

Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
11 June 2013

Report by the Chief Executive and
Chief Fire Officer

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE PEER CHALLENGE REPORT MARCH 2013 DRAFT

REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This draft report considers the outcomes and presents the key findings from the Local Government Association's (LGA's) Fire Peer Challenge at Humberside Fire and Rescue Service in March 2013. Fire peer challenge is part of the new approach to sector led improvement. It is a key component of the LGA's 'Taking the Lead' offer (www.local.gov.uk/taking-the-lead).

The key areas covered by the peer challenge team were:

- Leadership and Corporate Capacity
- Community Risk Management
- Prevention & Protection
- Response
- Health & Safety
- Training & Development
- Call Management
- Strategic Risk
- Operational Efficiency Program.

Each key area is covered in detail within the report highlighting strengths and areas to explore as a service, as a draft document there are a number of observations within the report that require clarification with the author before production of the final document.

A few key points from the executive summary are included below and the draft report is attached to this paper:

"Humberside Fire and Rescue Service provide a high quality service to local citizens and businesses and maintains a focus on safe communities and safe people."

"The Medium Term Financial Plan and savings achieved to date provide an effective platform for planning to meet the future financial challenges. The Service has considered radical service delivery options including an enterprising approach to income generation through its recently formed Community Interest Company, HFRS Solutions, which is focused on growing and safeguarding future service provisions."

"Overall Humberside Fire and Rescue Service is well-run and organised. It is founded on competent and enthusiastic staff and the Service enjoys a productive relationship with its elected members."

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee is asked to consider this report and make any recommendations it considers appropriate to the Fire Authority.

REPORT DETAIL

2. The Fire Peer Challenge took place from the 5-8 March 2013 and consisted of a range of on-site activities including interviews, focus groups and visits to four Fire stations. In total the team met and spoke to over 140 members of HFRS staff and partners.
3. The peer team met with a broad cross-section of elected members, front line firefighters, non-uniformed officers and partner agencies. During the time in Humberside the peer team were very well looked after and everyone the team met was fully engaged with the process, open and honest.
4. The team also undertook background reading provided to them in advance, including Humberside's summary Operational Assessment (OpA) Self-Assessment and key supporting documentation.
5. The purpose of the peer challenge was to complement the Authority's Operational Assurance self-assessment by providing external challenge to help support improvement and to reflect how the Service is performing across the areas of focus.
6. Fire peer challenges are managed and delivered by the sector for the sector. Peers are at the heart of the peer challenge process. They help Services with their improvement and learning by providing a 'practitioner perspective' and 'critical friend' challenge.
7. The peer challenge team included:
 - Nigel Williams, Chief Fire Officer, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (lead peer)
 - Councillor Sian Timoney, Luton Borough Council
 - Dean Stevens, Director of Prevent and Protect, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - Simon Allsop, Director of Finance and Treasurer, Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - Barbara Owen, Brigade Manager People and Development, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service
 - Jonna Stevens, Peer Challenge Manager, Local Government Association.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

8. The report will provide key information to assist in supporting the delivery of the strategic plan and vision.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

9. Value for money will be a key part of the process, particularly regarding strategic risks.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. None arising.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

11. None arising

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

12. One of the key areas within the report has included a review of the strategic risks, any area that are identified for improvement within the eight key areas will be managed via each boards risk register.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13. None arising

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

14. The extent to which the review is communicated is a matter for the Authority following publication of the final report.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

15. A verbal brief by the peer team was given to the Chair of the Fire Authority and Change Board on the last day of the review.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

16. Draft copy of report is attached, Fire Authority paper 12 February 2013 agenda No 12

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

17. The Committee is asked to consider this report and make any recommendations it considers appropriate to the Fire Authority.

R HANNIGAN

Officer Contact: Richard Hanigan ☎ 01482 567417
Chief Executive and Chief Fire Officer

Humberside Fire & Rescue Service
Summergroves Way
Kingston upon Hull

KE/EML
29/05/2013

