

Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee  
3 March 2014

Report by Chairperson and  
Acting Monitoring Officer/Secretary

**UPDATE: MATTERS ARISING/  
FEEDBACK FROM FIRE AUTHORITY**

REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee has previously agreed that it would be desirable to receive feedback from meetings of the Authority, particularly where the Committee had made recommendations to the Authority.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee is asked to consider this report.

## FEEDBACK FROM THE FIRE AUTHORITY

2. The following summarises the consideration given by the HFA to the report presented by the Chairperson of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the draft minutes of the meeting of the GAS Committee held on 4 February 2014:

Minute	Feedback/Update
<p><u>Appointment of Director's to HFR Solutions Board</u> (Minute 4393 refers) - The Committee noted the delay in the appointment of 2 Elected Members as Directors to the HFR Solutions' Board and the submission of a Business Plan incorporating financial information and that the Chief Fire Officer &amp; Chief Executive will discuss with the Officer Directors to see if financial information can be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.</p>	<p>Nominations are to be discussed by Group Secretaries at a meeting on 3rd March 2014.</p> <p>The Financial detail behind the graph shown in the current Business Plan will be included in the next version of the plan, which is due to be reviewed after the end of year accounts and outturn for 2013/14. The refreshed Business Plan will be brought before this Committee and the Fire Authority by August 2014.</p>
<p><u>ICT Backup and Recovery</u> (Minute 4394 refers) - The Committee noted that the Director of Finance &amp; Assets/Section 151 Officer will ensure that the information previously requested regarding the Service Level Agreement is supplied to Members of this Committee.</p>	<p>The information is to be supplied to Members of this Committee</p>
<p><u>Employment Tribunal Cases</u> – (Minute 4395 refers) – Members had previously requested information regarding Employment Tribunal cases and was assured that the information would be provided for the next meeting of this Committee.</p>	<p>The information has been circulated separately to Members of this Committee.</p>
<p><u>Update: Matters Arising/ Feedback From Fire Authority</u> (Minute 4396 refers) - The Committee agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee listing progress on all recommendations of this Committee which have not yet been implemented.</p>	<p>A report is included as a separate item on the Agenda for this meeting.</p>
<p><u>2014/15 Budget And Precept and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2014/15 to 2016/17</u> (Minute 4400 refers) - The Committee suggested that the Authority approves Option 2 and approves an increase in the precept to a level a fraction below the threshold level to be set by the Government that would trigger a referendum, on the basis that such an increase will keep the base budget level up.</p>	<p>The Authority approved Option 1.</p>

<p><u>Members Allowances 2014/15</u> (Minute 4402 refers) - Members recommended to the Authority (a) that, in the context of other cuts in the fire service budget, this Committee would support the suggestion in the report that the Authority might agree that the allowances be frozen at their current level for 2014/15 and that there should be an independent review in 2014 in readiness for 2015/16, and (b) that the Authority be informed that this Committee would be willing to assist in the independent review.</p>	<p>The Authority agreed (a) to freeze the allowances for 2014/15 at the rate approved for 2013/14, and (b) to set up a group comprising the Chairperson of the Authority and Group Secretaries together with a representative from the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, to carry out a fuller review of allowances during 2014 in readiness for 2015/16 and to make recommendations through the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee to the full Fire Authority.</p>
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STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

3. None arising directly.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

4. As outlined above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. As outlined above.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

6. None arising.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7. None arising.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8. None arising.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

9. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

10. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

11. None.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

12. The Committee is asked to consider this report.

**M BUCKLEY**

**D HUGHES**  
**(Chairperson, Governance, Audit**  
**and Scrutiny Committee)**

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