairperson reported that he would not be able to attend the next meeting of the Fire Authority on 26 July 2013 to report on the proceedings of this meeting. It was agreed that Mr D Chapman will attend the Fire Authority in place of Mr Hughes.

**4210 Recruitment of Committee Member** – In response to a query from the Chairperson the Secretary/Director of People reported that to date he had had a reasonable response to the advertisement to recruit an Independent Co-opted Member to fill the vacancy on the Committee.

**4211 Venues for Committee Meetings** – The Chairperson reported that Members of the Committee had discussed the possibility of holding meetings of the Committee at venues other than Fire Service Headquarters and had agreed the meeting on 14 October 2013 be held at Beverley Community Protection Unit.

**4212 Role of Members of Committee** – The Chairperson referred to Minute 4149 and reported that Members of the Committee had discussed the suggestion that Members of the Committee might usefully be linked to workstreams on a trial basis, and that he would send an email to the Secretary/Director of People confirming members' views.

**4213 Councillor D Engall MBE** – The Committee expressed their congratulations to Councillor D Engall, Vice-Chairperson of the Authority upon her recent award of an MBE.

**4214 Presentation Following Meeting on 11 June 2013** – A Member congratulated ACO Blacksell for the presentation following the meeting on 11 June 2013 which had been very well received by those Members in attendance.

**4215 ACCOUNTABILITY OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER** - The Secretary/Director of People submitted a report reminding Members that the new National Framework for Fire and Rescue services effectively sets out the need to put in place arrangements to hold the Chief Fire Officer to account. An extract from the Framework was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. There was no prescribed means by which this should be done and as such it is left to individual authorities to determine. Obviously in a County structure the system is very different. Having consulted with colleagues in other Services, the practice appears to be patchy, with little commonality.

Under the previous Committee structure, the Policy and Executive Committee had responsibility under the Constitution to set and review the performance of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and in turn the Corporate Management Team. However the Committee, perhaps for a number of reasons, did not undertake that role but did consider the remuneration of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, most recently in 2010. Since 2010, there had been a full review (third) of the corporate governance arrangements of the Authority, culminating in the current governance structure which was approved in April 2012. However at present, other than broadly through the normal reporting to the Authority, there were no annual objectives set or indeed a review of performance subsequently. This was not uncommon in the sector. In respect to all other members of staff, a new appraisal system was being introduced and would be reviewed in due course.

The report set out some options for consideration by the Authority. The options had been discussed with the Chairperson of the authority and then the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, although clearly this was a matter for the Authority to determine. Given the background outlined in the report, it was recommended that Members should review any

process adopted early in Spring 2014, perhaps on that occasion, acting like a mid-year review. That would enable the process to be redefined in readiness for 2014/15.

Members discussed the options set out in the report.

**Resolved** – That Members agree that a process should be formalised regarding the review of the performance of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and in turn the Corporate Management Team.

**4216 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – Resolved** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items (Minutes 4217 and 4218) on the grounds that they are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

*(In making its decision the Committee 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).*

**4217 POTENTIAL COLLABORATION: SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE** - The Secretary/Director of People submitted a report setting out progress in respect to collaboration discussions with South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service and setting out a number of key considerations and questions. The report set out in very broad terms an outline vision around non-frontline services, along with a suggested phased approach. That vision agreed between both senior management teams (subject to the support of both Authorities) was to explore the establishment of a single merged non-frontline service, supporting both Authorities. All non-frontline services would be in scope. At this stage it was indicative and tentative and not seeking any approval other than support for exploring the potential for collaboration. Members' attention was drawn particularly to the scope of any collaboration and the timing.

A Member suggested that in the light of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's recent statement the Authority should explore every opportunity to make efficiencies/save money.

**Resolved** - That Members of this Committee support the officers continuing to explore the potential for collaboration.

**4218 BROUGH FIRE STATION - RELOCATION** - The Deputy Chief Officer/Director of Operations and Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer submitted a report reminding Members that since BAe Systems (BAe) announced the planned closure of their site at Brough in September 2011, the Service had undertaken significant work to determine suitable alternative locations to enable the provision of a station facility in order to ensure the necessary continuity of fire service provision for Brough and the surrounding area. The report provided Members with an update on the negotiations that had been undertaken with BAe with respect to the potential for maintaining an operational fire station on site; detailed the two viable options identified and requested approval to progress with a new build facility on the preferred location.

**Resolved** - That Members of this Committee endorse Option 1 as the best long term proposition.

*Meeting closed at 12.28 pm*

