

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

29 JULY 2016

PRESENT:

Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

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

Representing Kingston upon Hull City Council:

Councillors Allen, Dad, Fudge and Mathieson

Representing North Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Briggs (Chairperson), Grant, and Waltham

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Burton and Shepherd

Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director Service Delivery, Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer, Director of Service Support, Monitoring Officer/Secretary, Committee Manager and Mr J Prentice (External Auditor (KPMG)).

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

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors Clarkson, Green, Jackson, Sharpe, Sherwood, Sutton and Wilson.

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 Councillor P Smith who was attending her first formal meeting of the Authority; P Shillito, the recently appointed Director of Public Safety; Mr J Prentice (External Auditor (KPMG)) and the Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and all other persons who were present. The Chairperson also reported that Miriam Heppell had been appointed Director of Human Resources and would commence duties in September 2016.)

5193 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations.

5194 MINUTES – **Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 27 June 2016 having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chairperson.

5195 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.

5196 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

5197 Appointment of Representatives on Other Bodies - HFR Solutions CIC – Appointment of Board Member - The Monitoring Officer/Secretary referred to Minute 5168 of the Authority on 27 June 2016 and reported that a letter had now been received from HFR Solutions inviting the Authority to consider nominating a Member to replace ex-Councillor Hodgson on the Board.

Resolved – That Councillor Matthews be nominated for appointment as a Board Member for HFR Solutions CIC.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

5198 Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee - The minutes of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 July 2016 were submitted.

The Chairperson drew Members' attention to the on-going work that the Committee was undertaking and the joint Member Day on 8 July 2016 which had been very successful, and stated that he hoped that it would be possible to hold more joint Member Days in the future.

Resolved – That the minutes of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 July 2016 be received.

5199 THE COMPOSITION OF THE FIRE AUTHORITY 2016/17 – UPDATE – The Monitoring Officer/Secretary submitted a report indicating that the Authority had been informed by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council that they had appointed Councillor Patricia Smith (Conservative) in place of ex-Councillor A Hodgson.

Resolved - That Members note the revised composition of the Authority for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

5200 REPORT TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE (ISA 260) 2015/16 - Mr J Prentice (KPMG) submitted a draft report summarising the key findings arising from:

- their audit work in relation to the Authority's 2015/15 financial statements, and
- the work to support their 2015/16 conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ("VFM conclusion").

The External Audit Plan 2015/16 presented to the Authority in February 2016 had set out the four stages of the financial statements audit process. The report now submitted focussed on the third stage of the process: substantive procedures. The report indicated that KPMG anticipated issuing an unqualified audit opinion on the Authority's financial statements by 31 July 2016 and that KPMG will also report that the Authority's Annual Governance Statement complies with the guidance issued by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007. KPMG had identified some minor audit adjustments as set out in Appendix 1 to the report which had no impact on the value of the general fund balance, the deficit on provision of services for the year or the net worth of the Authority as at 31 March 2016. KPMG had identified one key financial statements audit risks in their 2015/16 External audit plan issued in February 2016 and had reviewed the Authority's plans for dealing with the accounting for the consolidation of Emergency Services Fleet Management (Humberside) Ltd. There were no matters of any significance arising as a result of their audit work in that area. KPMG had not identified any VFM risks in their External audit plan 2015/16 issued in February 2016 and there were no matters of any significance arising as result of their audit work. KPMG had concluded that the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. KPMG therefore anticipated issuing an unqualified VFM conclusion by 31 July 2016. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5185 refers).

Resolved – (a) That the content of the report be noted and that Members take assurance from the outcome of the audit, and

(b) that Members acknowledge the work undertaken by the Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer, the Finance Team and KPMG in achieving the satisfactory completion of the accounts two months ahead of the statutory timescale.

5201 AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2015/16 - The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer submitted a report, further to Minute 5171, presenting the audited version of the Fire Authority's Accounts for the financial year 2015/16. The audit of the Authority's 2015/16 Statement of Accounts had now been substantially completed and pleasingly this was well in advance of the statutory deadline of 30 September. In partnership with the Authority's external auditor, KPMG, a small number of adjustments to the draft Accounts had been undertaken in order to reach the final version. These were detailed in the 'Report to those charged with governance (ISA 260) 2015/16' referred to in Minute 5184 above. The final version of the Annual Accounts was attached at Appendix 1 of this report. Members were reminded that the draft unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 had been submitted to the meeting of this Committee on 17 June 2016 (Minute 5148 refers). The external auditor, KPMG, in close liaison with the Fire Authority's Finance team, had now substantially completed the audit of the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts and supporting papers. The outturn position remained that which was reported to the 17 June 2016 meeting, a £1.223m underspend. The 'Report to those charged with governance (ISA 260) 2015/16' had given an unqualified opinion on the Authority's Accounts for 2015/16 and an unqualified value for money conclusion. Both of these 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 2015/16 Statement of Accounts. Once approved by the Authority, the draft 'Letter of Representation' attached at Appendix 2 of the report would be duly signed and submitted to KPMG. After the Authority on 29 July 2015 the 2015/16 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 further notice would also be placed in the press to inform the public that the 2015/16 audit of Accounts was now closed. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5186 refers).

Resolved - (a) That Members approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 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, the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive and the Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer on behalf of the Authority.

5202 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS TO 30 JUNE 2016 - The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer submitted a report containing the Authority's Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators for the period ending 30 June 2016. The summary estimated outturn position from the Management Accounts and Prudential Indicators was as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2016/17 Outturn Projection</u>
HFA	
Revenue Budget	£250k underspend
Capital Programme	£9.049m expenditure against £9.156m allocation
Pensions Account	£13.748m deficit

The Management Accounts for 2016/17 will follow the reporting cycle frequency shown in the table below:

<u>Period Ending</u>	<u>Authority Meeting</u>
30 June 2016	29 July 2016
30 September 2016	21 October 2016
31 December 2016	13 February 2017
29 February 2017	17 March 2017

Any significant in-year financial issues that arise between the reporting periods will be reported on an urgent basis as required. Further details on all of these areas were available electronically alongside the Agenda papers on the Fire Authority's website at www.humbersidefire.gov.uk/fire-authority.

Resolved – That Members take assurance from the report and the Authority's financial position for the period ending 30 June 2016.

5203 DRAFT ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16 - The Deputy Chief Fire Officer/ Executive Director Service Delivery submitted a report reminding Members that the Authority publishes Annual Performance Reports which include the full performance information for the previous year. The draft report for 2015/16 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, Community Safety, Business Safety, Emergency Response and Recovery. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5189 refers).

A Member referred to the increase in deliberate fires indicated on page 156 and queried whether the increase had occurred in any specific areas. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director Service Delivery explained that any problem profiles identified were drawn to the attention of the manager in the relevant area. A Member referred to the Foreword on page 154 indicating a significant increase in medical response incidents and queried whether, if that rate of increase were to continue, it might prejudice the Service's ability to deal with other incidents. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer/ Executive Director Service Delivery stated that attendance at such incidents will not prejudice fire cover and that the situation regarding medical response incidents will be reviewed in the future. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reminded Members that they were still awaiting a report with regard to future Occupational Health provision and stated that it was intended to allow the newly appointed Director of Human Resources to have an input into the report before it is submitted to the Authority.

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

5204 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE 2015/16 – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive submitted a report indicating that the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2007) sets 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 2015/16 was attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The report had previously been considered by the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 5188 refers).

Resolved – That Members approve the publication of the Annual Statement of Assurance for 2015/16.

5205 DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN AND INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017/2020 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) 2016-19 and the Strategic Plan 2016-19 in December 2015 following a 6-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. A more comprehensive refresh of the Strategic Plan and IRMP, including the format of the documents, will take place for the 2018/21 iteration. 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 and publicised via social media. Appropriate internal and external stakeholders will be notified that the draft plans are available for comment at www.humbersidefire.gov.uk. The views of consultees will be considered when preparing the final version of the plans. The Authority should take into account the views of consultees before approving the Strategic Plan and IRMP 2017/20.

A Member referred to the data included in the Service Overview (page 221) and suggested that some data seemed a little outdated and should be refreshed. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that the data would be reviewed during the consultation period and before the final documents were published.

Resolved – That Members approve the IRMP 2017/20 and Strategic Plan 2017/20 for a six week period of website based consultation.

5206 INITIAL WHOLETIME DUTY SYSTEM (WDS) RECRUIT COURSE INFRASTRUCTURE (IMMINGHAM WEST TRAINING FACILITY) - The Director of Service Support submitted a report indicating that as Members were aware the Service had significantly reduced in size since 2008 directly as a result of austerity. As a result, since that time there had been no need to recruit WDS personnel and the implementation of the Operational Efficiency Programme (OEP) had meant that the Service had on occasions operated with supernumerary staff. However, despite this the future retirement profile suggested that the Service will not have the required number of personnel to maintain crewing levels by the end of the first quarter of 2017, and the shortfall in staff will increase to up to 30 personnel by the end of 2017. The last WDS recruitment occurred in 2007 with the provision of a joint course hosted in North Yorkshire with the last internal courses being delivered in 2006 at Beverley fire station. The impact of the lack of recruitment had meant that the average age of Service personnel had increased significantly and the Service had been unable to positively redress the makeup of the Service to better reflect its communities. The report outlined the delivery options that had been considered and the associated costs. The preferred option was to deliver an internal course for up to 20 students which fully meets the needs of the Service and would afford the opportunity to tailor input to reflect both local risks and ways of working specific to the Service. Additionally, delivery of an internal course would allow for a greater degree of control and flexibility over delivery, improve morale and engender a feeling of prestige/pride that is commonly associated with delivering/participating in an initial recruit course. The estimated cost of running an internal course would be circa £100k representing a £100k plus saving per course, reducing for any future courses as the extent of preparatory work would significantly reduce.

Given the infrastructure required in order to run an initial WDS recruit training course there was a limited number of suitable venues available. Immingham West fire station had most of the training infrastructure necessary to deliver the main elements of an initial course. A significant amount of investment in the training facilities had been made over recent years. The main works proposed included the creation of suitable classroom facilities and adaptation of the welfare facilities to reflect modern standards and better cater for female students in addition to general redecoration/refurbishment of the existing rooms. The estimated cost of the proposed works was circa £250k. Surplus capacity at the venue, in between the Service's own recruit courses, could be made available commercially to other third party training providers. In addition, another Fire and Rescue Service had also expressed an interest in the Service delivering future courses on their behalf. Both options presented opportunities for generating future revenue, supporting the case for investment.

A Member sought clarification regarding the expiry period of the current lease of the Immingham West station. The Director of Service Support confirmed that the contract allowed the Service the opportunity to negotiate an extension of the lease in due course.

Resolved - That Members approve the scheme proposed and that funding be released from the Change Management Reserve as required.

5207 EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE ACTIVITY ON BEHALF OF YORKSHIRE AMBULANCE SERVICE - The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director Service Delivery submitted a report drawing attention to the potential impact upon the Authority's Emergency First Response (EFR) Scheme following the implementation by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) of Phase 2 of the national Ambulance Response Programme (ARP) pilot on 21 April 2016. The pilot involved a review of the clinical codes for medical emergencies, in order to improve the management of demand and allocation of a clinically-appropriate response. The report reminded Members that since 2013 the Service had delivered an EFR Scheme, involving firefighters responding to medical emergencies. That Scheme had been delivered successfully without impacting on the levels of fire cover required to achieve the Authority's Response Standards. Due to the success of the scheme it had been gradually expanded so that it was now delivered on both sides of the Humber on behalf of Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) and East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) and the system implemented by Humberside Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) had also been introduced in eight other Fire and Rescue Services, covering all of the YAS and EMAS areas. During 2015/16 HFRS firefighters had attended 2691 medical emergencies in the East Riding, saving many lives in the process. Recently the monthly average number of EFR attendances in the East Riding had increased to over 300 per month. Since commencement of the ARP pilot, calls had dropped by 50% to around 150 per month. Between October 2015 and March 2016 HFRS firefighters on the Falls Team in Hull were attending an average of 211 medical emergencies each month, in addition to their primary role of responding to elderly people who had fallen in the home. Currently the Falls Team was not attending any medical emergencies other than falls. There had been two significant events which had caused the reduction in volume of EFR calls:

- (i) YAS had decided not to mobilise the Falls Team in Hull to more serious medical emergencies due to financial reasons (HFRS recovers costs for calls from YAS which was around £8K per month in Hull). YAS were still mobilising the team to falls in the home as those costs are met by the Hull Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- (ii) YAS has been running a pilot (Phase 2 of the national Ambulance Response Programme) which included reviewing the clinical coding of a significant number of medical emergency types, and their associated response targets. In the approved national model many of the medical emergency types required an 8 minute response time, and could be initially attended by a Rapid Response Vehicle from YAS or by an EFR vehicle by HFRS. During the pilot it had been estimated that only 4% of medical emergencies would require an 8 minute response, (in the first ten days of the pilot that figure was actually 8%) with most of the calls that the EFR crews previously attended within 8 minutes now requiring a 19 minute response instead, and only from a double crewed ambulance. YAS still mobilised EFR crews to calls requiring an 8 minute response and also agreed to mobilise them to incidents requiring a 19 minute response, but only when their own resources might not achieve that 19 minute standard. The response to the 19 minute calls was however outside of the strict parameters for achieving that target, due to it not being provided in a double crewed ambulance, and therefore if the pilot scheme was introduced fully it was felt unlikely that the existing EFR scheme would be utilised for those calls.

Anecdotally the large reduction in EFR attendances had caused some staff in the East Riding to question whether to make themselves available for EFR calls in the future,

particularly if reductions in calls continued, as it was an additional voluntary commitment and the low volume of calls meant that staff do not feel they are helping their communities as much as they were. Financially there was no impact on the Service as the scheme works on a cost recovery basis. However, the reduced income from EFR calls for the Hull FIRST Falls Team does mean that now all costs for that team are now recovered from Hull CCG, as opposed to being shared between them and YAS, and that might impact upon decisions around longer term commissioning of the service. The pilot was initially scheduled for three months, however it was understood that it was likely to be extended. If the pilot was deemed to be a success, and the national model was changed accordingly, then it might mean that the delivery of EFR in its current form becomes unsustainable in the Service area. However Officers are reviewing how the HFRS scheme could be adapted so that it might be maintained in a different form because it is felt that it is genuinely improving the safety of the Service's communities. Officers are also working with our partners in YAS, East Riding CCG and Hull CCG to understand the potential future impact and in the short term are seeking to reintroduce the utilisation of the Falls Team for EFR calls in Hull through different funding streams.

Resolved - (a) That Members endorse the steps being taken so far by Officers and crews, and

(b) that Members receive an update report at the next meeting, when more is known about the outcomes of the ARP pilot, detailing the review work being undertaken.

5208 RESPONSE TO FIRES AT SEA – IMPACT OF CHANGES IN TRAINING PROVISION - The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Executive Director Service Delivery submitted a report reminding Members that whilst the Fire Authority had no statutory duty to attend vessels on fire 'at sea' (outside of the Humber Estuary or beyond the low water mark), the Authority did have a power to do so. The Humberside Fire and Rescue Service, along with a very small number of other Fire and Rescue Services, do currently attend incidents at sea, as part of the Fire and Rescue Marine Response (FRMR) group nationally. It was the Officer's view that the Service should continue to attend fires at sea due to the significant volume of marine traffic immediately outside of the Humber Estuary and close to the Service's coastline. However, recent restrictions on the provision of suitable training to the firefighters that volunteer to undertake that role meant that Officers believed that it might not be safe to continue attending fires at sea beyond 31 December 2016 unless the 'live' winch training is reinstated by the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA). The report now submitted provided a further update to the report submitted to the Authority on 25 April 2016 (Minute 5111 refers) and detailed the issue of concern, the steps being taken to resolve those issues and the recommended course of action if they cannot be resolved.

By way of background the report indicated that Section 72 of the Local Government Act 1972 confirmed that the area of responsibility for Fire Authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland generally extend to the mean low water mark (MLWM) at ordinary tide. That may include estuarial waters up to a prominent water mark. Therefore the Authority does have a statutory duty to attend vessels on fire in the Humber, and is able to deliver that duty either by using fire tugs, or helicopters, as the means for transferring crews to the vessel, but the Authority does not have a statutory duty to attend fires outside of that area. The Fire Services Act 2004 (Section 7) states that "A fire and rescue authority must make provision for the purpose of extinguishing fires in its area, and protecting life and property in the event of fires in its area". In addition to this Section 20 states "If a Fire and Rescue Authority has power to act, or is required to act, outside the authority's area, the authority may exercise the power, or perform the duty, at sea or under the sea." The 'at sea' area is any location within United Kingdom waters. That legislation formed the basis for the current Fire & Rescue Marine Response (FRMR) Team and meant that the Service currently utilised thirty six of its firefighters who have volunteered to attend incidents at sea to provide the firefighting and rescue service off the area's coastline and beyond that area, both to the North and South. The firefighters receive no additional payment for being on call to respond, they only receive payments for carrying out the additional training needed and for attending actual incidents.

The most recent incident they attended was the MV Elbetor on the 13 January 2016. The incident involved a serious fire in the accommodation area of the vessel that was transporting grain from Norfolk to Rotterdam. The vessel was anchored off the coast of Norfolk. Twelve firefighters attended with the support of Bristows helicopters and the Cromer RNLi lifeboat.

Currently fires in vessels around the UK coastline are covered by nine Fire and Rescue Services responding to incidents that are under the control of the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) as set out in the report. The report outlined previous training arrangements as part of the Maritime Incident Response Group, with RAF Search and Rescue (SAR). From 2006 to 2011 following an MCA led project to develop more formal Marine Response arrangements were put in place involving dedicated Fire & Rescue Services, and as a result HFRS formed part of the Marine Incident Response Group (MIRG). In February 2011 the Government withdrew the funding from the MCA to deliver MIRG, however, the existing arrangements remained in place. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Defence and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency existed to provide 7 hours of dedicated flying time along with winch training to each FRS that made up the UK FRS MIRG. However, due to the ending of the RAF involvement with SAR in 2015 the MoUs that were in place also came to an end.

The current position was that the helicopter response used by the MCA was transferred from RAF SAR to Bristows during 2015. In the lead up to that, in November 2014, the Service was informed that Bristows would not be able to provide any flying time to train HFRS firefighters, or any other responding FRS nationally. However, advice in the same letter was to liaise with local contacts. Locally, in fact, the position remained the same as with the RAF SAR, and flying time, and winching operations, were still provided to train HFRS firefighters. Therefore the Service had to date continued to provide a Marine Response without external funding. This currently costed the Authority around £50k per year, but meant that the Authority was able to utilise both tugs and helicopters as the means by which the Service transfers firefighters to vessels within its statutory area as well as at sea. In November 2015 those local arrangements ceased when the Service was informed that firefighters could only undertake familiarisation training (Ground Briefing and Cabin Briefing) and not undertake winch training or training flights. Any further training could be undertaken using an online training tool only. Given that the level of training which was now not being made available to firefighters is, according to the MCA, aimed at “those likely to be involved in winching”, and there is no way for firefighters to get from a helicopter to a vessel without being winched, Officers are of the view that a level of ‘live’ winch training should be reinstated. By August 2016 a significant number of crews will be beyond the three yearly competency refresher that the Service deems to be acceptable and although Officers feel that it is safe to extend the period between training, in consultation with the firefighters that volunteer to undertake the role, it was not felt that it was safe to extend that period by more than six months. Officers will carry out a review of the Risk Assessment attached at Appendix 1 to the report, and the associated competency framework, to determine if other alternatives are available, but if suitable training cannot be provided it would be necessary to withdraw from the provision of firefighting at sea by 31 December 2016.

In terms of implications the report indicated that the Humber Community Risk Register identified a Medium Risk (HL34) of a “fire ... involving a passenger vessel in or close to UK waters”. The report stated that if suitable training cannot be provided then the Authority would ultimately need to terminate the firefighting capability provided by this Service to mitigate that risk outside of the estuary. It was not known at this stage whether other FRSs will continue to respond to incidents immediately outside of the estuary, as the other FRSs which provide the UK response are facing the same training restrictions as HFRS are and are also considering their positions. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer regularly takes part in national teleconferences on the matter and he is aware that some other FRSs are considering withdrawing from firefighting at sea. The Service will still be able to deliver the Authority’s statutory duty to respond to incidents in the estuary, although the transfer to the vessel will take place via tug rather than helicopter.

In terms of work undertaken to resolve the issues the report indicated that the Deputy Chief Fire Officer has raised this issue with the Local Resilience Forum, and as a result the Government's Resilience and Emergencies Directorate are considering the impact. The LRF decided to write to Ministers of Parliament expressing their concerns, and are intending to do so following the presentation of the report now submitted to this Authority. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer raised the issue, and other issues related to the transport back from incidents for firefighters with the national co-ordinator and the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) Lead Officer for FRMR, and requested a Strategic level meeting between Principal Officers from the nine Services currently providing an "at sea" response. That initial meeting took place and due to the strength of feeling on the matter regular teleconferences have been set up to maintain contact at Strategic level. The CFOA Lead Officer had met with the MCA and discussed the issues, and the HFRS position, with them. He was also endeavouring to arrange a meeting at Ministerial level to discuss the implications. The issues were also discussed at the national FRMR meeting on 25/26 April 2016, attended by the Service Emergency Preparedness Manager. There did seem to have been progress on the issue of returning firefighters back to the Service area, particularly where there was the possibility that they could be left on a vessel which continued travelling overseas, but there had been less progress so far on reinstating the previous winch training. The latest teleconference took place on 25 July 2016. It was hoped that there will be a change of position regarding the provision of training to HFRS firefighters, and ideally the transport back from incidents, and that as a result the Service will be able to continue providing a response to vessel fires at sea. However if the position does not change, and suitable alternative training cannot be sourced, Officers were of the opinion that the safety of our firefighters would be compromised and, as a result, the Authority will reluctantly have to withdraw from providing a response to vessel fires at sea.

A Member suggested that as the Maritime and Coastguard Agency was sponsored by the Department of Transport a letter should be sent from the Chairperson on behalf of the Authority expressing concern that the changes compromise the safety of firefighters; enclosing a copy of the report now submitted, and requesting a response by October 2016 to enable the Authority to further review the situation prior to the deadline for ceasing to attend fires at sea of 31 December 2016. It was also suggested that the letter should be copied to the new Fire Minister (Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP).

Resolved - (a) That Members endorse the ongoing work by Officers, but if suitable alternative training cannot be sourced that the Service should cease to attend fires at sea beyond 31 December 2016, and

(b) that the Authority writes to relevant Members of Parliament, and other key stakeholders, so they are made aware of the potential that the Service may cease responding to fires at sea.

5209 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – The following matters were briefly discussed:

- Health Support Initiative Award – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive exhibited the Transforming Services Award received by the Fire and Health Service Integration Team in recognition of the ground-breaking partnership between Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and the Hull Clinical Commissioning Group which led to the introduction of the Falls Response service in Hull. The award was presented at a ceremony on 7 July 2016. Members expressed congratulations to all those involved.
- Recent Government Appointments – The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive referred to the recent appointment of the Rt. Hon Amber Rudd MP as Home Secretary and the Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP as Minister of State for Policing and the Fire Service and stated that he was attempting to arrange an early meeting with Mr Lewis.

5210 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS/PUBLIC - Resolved – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item (Minute 5211) on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 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).

5211 COLLABORATION UPDATE - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported orally on action since the previous meeting of the Authority with regard to the preparation of a full business case for a possible merger with North Yorkshire Fire Service. Both authorities had now appointed a Lead Officer to work on preparing the business case and it was proposed to use the same template as that being used by Police and Crime Commissioners wishing to take on the responsibility for Fire Services as that might be helpful in comparing/ assessing the merits of any cases put forward. The Chairperson stated that the Authority needed to contact the Rt. Hon Brandon Lewis MP regarding his views about collaboration between fire authorities.

The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive also reported that the Chairperson and he had met their counterparts at Lincolnshire County Council to discuss potential devolution and had mapped out some possible scenarios. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive stated that further meetings will take place on a regular basis between now and December 2016.

The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive also reported that he was looking to use the Cross Sector Leadership Exchange (with participants also from the Police and Health Service) to run a Leadership Development programme.

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

(b) that the situation be appropriately updated at future Member Days and meetings of the Authority.

Meeting closed at 11.45am

Appendix 1**COMPOSITION OF FIRE AUTHORITY 2016/2017**
(REVISED JULY 2016)**1. East Riding of Yorkshire Council (8)**

Councillor Margaret Chadwick	(Conservative)
Councillor Helen Green	(Conservative)
Councillor Christopher Matthews	(Conservative)
Councillor Dee Sharpe	(Conservative)
Councillor Patricia Smith	(Conservative)
Councillor Peter Turner	(Conservative)
Councillor Barbara Jefferson JP	(Independent)
Councillor Shelagh Finlay	(Labour)

2. Hull City Council (6)

Councillor Peter Allen	(Labour)
Councillor Carol Clarkson	(Labour)
Councillor Leanne Fudge	(Labour)
Councillor Steve Wilson	(Labour)
Councillor Jackie Dad BA (Hons)	(Liberal Democrat)
Councillor Karen Mathieson	(Liberal Democrat)

3. North East Lincolnshire Council (4)

Councillor Philip Jackson	(Conservative)
Councillor Ron Shepherd	(Conservative)
Councillor Mike Burton	(Labour)
Councillor Ray Sutton	(Labour)

4. North Lincolnshire Council (4)

Councillor John Briggs	(Conservative)
Councillor Nigel Sherwood	(Conservative)
Councillor Rob Waltham	(Conservative)
Councillor Mick Grant	(Labour)

