

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

27 SEPTEMBER 2013

PRESENT:

Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

Councillors Engall MBE, Ibson, Turner and Whittle

Representing Kingston upon Hull City Council:

Councillors Armstrong, Gemmell OBE, Mathieson, Petrini, Quinn and S Walker

Representing North Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Briggs (Chairperson), Swift, Waltham and Vickers

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Baxter, Wallace, Wilson and T. Walker

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, Committee Manager and Mr D Murray (External Audit – KPMG) and Ms J Rae (External Audit - KPMG) were also present.

Mr D Hughes, Chairperson of Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and Mr C Vertigans (Independent Co-opted Member) also attended as observers.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chapman MBE, Hodgson, Mole and Moore. It was noted that Councillors Mathieson, Quinn and Waltham were not present at the start of the meeting.

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

4272 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive declared a professional interest in Agenda Item 21 (Succession Planning). The Deputy Chief Officer/Director of Operations and the Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety declared a prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 21.

4273 MINUTES – Resolved – That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Authority held on 9 September 2013 having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairperson.

4274 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS - The Secretary/Director of People stated that no petitions had been received and no requests for a deputation had been received under Rule 12, Part 4 of the Constitution.

4275 COMMUNICATIONS - The Secretary/Director of People stated that no communications had been received. The Chairperson welcomed Mr Hughes, Chairperson of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee, Mr D Murray and Ms J Rae (KPMG) and all other persons present to observe the meeting.

4276 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS - The Secretary/Director of People stated that no questions had been received from Members in accordance with Rule 12, Part 4 of the Constitution.

(Councillors Mathieson and Quinn arrived at 10.37am.)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

4277 Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee – Mr D Hughes, Chairperson of the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee presented a report summarising the salient points arising from the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee Members' discussion of reports on the Agenda for the meeting held on 16 September 2013. The report was to be read in conjunction with the draft minutes of the Committee. The report drew the attention of the Authority to the discussion by Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee Members on the following items:

- Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising from the Fire Authority Agenda (Minute 4256 refers)
- External Audit Report - Report to Those Charged with Governance (Minute 4257 refers)
- External Audit Progress Report and Technical update (Minute 4258 refers)
- Exempt Business - HFR Solutions Performance Summary Report April to June 2013 (Minute 4262 refers)

Mr Hughes stated that the Committee had not however reviewed the Management Accounts to 31 August 2013 (Agenda Item 10) but as had been previously noted that was due to the timing of the preparation of the accounts, nor the Exempt Items on the Agenda for this meeting (Agenda Items 18-21).

(Councillor Waltham arrived at 10.40am.)

Mr Hughes then presented the minutes of that Committee held on 16 September 2013. The Chairperson of the Fire Authority thanked Mr Hughes for his report and asked that he take back to the Committee the Authority's appreciation of the work the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee is doing.

A Member referred to the Committee's views regarding the reporting of matters discussed by ad hoc groups and in particular matters discussed by Group Secretaries and suggested that it was inappropriate for the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee to involve itself in the workings of the political groups on the Authority. A Member confirmed that discussions by Group Secretaries were informal and did not require formal reporting. The Chairman stated that the matters raised in the report now submitted would be submitted to the next Member Day along with the Member's comments.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted;

(b) that the matters raised in the report be referred to the next Member Day, and

(c) that the minutes of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 September 2013 be received.

EXTERNAL AUDIT

4278 Report to those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2012/13 – Mr D Murray (KPMG) submitted a report summarising the key issues identified during the audit of the Authority's financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013 and their assessment of the Authority's arrangements to secure value for money (VFM) in its use of resources. The External Audit Plan 2012/13 presented to the Authority in April 2013 set out the four stages of the financial statements audit process. The report now submitted focussed on the second and third stages of the process: control evaluation and substantive procedures. Based on the work carried out KPMG had found that the Authority's organisation and I.T. control environment was effective, and controls over the key financial systems were sound. The report indicated that KPMG anticipated issuing an unqualified audit opinion and an

unqualified Value for Money conclusion by 30 September 2013. KPMG had identified one significant misstatement of £1.8m where the Authority had shown some long term creditors as short term creditors. Although that did not have an impact on the Authority's overall financial position it was misleading and had since been corrected. Differences were identified within a number of disclosure notes, details of which were set out in Appendix 2 to the report. In addition, KPMG had identified a small number of presentational adjustments required to ensure that the accounts were compliant with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting the United Kingdom 2012/13 ('the Code'). The Authority had addressed all those points. KPMG had reviewed the Annual Governance Statement and confirmed that:

- it complied with Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: A Framework published by CIPFA/SOLACE; and
- it was not misleading or inconsistent with other information KPMG were aware of from their audit of the financial statements.

KPMG had made a number of comments in respect of its format and content which the Authority had agreed to amend. That had included adding a more detailed conclusion on the effectiveness of arrangements at the end of the statement. Mr Murray expressed his thanks to the Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer and his team for having a good final accounts process in place which had assisted the audit. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4257 refers). The Chairperson thanked Mr Murray for his report.

Resolved – That Members note the content of the report and take assurance from the outcome of the audit and endorse the comments by the External Auditor as to how good the audit process was.

4279 External Audit Progress Report and Technical Update – Ms J Rae (KPMG) submitted a report providing an overview on progress in delivering KPMG's responsibilities as external auditors. The report also highlighted the main technical issues which were currently having an impact in local government. At the end of each stage of the audit KPMG issued certain deliverables, including reports and opinions. A summary of those deliverables for the 2013/14 audit was provided in Appendix 1 to the report. The views of the Members were sought as to whether they found the technical information helpful and would like similar information including in subsequent reports. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4258 refers).

A Member referred to the previous national reports regarding the manipulation of Libor rates by banking institutions and queried whether that action had had any effect on the Authority in terms of interest rates to the Authority and loss of income, and if so was the Authority proposing to take any action to recover such losses. The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer stated that it was not an issue for the Authority.

Resolved – That the report be noted and that the Authority welcomes the inclusion of current technical issues in future reports.

4280 AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/13 – The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer submitted a report presenting the audited version of the Fire Authority's Accounts for the financial year 2012/13 following the successful completion of the audit of the Authority's 2012/13 Statement of Accounts. In partnership with the Authority's external auditor, KPMG, a small number of corrections to the draft Accounts had been undertaken in order to reach the final version, as detailed in the 'Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2012/13' referred to in Minute 4278 above. The final version of the Annual Accounts was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. Members were reminded that the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 had been submitted to the Authority on 24 June 2013. The outturn position remained that which was reported to that meeting, a £2.076m underspend. The 'Report to Those Charged with Governance (ISA 260) 2012/13'

had given an unqualified opinion on the Authority's Accounts for 2012/13 and an unqualified value for money conclusion. Both of those aspects were extremely pleasing and showed another year of sound financial management. The report now submitted represented the final stage in the sign-off of the 2012/13 Statement of Accounts. Once approved by the Authority, the draft 'Letter of Representation' attached at Appendix 2 to the report would be duly signed and submitted to KPMG. After the Authority on 27 September 2013 the 2012/13 Accounts would be distributed to stakeholders and local libraries as well as posted on the Authority's website, to ensure information was as accessible as possible. A notice would also be placed in the press to inform the public that the 2012/13 audit of accounts was now closed. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4259 refers).

Resolved - (a) That Members approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2012/13 and that they are signed by the Chairperson on behalf of the Fire Authority, and

(b) that the letter of representation to KPMG as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved and signed by the Chairperson and the Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer on behalf of the Authority.

4281 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 31 AUGUST 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 August 2013. The summary estimated outturn position from the Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators was as follows:

- Revenue Budget - £406k underspend;
- Capital Programme - £7.962m total expenditure against an allocation of £10.711m;
- Pensions Account - £7.464m deficit

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

4282 HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY FINANCIAL OUTLOOK 2014/15 ONWARDS - The Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer submitted a report which took a comprehensive look at the Authority's financial prospects for the years 2014/15 to 2016/17. The report also included where possible updated assumptions as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) announcements made on 26 June 2013. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4266 refers).

In respect to the current financial position 2012/13 and 2013/14 the report indicated that the Authority's outturn for 2012/13 had delivered an underspend and a closing level of total Revenue Reserves at 1 April 2013 of £18.5m. A significant proportion of the Authority's Revenue Reserves were earmarked for a specific purpose. The full schedule was attached at Appendix 1 to the report for Members' information. The Authority had set a balanced budget for 2013/14 and a 0% change in the precept/council tax as part of the Government's national initiative to freeze council tax. There was no anticipated let up in the austerity measures in place for the public sector generally and fire and rescue in particular. In fact the 'Facing the Future' report produced by Sir Ken Knight indicated a further possible £200m of efficiencies from the English Fire and Rescue Service. The Government's response to that report was anticipated in Autumn 2013. The CSR for 2015/16 was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 26 June 2013. From a financial planning perspective the main messages were as follows:

- A likely 10% reduction in Fire and Rescue funding from Government in 2015/16;
- A £30m resource fund against which FRSs can bid. Successful bids would reduce the reduction in grant at an individual FRS level;

- £45m of Capital funding – unclear at this stage as to how this will be allocated;
- Council tax referendum threshold of 2% in both 2014/15 and 2015/16 with a grant equal to a 1% increase for those authorities that freeze or reduce council tax;
- Freeze grants relating to previous council tax freezes (2011/12 and 2013/14) will continue to be paid in 2015/16. It is unclear whether this will continue in 2016/17 onwards;
- Public sector pay awards are expected to average at no more than 1%;
- 2014/15 Settlement in the Autumn of 2013 with potentially indicative 2015/16 Settlement.

As the Authority enters the forthcoming period however, it currently had a sound financial position but the Authority must not be complacent and should continue wherever possible to ensure that the Service remains efficient and effective.

In respect to 2014/15 onwards the current financial projections for 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 had been updated based on the latest assumptions and information and were shown in Appendix 2 to the report. The key assumptions applied to the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2014/15 to 2016/17 were as follows:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Pay Awards	1%	1%	1%
External Grant	-9.1%	-10%	-10%
Council Tax	* 0%	* 0%	2%
Non-Frontline vacancy factor	7%	7%	7%
Price Inflation			
- Utilities/Rates/Fuel	6%	6%	6%
- Insurance	5%	5%	5%
- Income	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%
- Other	0%	0%	0%

* Assumed no increase and therefore the Authority will receive the 1% freeze grant in each of the years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Furthermore, the Authority’s financial projections had been updated to incorporate previous decisions relating to the implementation of efficiencies, e.g. 4 March 2011 Strategic Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) decisions and other efficiencies, e.g. discretionary spend and management. Whilst some issues of uncertainty had crystallised there still remained a significant number of factors that had not yet been determined as follows:

- External Grant for 2015/16 onwards – unlikely to be announced at an Authority level until late 2013 at the very earliest;
- ‘Facing the Future’ report – the Government’s response is not anticipated until Autumn 2013;
- Pay awards beyond the current financial year;
- Possible specific changes to the mechanism for the allocation of Formula Grant as a result of the Government’s response to ‘Facing the Future’.

As indicated in Appendix 2 to the report that there were estimated shortfalls in each of the years 2014/15 to 2016/17 inclusive as follows:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	£563k	£2.7m	£5.5m
Deficit		Deficit	Deficit

The position would now be kept under continuous review through to budget setting in February 2014. As shown in Appendix 2 to the report the 2014/15 budget could be balanced with a relatively modest contribution from the Authority’s reserves. The Authority did historically have an underspend at outturn. For that reason a number of changes had been made to budgets as part of a detailed review as follows:

Description	Savings (£k)
Non-frontline vacancy factor increased to 7% from 3% (vacancy factor has historically run at over 8%)	206
Discretionary spend – further efficiencies in budget lines that have historical underspends (e.g. Hydrants, External Audit fees)	290
5% efficiency target on all non-pay lines (targets will be set at the start of the year for budget managers to achieve)	328
Total	824

Those measures had contributed to balancing the budget for 2014/15 and ensure that the Authority continued to operate as efficiently as possible across all areas. The real challenge for the Authority remained the years 2015/16, 2016/17 and beyond. Regular updates would be brought to Members during the next 12 months and beyond. Most immediately there would be reports to the December 2013 Fire Authority (capturing the Local Government Provisional Finance Settlement) and the February 2014 Fire Authority for the purposes of setting the 2014/15 budget and precept. The report concluded that the Authority had worked hard to create its current sound financial position through the generation of efficiencies and the creation/protection of reserves. 2014/15 onwards would again test the Authority’s finances – potentially to a far greater extent than that seen in 2011/12 to 2013/14. Greater clarification should occur over the coming months in the buildup to the 2014/15 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement which would be announced in late 2013.

Resolved - That Members receive the report and note the financial challenges for the period 2014/15 onwards.

4283 HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MEDICAL RESPONSE PARTNERSHIP WITH YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report indicating that the Medical First Responder Scheme pilot which commenced in April 2013 at Pocklington had been evaluated and deemed a success. A recent meeting between senior managers of Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) had agreed that an expansion of the Medical First Responder Scheme would benefit the communities involved and would further the objectives of both services. It was therefore proposed that the scheme be rolled out in seven more locations in the East Riding of Yorkshire and a project team had been formed to develop a fully costed proposal to be presented to HFRS/YAS in the middle of October 2013. If it was agreed that the proposal was viable a report seeking approval to implement would be submitted to the Authority no later than December 2013. In the meantime discussions would be arranged with personnel on the stations concerned and with the representative bodies. The report indicated that the pilot scheme operating in the Grimsby area had also been very successful. Further Discussions with East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) had yet to take place though it would be proposed that that scheme is also extended.

A Member referred to the national response times for ambulances and stated that in some areas of East Yorkshire the attendance times were well below the standard and suggested that any extension of the pilot scheme should look to target those areas. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that YAS were looking at areas of the East Riding where there is a retained fire station and which were likely to include the areas the Member had concerns about.

Resolved – (a) That Members acknowledge the success of the Pocklington Medical First Responder Scheme and commend those involved in its delivery, and

(b) that Members endorse the decision to develop a fully costed proposal for a limited expansion of the scheme.

4284 REVIEW AND TENDERING - INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES - The Secretary/ Director of People and Director of Finance & Assets/Section 151 Officer submitted a report indicating that the current internal audit service had been delivered by H W Controls & Assurance since 1 April 2011. Internal audit services had been procured previously on a three year contract basis. As such, it was proposed to continue that approach and go out to tender for internal audit services in readiness for 1 April 2014. The report outlined what the focus and evaluation of internal audit should comprise; set out a broad timetable for the tender process, and also proposed that the Evaluation Panel should consist of:

- The Chairperson of Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
- Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the Fire Authority
- The Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive (or nominee)
- The Director of Finance & Assets/S.151 Officer
- The Secretary/Director of People
- Up to 3 further Members nominated by the Group Secretaries

The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4264 refers). The Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee had questioned whether they should scrutinise the process or have membership of the Panel. The report stated that given the role of internal audit and the role of the Committee, for this particular appointment it would be entirely appropriate to have Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee involvement.

Resolved - That the Authority approves the procurement of internal audit services, including the composition of the Evaluation Panel, as outlined in the report now submitted.

4285 PRIMARY AUTHORITY SCHEME AND REGULATORS' CODE - The Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety submitted a report reminding Members that the Authority was the enforcing Authority for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) across the Service area, and updating Members on developments which might affect the way that the Authority undertakes its statutory duties in respect to Primary Authority Schemes and the new Regulators Code.

Resolved – That Members take assurance from the steps being taken and receive further reports as required.

4286 SERVICE PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT FOR THE 1ST QUARTER PERIOD APRIL – JUNE 2013 - The Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety submitted a report providing information relating to the Service's Performance and Risk Framework as highlighted in the following summary table:

Section 1 – Strategic Risks	
Reduction in external financial support.	No change in risk.
The likely need to reduce the WDS establishment	No change in risk.
Likely changes leading to commissioned services	No change in risk.
Section 2 – Prevention Performance	
Accidental Dwelling Fires	17.6% better than target.
Other Accidental Fires (exc Vehicles)	7% better than target
Deliberate Primary Fires	8.5% better than target

Deliberate Secondary Fires	17% better than target
Number of Automatic Fire Alarms	17% better than target.
Fatalities	0 fatalities against aspirational target of zero.
Injuries	25 injuries against aspirational target of zero.
Section 3 – Response Performance	
First engine response	9.4% better than target
Second engine response	13.3% better than target
Section 4 – Projects Update	
Key projects are reported in this section	

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 4267 refers). The Chairperson, on behalf of the Authority, asked that a message of thanks should be conveyed to those personnel where the performances are exceptional.

Resolved - That Members note the report’s detail and takes assurance as to the Service’s proactive approach to performance and risk management.

4287 OPERATIONS (RESPONSE) - INCIDENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST – The Deputy Chief Officer/Director of Operations submitted a report outlining details of incidents of special interest for the last quarterly period as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved - That Members note the contents of the report as a quarterly update of incidents of special interest.

4288 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items (Minutes 4289-4293) on the grounds that it is likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 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).

4289 HFR SOLUTIONS’ PERFORMANCE SUMMARY REPORT APRIL – JUNE 2013 - The Deputy Chief Officer/Director of Operations submitted a report indicating that as agreed previously by the Authority reporting had been restructured to report the performance of HFR Solutions’ operations and service delivery within each operating quarter, and therefore the report now submitted covered the following four main areas of activity: Business; Training, Community, and Risk. The report also included a summary of HFR Solutions’ profit and losses for the period April to June 2013 and details of the expansion of HFR Solutions’ Team with the introduction of a Business Development Manager and a Training Course Developer. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 4262 refers).

Resolved - (a) That the Authority takes assurance from the report that HFR Solutions is developing into a successful business, which is capable of effectively supporting Humberside Fire & Rescue Service’s operational and community protection service delivery requirements, across both business and residential communities of the area;

(b) that the Authority approves the earmarking of £75k from the previously approved Solutions Capital Reserve to facilitate the build of the working at height training facility outlined in paragraph 8 of the report now submitted, and

(c) that Business Planning models and Member representation on the board of HFR Solutions’ be included as items for discussion at the next Member Day.

4290 POTENTIAL COLLABORATION: SOUTH YORKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE - The Secretary/Director of People submitted a report, further to Minute 4240 updating Members in respect to collaboration discussions with South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service. As Members were aware, a formal response from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was expected in late Autumn (November 2013) to Sir Ken Knight's report 'Facing the Future'. Given the close proximity to that response and uncertainty as to what may emerge, it was timely to put on hold fuller discussions with South Yorkshire until DCLG's response was received as that response may or may not have any impact upon the potential collaboration.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

4291 OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME – OPTIONS FOR FORMAL CONSULTATION – The Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety and Secretary/Director of People submitted a report, further to Minute 4249, setting out the nine options approved by the Authority to be considered for formal consultation. Those nine options had various combinations in which they could be implemented, with a total of 16 separate possibilities. Although the options only covered three geographical areas, the wider range of options would give both staff and external stakeholders a greater influence in terms of what might be preferred in those three areas. Members were reminded that the feedback from the engagement process was considered in determining which options to take forward for consultation. Six of the 16 proposed combinations of options set out in the report included those options suggested by participants of the engagement activity. There were however some options which, while favoured through the engagement process, Members decided not to include in this formal consultation because of the small savings offered relative to the effect on risk or response. Consequently only one option from a group could be implemented. As such, there are only 16 options proposed for consultation. In broad terms, similarly to before, only three of the options could be implemented, with one from each of the three geographical areas. This was explained in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Authority on 9 September 2013 had received a report setting out the outcomes of the engagement process undertaken. The purpose of the engagement was to stimulate discussion and debate around the options, and to gain local insights into them to help further shape and inform the options that may go to formal consultation. As such, the initial engagement was designed to help shape options before the Authority decides to formally go out to consultation. The report reminded Members that the Service faced a budget deficit of around £2.7m by 2015/16 and it was expected that another £2.8m would need to be saved by 2016/17. The combination of options which could be implemented through this programme would enable the initial £2.7m of savings to be achieved, giving the Authority time to consider further ways of reducing the budget post 2015/16. Clearly, should the Authority approve options that deliver less than £2.7m, then any shortfall would add to the savings required for the 2016/17 financial year, e.g. if only £2m was saved then a further £3.5m would be required to balance the 2016/17 budget. A list of options for formal consultation was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The purpose of the consultation with staff and external stakeholders was to enable Elected Members to consider the views of the consultation participants when coming to a decision as to which operational efficiency options to approve for implementation 2014 onwards. Members will need to have regard to the consultation outcomes when arriving at its decisions in January 2014. The consultation would build upon the engagement activity reported to the Authority on 9 September 2013 and would be more wide ranging, particularly in the three geographical areas concerned. The consultation would be over a period of three months, commencing in early October 2013. An overview of the consultation plan was attached at Appendix 2 to the report. A more detailed plan was available should Members request it. It was suggested that if Members approve the options and consultation plan set out in the report now submitted a Special Meeting of the Authority should be called for the week beginning 27 January 2014 (Tuesday, 28 January 2014 was suggested). The Special Meeting would receive the outcomes of the consultation and ask Members to approve

options for implementation accordingly. That would enable the budget setting meeting on 17 February 2014 to have regard to a revised financial forecast as a result of that Special Meeting.

A Member sought clarification of the savings the Authority was looking to make and queried that all the options to be consulted on were in Hull and North East Lincolnshire. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that there were savings proposed in North Lincolnshire but none in the East Riding of Yorkshire. The Chairperson reminded Members that the 9 options for consultation had been agreed at the Special Meeting of the Authority on 9 September 2013. The Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety stated that the maximum savings proposed were Hull (£1.5m), North Lincolnshire (£1.1m), and North East Lincolnshire (£1.5m). A Member suggested that the consultation should only take place in the affected areas. A Member sought clarification of the proposed consultation process. The Secretary/Director of People stated that there would be drop-in sessions for the public and undertook to circulate to Members a copy of the detailed consultation plan which had been made available on request. A Member asked that the consultation should focus only on the affected areas. The Secretary/Director of People said that the consultation should take place across the Humberside area, but that most of the activity would be in those areas most affected. The activity would be a response to demand and the consultation results would show, as far as possible, from what areas consultees lived or worked. Members agreed that consultation should be directed towards the affected areas. A Member sought clarification with regard to Options 9 and 10. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive explained the Options.

It was moved and seconded -

“(a) That the Authority approves the range of combinations of options set out in paragraph 9 and Appendix 1 to the report now submitted for formal consultation;”

Upon being put to the vote the voting was:

For: 9	(Councillors Briggs, Engall MBE, Ibson, Mathieson, Quinn, Turner, Vickers, Waltham and Whittle)
Against: 8	(Councillors Baxter, Gemmell OBE, Petrini, Swift, S Walker, T Walker, Wallace and Wilson)

Motion Carried

Resolved – (a) That the Authority approves the range of combinations of options set out in paragraph 9 and Appendix 1 to the report now submitted for formal consultation;

(b) that Members endorse the overview consultation plan set out in the report with the main focus being in the areas affected, and

(c) that subject to confirmation that all Elected Members are available a Special Meeting of the Fire Authority be called for week commencing 27 January 2014 and that accordingly the Secretary/Director of People will consult all Elected Members on the best available date.

4292 INDUSTRIAL ACTION UPDATE – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported orally with regard to the industrial action on 25 September 2013 and the action taken by management aimed at ensuring the continued provision of an emergency response service to the Authority's communities. There were six incidents during the four hours of the industrial action, none of which were serious.

Resolved – That the report be noted and that Members thank the Management Team for the action taken to keep a fire service in place.

(The Deputy Chief Officer/Director of Operations and Assistant Chief Officer/Director of Safety left the meeting for the following item (Minute 4293)).

4293 SUCCESSION PLANNING –

Resolved – That the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive be asked to remain for this item for professional advice.

The Secretary/Director of People submitted a report indicating that the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive had given written notice of his retirement as from 31 March 2014. Under the Constitution it was the role of an Appointments Committee to appoint the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive (and any member of the Corporate Management Team). Any appointment was to be confirmed by the full Authority. The report set out at paragraph 15 a number of matters for the Fire Authority to consider when determining the process to appoint a Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive. The report also reminded Members, by way of some background, of the discussions around the timing and appointments process which led to the appointment of the current Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive in 2011. There were quite a few parallels now with the issues that were before the Authority in 2011.

The Chairman reminded Members that they had been informed of the intention of the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive to retire at an informal meeting of Members on the rising of the Special Meeting of the Authority held on 9 September 2013 and reiterated the views that had been expressed regarding the process to be followed in appointing a successor. The Chairperson stated that Members were seeking an internal only process, with the same role profile as previously used in 2011

Resolved – That Members approve a profile for the post and an internal process to recruit a Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive.

(Councillors Gemmell, Swift and Wilson voted against the decision to restrict applications to internal candidates only)

4294 CHIEF FIRE OFFICER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive spoke briefly regarding his retirement and expressed thanks to Members for all the support they had given him.

Meeting closed at 12.24 p.m.

