

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE REPORTS

- **Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services**
- **Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services**

SUMMARY

1. Attached are two reports published by the National Audit Office (NAO) on 5 November 2015.
2. The reports focus on both the financial sustainability of fire and rescue services and on the impact of funding reductions since 2010.
3. The detailed findings and recommendations are contained within the reports but a broad conclusion is that whilst fire and rescue services have coped well with funding cuts, there are emerging signs of potential financial stress at some authorities.
4. Humberside Fire and Rescue Service is not in this position as a result of previous early decisions on efficiency measures. It is essential that this approach is continued into the medium-term given the recent CSR announcements.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. That Members note the contents of the two National Audit Office reports attached.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

6. No direct issues arising.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

7. The Authority has worked extremely hard to deliver a sustainable financial footing and this requirement will continue into the medium-term.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The Authority must statutorily set a balanced budget.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

9. No direct issues arising.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10. No direct issues arising other than the significant reduction in funding remains on the Service's Corporate Risk Register.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11. No direct issues arising.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

12. No direct issues arising.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. No direct issues arising.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

14. NAO report – Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services
NAO report – Impact of funding reductions on fire and rescue services

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

15. That Members note the contents of the two National Audit Office reports attached.

K WILSON

Officer Contact: Kevin Wilson ☎ 01482 567183
Executive Director Service Support/S.151 Officer

Humberside Fire & Rescue Service
Summergroves Way
Kingston upon Hull

KW/SJ
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