

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

17 MARCH 2017

PRESENT:

Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

Councillors Chadwick, Finlay, Green, Jefferson JP, Matthews, Sharpe, Smith and Turner

Representing Kingston upon Hull City Council:

Councillors Allen, Clarkson, Dad, Fudge and Mathieson

Representing North Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Briggs (Chairperson), Grant, Sherwood and Waltham

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Burton, Jackson and Sutton

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 Emergency Response, Director of Human Resources, Director of Public Safety, Director of Service Support, Committee Manager, Mrs B Boyes (MIAA), Mr D Chapman (Chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) were also present. At the invitation of the Authority Mr K Hunter, Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside was also present.

Mr A Smith, Mrs M Thomlinson and Mr C Vertigans (Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee) also attended as observers.

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Burton and Shepherd and Wilson. Councillors Burton and Sutton had been delayed and were likely to arrive later in the meeting.

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 K Hunter (Police and Crime Commissioner), Mrs Boyes (MIAA), and the Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and all other persons who were present.)

5393 CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Chairperson informed Members that Mrs S Johnson, Personal Assistant to the Corporate Management Team and also Administrative Support to HFA Members was on sick leave recuperating from an operation and introduced Ms J Pir who was her temporary replacement. Members expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs Johnson.

The Chairperson also referred to a recent fire explosion at a house in multiple occupation on Beverley Road, Kingston upon Hull which unfortunately resulted in the death of an occupant and four firefighters being injured. The Chairperson stated that the incident portrayed why the Service is so respected, and invited Members to remain after the meeting to view part of a video taken at the incident.

5394 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations.

5395 MINUTES – *Resolved* – That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 13 February 2017 having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairperson.

5396 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.

5397 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.

5398 COMMUNICATIONS – The following items were reported:

- (i) Retirement of Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive – The Chairperson stated that as all Members were aware Mr D Sanders, Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive had given notice of his intention to retire in September 2017 and that in accordance with the Constitution arrangements will be made for the Appointments Committee to deal with the appointment of a successor.
- (ii) Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) – Members referred to a recent planning training meeting for Councillors at Hull City Council which had taken place shortly after the fire incident at a HMO on Beverley Road, Hull referred to earlier in the meeting and stated that the Officer had suggested that a joint scrutiny of the licensing of HMOs should take place involving the Fire Service and the Police Licensing Section. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that the Service's Technical Safety Teams were co-ordinated across the unitary authority areas and that he intended to commission work to scope the size of the problem and then consider how to proceed after that. Members stated that all four Unitary Councils had HMOs and that the issue was not just confined to Hull. A Member stated that East Riding of Yorkshire Council was looking at selective licensing schemes for HMOs. It was agreed that the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive will bring a report on this matter to a future meeting of the Authority.

5399 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.

(Councillors Burton and Sutton arrived during the discussion of the following item.)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

5400 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 6 March 2017 and drew Members' attention to the following items:

- (i) Members' Allowances Scheme (Minute 5381 refers) – The Chairperson stated that with regard to the role of the Vice Chairperson of the Authority he would be looking to have further discussion with the Chairperson of the Authority.
- (ii) Scrutiny Work Programme – Absence Management (Minute 5381 refers) – The Chairperson stated that in view of the ongoing work and the temporary recruitment of Capsticks the GAS Committee felt that it would be appropriate to hold any scrutiny in abeyance for a period of 6/9 months.
- (iii) HFA Governance (Minute 5381 refers) – The Chairperson stated that Members of the GAS Committee will be meeting with the Chairperson of the Authority at the end of the next Committee meeting on 10 April 2017.
- (iv) Pay Policy Statement 2017-18 (Minute 5382 refers) – The GAS Committee had asked whether the Authority checked that contractors paid the National Living Wage.

- (v) Internal Audit Plan 2017/18 (Minute 5385 refers) – The Chairperson stated that as indicated the Members of the GAS Committee would be meeting with Mrs B Boyes (MIAA).
- (vi) Police Audit Role – The Chairperson stated that Members of the GAS Committee had held preliminary discussions with the Chief Executive to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Humberside regarding the possibility of being appointed to undertake an Audit Committee role and that all Members had expressed an interest. Members were due to meet with the Chief Executive on 27 March 2017 to discuss the matter further. The Chairperson of the Authority acknowledged that this development was ideal from a collaboration perspective and expressed the hope that the arrangement proves beneficial to the PCC.

The Chairperson of the Authority thanked the GAS Committee for the work that it does.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 March 2017 be received.

INTERNAL AUDIT (MIAA)

5401 Internal Audit Update - Mrs B Boyes (Internal Audit - MIAA) submitted a report providing a progress update on the delivery of the internal audit plan for 2016/17 as approved by the Authority on 18 March 2016. The Internal Audit Control Schedule attached at Appendix 1 to the report provided a strategic overview and profiled timeline for agreed internal audit reviews. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5384 refers).

The Chairperson acknowledged the work of MIAA and the GAS Committee in providing a level of assurance on audit matters.

Resolved – That Members note the progress and outcomes against the 2016/17 Internal Audit Plan and issues arising and take assurance from the report.

5402 Internal Audit Plan 2017/18 – Mrs Boyes (MIAA) submitted the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2017/18 describing how MIAA, will deliver internal audit services in 2017/18. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5385 refers).

Resolved – That the Internal Audit Plan 2017/18 be approved.

5403 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS, TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT 2017/18 AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) FOR 2017/18 - The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer submitted a report setting out the Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management and Capital and the Treasury Management Policy Statement proposed for adoption for the financial year 2017/18. The Authority's Constitution required that the Policy Statement is approved by the full Fire Authority and that responsibility cannot be delegated. The report also outlined the recommended policy to be adopted in respect of creating the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2017/18, in line with the statutory requirements set out in The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. In the light of the Icelandic situation in 2008, CIPFA had amended the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice (the Code), Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes and Guidance Notes and the template for the revised Treasury Management Policy Statement. The Fire Authority had formally adopted the revised Code on 15 February 2010. An updated version of the Code was published in November 2011 and the strategy statement had been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the new Code. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5383 refers) when the Committee had

recommended that the Authority considers changing the upper limit for the maturity of investments from 12 to 24 months. The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer stated that his view was to leave the upper limit as it is at present so that the Authority has liquidity given the financial uncertainties that exist around Brexit.

A Member referred to paragraph 9 of the report regarding the use of the Treasury Management section within Hull City Council for the day-to-day management of the Fire Authority's Investment and Borrowing activities, and sought clarification regarding the comment by the GAS Committee (Minute 5384 refers) that the Authority had not yet received an Auditor's opinion on 2015/16 in respect of those services, and also asked when the investment strategy was last reviewed. The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer replied that the strategy is reviewed on an annual basis as part of the review in the report now submitted and assured Members that the Authority has had a good working relationship with Hull City Council's Treasury Management section and that they provide a good service.

Resolved – (a) That Members approve the Prudential Indicators for Treasury Management and Capital Expenditure at paragraphs 14 and 15, the MRP calculated for 2017/18 at paragraphs 17-21 and Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report now submitted as the basis for the Authority's Treasury Management activities in 2017/18, and

(b) that the upper limit for the maturity of investments currently set at under 12 months be confirmed.

5404 ABSENCE MANAGEMENT – PROGRESS REPORT - The Director of Human Resources submitted a report, further to Minute 5371, providing the latest of the regular updates requested by Members on the performance and progress of the management of sickness absence. Sickness absence data had not been included in the report on this occasion as there had been little change since the last report. The report also gave an update on progress relating to improved awareness of mental health, reducing stigma and earlier intervention and support for staff suffering mental distress. That was in the context of mental health difficulties being the highest reason for absence across the Service.

The report reminded Members of the decision taken to commission Capsticks Human Resource Advisory team to undertake the absence management work stream for a 3 month period which began at the end of February 2017. That work included the complete management of sickness absence for all cases in the Service during this period, as well as a review of the roll out and efficacy of the Sickness Absence Policy and a training needs analysis of management capability in this area. An added benefit of free advice from their legal team in relation to any resulting employment cases was included in the agreement. It was planned that the work will leave a legacy for the Service of up to date case work for absence management cases, as well as a detailed plan for any required amendments to policy and management training in the future, which will then be supported and delivered by the HR Service Partners. The work was already starting to have an impact on the Service, with positive reports from managers as to their interactions with the representative from Capsticks and earlier interventions and referrals for staff when they become unwell, with appropriate employment advice to managers earlier in the process. Clearly, a more detailed picture will emerge when the work is further progressed and Members will be presented with this information at that time. However, it was felt important to share Capsticks' early views as to the efficacy of the current approach to absence management (as set out in paragraph 9 of the report) with Members to keep them informed of progress. Once the work by Capsticks is completed, which is envisaged to be June 2017, then a more detailed report can be prepared as to the plans to integrate their recommendations in the Authority's absence management processes going forward to coincide with the appointment of the new HR Service Partners. It was envisaged that the impact of this targeted approach to sickness absence will yield benefits not only on the levels of absence, given proactive support for staff to return to work earlier, or be fairly exited from the Service, but also, that assurance can be taken that the health of staff and their regular and reliable attendance at work is being

supported consistently and fairly. Given this position, it was proposed that sickness absence updates, including detailed data are presented to Members on a quarterly basis, in line with the performance reporting schedule as this will give a more realistic view on the planned improvements in the data.

The report also reminded Members that with regard to mental health awareness and support plans were being developed to hold a Mental Health Awareness Conference during May 2017 and that further details would follow. The Conference will be held on the 8th May 2017 at the KC Stadium in Hull and Members were invited to attend. There were a number of confirmed speakers and workshops throughout the day and it was planned that support will be available for a large proportion of the workforce to attend, with a responsibility to report back their learning from the day to their watch, station or department.

A Member queried whether there was a live list of therapies/services available to staff if they did not wish to help themselves without contacting or being referred to a counsellor and suggested that it would be helpful if the information could be made available at each station. The Director of Human Resources confirmed that there was a knowledge base that could be made available at stations.

Resolved – (a) That Members note the content of the report, in particular the initial views and findings from the representative of Capsticks HRA who are currently undertaking the Service's employment elements of sickness absence management;

(b) that Members agree that sickness absence data should be reported to the Authority on a quarterly basis in line with the performance reporting schedule, and

(c) that a further update on Capsticks' findings be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority.

5405 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017/18 - The Director of Human Resources submitted a report providing a proposed Pay Policy Statement for the Authority for 2017/18, as required by the Localism Act 2011. The Act introduced senior staff pay transparency into local authorities with a requirement that authorities prepare a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year. A statement for the Authority was first produced for 2012/13 and approved by the Authority on 17 April 2012 (Minute 3839 refers). The Authority agreed at that time that the Pay Policy Statement should be reviewed annually by officers and that any proposed amendments would be brought before the full Authority for consideration. The proposed statement for 2017/18 attached at Appendix 1 to the report reflected the current structure of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) posts. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5382 refers) when the Committee had asked whether the Authority checked that contractors paid the National Living Wage. The Director of Human Resources stated that at present the Authority did not undertake checks of contractors' payments, but it was the intention to do so. The Director of Human Resources also referred to the item on the Agenda on the Home Office Consultation regarding Re-engagement of Senior Fire Officers post retirement (Minute 5406 below refers) and stated that paragraphs 26-28 of Appendix 1 to the report set out the current position regarding re-employment following termination.

Resolved – (a) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2017/18 attached at Appendix 1 to the report now submitted be approved;

(b) that the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive be authorised to make factual adjustments to the Policy during the course of 2017/18, for example, in reflection of the impact of any pay awards arising for different employment groups during the year, and

(c) that any other proposed amendments to the Policy during 2017/18 be brought before the full Authority for consideration.

5406 HOME OFFICE CONSULTATION – RE-ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR FIRE OFFICERS POST RETIREMENT – The Director of Human Resources submitted a report indicating that following the publication of the Thomas Review and the subsequent speech given by the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service at the Home Office where reference was made to the practice of Senior Fire Officers being re-engaged in the same or similar roles post-retirement, a Government consultation has been launched to gather views on the matter. The Home Office was consulting on changing the Fire and Rescue National Framework in this regard and proposing that an addendum is added to the Framework to “explicitly discourage this practice”. A copy of the Consultation document was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The consultation period was from 21 February to 4 April 2017. The consultation was aimed at Fire and Rescue Authorities and representative bodies in England, but views from the wider community were welcomed.

Resolved – That Members agree a formal response from the Authority to the consultation as follows:

- Question 1 - Strongly agree
- Question 2 - Not applicable
- Question 3 - Strongly agree
- Question 4 - Not applicable
- Question 5 - Agree
- Question 6 - Not applicable
- Question 7 - No
- Question 8 - All principal fire officer posts must be open to competition nationally
- Question 9 - Not applicable
- Question 10 - None

5407 SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT - END OF THE 3RD QUARTER 2016/17 - 1 APRIL 2016 – 31 DECEMBER 2016 – The Director of Service Support presented a report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director Service Delivery submitted a report providing information relating to the Service’s Performance and Risk Framework as highlighted in the following table:

Strategic Risks	
Reduction in external financial support	No change in risk.
Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP)	No change in risk.
East Coast and Hertfordshire Control Room Project	Increase in risk due to software may not meet expected requirements, this in turn has pushed the project end date back to September 2017
Incident Command System software supplier support and maintenance agreement.	No change in risk.
Prevention Performance	
Accidental Dwelling Fires	6.1% above 3 year average.
Other Accidental Fires (exc. Vehicles)	0.8% below 3 year average.
Deliberate Primary Fires	34.4% above 3 year average.
Deliberate Secondary Fires	42.7% above 3 year average.
Number of Automatic Fire Alarms	19.9% above 3 year average.
Fatalities	3 fatalities (aspirational target 0)
Injuries	28 injuries (aspirational target 0)
Response Performance	
First engine response	8.76% better than target
Second engine response	13.18% better than target

Projects Update	
Key projects are reported in this section	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new project board has been set up for ARK • Timescale has been revised for ECHRC • Timescale has been revised for ESMCP

Further detailed information was contained within the body of the report. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5388 refers).

Resolved – That Members note the content of the report and take assurance as to the Service’s proactive approach to performance and risk management.

5408 HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUARTERLY REPORT 3RD QUARTER 2016/17 - OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2016 – The Director of Service Support submitted a report providing information with regard to Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes for the 3rd Quarter Period October - December 2016. A summary of statistical data was attached in Appendix 1 to the report. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5389 refers).

During the reporting period there were 19 incidents recorded (Fig 1 & 2 in the report) that resulted in some form of personal injury compared to 25 for the same period last year (Fig 2 being the more accurate). As was usual, due to the makeup of the workforce, the highest number of accidents were incurred by Wholetime and Control staff (11). The general performance was positive with the total number of reported accidents (Fig 2) for the quarter decreasing by over 20% compared to the same quarter for last year. All activity areas except one showed a reduction or an unchanged level. The exception was Special Service which had shown an increase. 3 of the 4 reported injuries were sustained at medical response incidents. None of the reported injuries for the quarter had been major. The 3 main contributing areas of activity with 6, 5 and 5 injuries reported respectively were set out in Fig 3 to the report. Interpretation of the person making the initial report determined the cause of injury and the wide range encapsulated by other kind of injury means it could be used as a default cause. The H, S & E team were striving to improve the accuracy of the initial data captured through a programme of education to end users of the software. Also, initial reports will be quality assured by a team member from now on to ensure all relevant fields are completed correctly. During the quarter there had been no RIDDOR events (Fig 4) which along with the quarterly comparison reduction was encouraging in that none of the reported accidents were of a significant nature. Near miss reports (Fig 5) had decreased for the quarter (10 as opposed to 19 for the same quarter last year). However, in the short term they had increased by 150% from the previous quarter total of 4. This confirmed the H, S & E team’s training for all personnel to recognise the risk that sits behind a near miss and the need to report such events is being positively received. The long term goal is to ensure near miss events do not develop into an accident and accident figures are reduced to a lower level than near miss reports. Recent changes made to the reporting software categorisation is also a factor improving performance in this area. The H, S & E team were currently undertaking research in several areas reflecting the Services positive approach to Health and Safety as set out in the report. Sickness absence data was no longer included in the report.

Resolved – (a) That the Committee notes the report and takes assurance as to the Service’s proactive approach to Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes, and

(b) that information regarding occupational cancer risks be included in all Health, Safety and Environmental progress reports so as to keep Members informed.

SERVICE REDESIGN PROGRAMME (SRP) – CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

5409 Review of ICT Data Systems – The Director of Service Support submitted a report, further to Minute 5315, reminding Members that at the Authority meeting on 9 December 2016 Members received a report presenting an option for a change to the delivery model for

the ICT function. Members approved a 4 week staff consultation period for proposed changes. The option was to maintain and develop the Service's in-house capability. The report now submitted outlined the consultation process, provided details regarding the outcomes of the consultation and the service response thereto, and was seeking approval for the implementation of a trial ICT structure as set out in Appendix 1 to the report that will enable an effective delivery model for the ICT function.

Resolved – (a) That Members note the content of the report;

(b) that Members approve the implementation of a trail ICT structure as described at Appendix 1 to the report, and

(c) that outcomes and recommendations are reported back to Members at a future meeting.

5410 Review of Water Supplies – The Director of Service Support submitted a report, further to Minute 5316, reminding Members that at the Authority meeting on 9 December 2016 Members received a report presenting an option for a change to the delivery model for the Water Supplies function. Members approved a 4 week staff consultation period for proposed changes. The option was to maintain and develop the Service's in-house capability. Revised roles would allow more efficient ways of working and would allow further work to be undertaken to explore income streams. The report now submitted outlined the consultation process, provided details regarding the outcomes of the consultation and the service response thereto, and was seeking approval for the implementation of a revised structure as set out in Appendix 1 to the report that will enable an effective delivery model for the Water Supplies function.

Resolved – (a) That Members note the content of the report, and

(b) that Members approve the implementation of the revised Water Supplies structure as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report.

5411 Review of Public Safety – The Director of Public Safety submitted a report, further to Minute 5318, reminding Members that at the Authority meeting on 9 December 2016 Members received a report outlining the outcome of the SRP review of Public Safety incorporating a summary of the review and preferred options for the function and the short to medium term structure. The report highlighted how the Service would seek to build in maximum flexibility for future collaboration between HFRS and key partners and that the review of Public Safety had been undertaken with regard to a number of outcome imperatives to be achieved within any new structure. Members approved a formal consultation process for proposed changes to Public Safety. Members were reminded that a themed Peer Audit of Public Safety was conducted by officers from Staffordshire FRS in September 2016 and outcomes from that audit were taken into consideration when forming the proposed structure and delivery model. The report now submitted outlined the consultation process, provided details regarding the outcomes of the consultation and the service response thereto, and was seeking approval for the phased implementation of a staffing structure as set out in Appendix 1 to the report with a completion target of financial year 2019/20.

Resolved – (a) That Members note the content of the report, and

(b) that Members approve the implementation of the proposed structure for Public Safety detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

5412 HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported orally further to the discussion of some governance issues at the Member Day held on 24 February 2017 and reminded Members that the Authority has:

- A strong track record of delivering positive outcomes against a challenging financial backdrop, and

- An 'open' attitude to recent and forthcoming change, especially regarding collaboration.

There were a number of internal/external influences becoming more apparent, namely:

- The Policing and Crime Act 2017 - in particular the 'duty to collaborate' and the involvement of police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in the governance of fire and rescue services;
- the Thomas Review – Section 5.1 (recommendation 1) "Fire Authorities should keep the number and level of commitment of FA elected Members under review";
- the approach by the Chief Executive to the PCC for Humberside to access the Authority's GAS Committee for PCC audit purposes, and
- the HFRS Operational Efficiency Programme and Service Re-design Programme were now largely complete

and the Fire Authority was the only part of the service not reviewed as part of that process. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive drew Members attention to the following matters relating to the Police and Crime Act 2017:

- The Authority had been pre-emptive in forging a good relationship with the PCC and had agreed the option in terms of his involvement in Fire Governance under the new Act. There were however some questions regarding the legislation surrounding PCC's voting rights as the Combination Orders which established Combined Fire Authorities (CFAs) does not refer to PCCs and the Home Office is going to look at the situation of CFAs as a collective group.
- There will be a new Inspectorate for Fire which will examine the efficiency of new arrangements and consult with stakeholders and the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service has stated that reform needs to happen quickly.
- The Thomas Review recommends a review of Fire Authority elected Members numbers and it is expected that this will feature in the new inspection regime. To 'do nothing' is an option but the rationale will need to be explained to the Inspectorate.
- If it is agreed that the GAS Committee can function for both the Authority and the PCC in the future, either separately or as a single body, and the PCC becomes a Member of the Authority it might be timely to review governance beyond just Audit and Scrutiny functions.

The Chairperson of the Authority and the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive had attended a meeting of the Leaders of the 4 Unitary Authorities in the Authority's area on 9 March 2017 and they had unanimously rejected changing the composition of the Authority and gave a strong steer that the Authority should remain the same size as now. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that the Fire Inspectorate will require a compelling case for no change.

A Member outlined recent areas where the Authority has done all that has been asked of it in terms of exploring merger possibilities; arrangements with the PCC; consultation with Unitary Leaders; reviewing its governance arrangements, and having good ties on collaboration and suggested that this might be strengthened by sharing its views with the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in the Authority's area.

Resolved – (a) That the report be received, and

(b) that the Authority include the LEPs in the area in its consultation regarding the composition of the Authority.

5413 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS/PUBLIC - Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minute 5414) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 7 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).

5414 MTFA ARRANGEMENTS IN THE HUMBER AREA - The Director of Emergency Services presented a report by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director of Service Delivery with regard to a request from the Home Office that consideration is given to establishing a MTFA team within Humberside Fire and Rescue Service. The report provided information regarding early work into staff issues, funding and collaborative arrangements and sought approval for work to begin to establish a MTFA response capability.

- Resolved** – (a) That Members approve the work to set up a MTFA capability, and
- (b) that Members receive a further report prior to any team going live.

Meeting closed at 12.00 noon