

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

22 JULY 2014

PRESENT:

Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

Councillors Chapman MBE, Head, Hodgson, Ibson and Turner

Representing Kingston upon Hull City Council:

Councillors Mathieson, Petrini, Quinn, Thompson and Wilson

Representing North Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Briggs, Marper, Swift and Waltham

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Baxter, Burton, Norton and Walker

Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director Service Delivery, Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer, Acting Monitoring Officer/Secretary, Committee Manager and Ms J Rae (External Audit – KPMG) were also present.

Mr M Allingham, 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 Engall MBE, Green, Moore and Sumpton.

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 the Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Ms J Rae (External Audit - KPMG) and all other persons who were present. The Chairperson also expressed his thanks to Mr D. Hughes for all his work whilst Chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and also congratulations to Mr D Chapman on being elected the new Chairperson of that Committee. The Chairperson informed Members that Penny Mordaunt MP had been appointed the new Fire Minister in place of Brandon Lewis MP and that she would be invited to visit Humberside. The Chairperson expressed his thanks to those involved in providing resilience arrangements during the recent industrial action by the Fire Brigades' Union. Finally, the Chairperson updated Members with regard to the circumstances surrounding the reported recent disappearance of Crew Manager M Biglin who had gone missing from his home.)

4587 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations.

4588 MINUTES – Resolved – That, subject in Appendix 1 to the substitution of ‘Councillor Mathieson’ for ‘Councillor Quinn’ in the list of members appointed to serve on the Appeals Committee, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Authority held on 23 June 2014 having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairperson.

4589 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS - The Acting Monitoring Officer/Secretary stated that no questions had been received from Members in accordance with Rule 12, Part 4 of the Constitution.

4590 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS - The Acting 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.

4591 COMMUNICATIONS - The Acting Monitoring Officer/Secretary stated that no communications had been received.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

4592 Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee – Resolved – That the minutes of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 July 2014 be received.

4593 INDUSTRIAL ACTION UPDATE - Further to Minute 4543 the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive gave an oral update on the impact on the Service of the recent series of discontinuous strike action over an eight day period by the Fire Brigades' Union (FBU), which ended on 21 July 2014. The Union had now announced a period of action short of a strike. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported that the new Fire Minister, Penny Mordaunt MP had held her first meeting with the FBU and also informed Members of the financial impact on the Authority of providing the resilience cover during the periods of strike action.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

4594 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 JUNE 2014 - The Executive Director Service Support/Section151 Officer submitted a report containing the Authority's Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30 June 2014. The summary estimated outturn position from the Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators was as follows:

- Revenue Budget - £270k underspend;
- Capital Programme - £11.4m total expenditure against an allocation of £12.0m;
- Pensions Account - £8.445m deficit

Resolved – That Members take assurance from the report and the Authority's financial position for the period ending 30 June 2014.

EXTERNAL AUDIT (KPMG)

4595 External Audit Update – Further to Minute 4576 of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee Ms J Rae (External Audit - KPMG) reported orally that the audit was progressing and that she would report back to the Authority in accordance with the approved timetable. Ms Rae reported orally that no issues had been identified from the initial audit work although some issues had been discussed with Officers regarding the accounting treatment of the East Coast and Hertfordshire Control Room Consortium project and the need for consistency between the Authorities involved.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

4596 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013/14 - The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director Service Delivery submitted a report indicating that the Humberside Fire Authority (HFA) publishes Annual Performance Reports which include the full performance information for the previous year. The draft report for 2013-14 was included at Appendix 1 to the report. 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 report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4579 refers). The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director Service Delivery informed Members that some minor amendments would be necessary before the draft was published as the final report.

The Chairperson urged Members to take the opportunity to visit the Community Protection Unit (CPU) for their area, where they would be made most welcome, and have the opportunity to discuss the performance of their CPU.

Resolved – That Members approve the report for publication and take assurance from the proactive approach to performance management.

4597 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2013/14 – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report indicating that the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2007) set out a requirement for Fire and Rescue Authorities to provide annual assurance, based upon the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Guidance on Statements of Assurance for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England (2013), and show they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their Integrated Risk Management Plan and the requirements included in the Framework. The areas covered were financial assurance, governance assurance and operational assurance. A copy of the Annual Statement of Assurance 2013/14 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4578 refers).

Resolved – That Members approve publication of the Annual Statement of Assurance for 2013/14.

4598 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN AND INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015-18 FOR CONSULTATION – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report reminding Members that the Authority had previously approved the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2014-17 and the Strategic Plan 2014-17 in December 2013 following a 12-week period of consultation. In line with the Business Planning Framework both documents had undergone an annual refresh to enhance, update and reflect relevant changes. There were no notable changes to the Service's risk profile or the strategic approach in the refresh. Both documents were attached in draft form at Appendix 1 to the report ready for formal consultation. The IRMP was published as a web based document and the draft now submitted was the textual version. The Authority was required to conduct appropriate consultation for its plans and to consider and incorporate relevant comments into the final versions. Neither document contained any major changes in the strategic approach therefore the consultation period would be six weeks in line with Government principles for engagement and consultation. The consultation would be conducted via the Service's website on this occasion. Appropriate internal and external stakeholders will be notified that the draft plans are available for comment at www.humbersidefire.gov.uk. After consultation, the final versions incorporating any relevant comments received will be brought back to the Authority for approval. Both the Service's Core Values and Vision were currently under review, however there were no changes ready to be included in either the IRMP or the Strategic Plan for 2015/18. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive informed Members that some minor amendments would be necessary before the draft was published for consultation.

Resolved – That Members approve the IRMP 2015-18 and Strategic Plan 2015-18 for a six week period of website based consultation.

Meeting closed at 10.54am

