

**Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
14 April 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 March 2014:

Minute	Feedback/Update
<p><u>Implementation of Committee Recommendations</u> (Minute 4430 refers)</p> <p>- The Committee (a) noted that the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive would submit a report to the next meeting of the Authority with regard to the appointment of Member Directors to the Board of HFR Solutions, and (b) recommended to the Fire Authority that consideration is given at the AGM to including provision in the Constitution regarding an Independent Members' Allowances Panel.</p> <p>A Member also referred to Minute 4044 regarding the Review of the Role of the GAS Committee and re-iterated previous comments that Independent Members needed to plan ahead but that this was difficult in view of the delay in completing the review of the Committee's role. The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported that he had been asked to submit a report to the Authority.</p>	<p>(a) The HFA approved the appointment of Councillors T Walker and Hodgson as Member Directors of HFR Solutions (Minute4471 refers), and</p> <p>(b) the suggestion regarding an Independent Members' Allowances Panel was noted.</p> <p>The HFA agreed (Minute 4469) (a) That the following proposals be approved:</p> <p>(i) the proposed size (8 Independent Co-opted Members) and tenure (2 terms of 3 years) of the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee;</p> <p>(ii) the recruitment of three members of the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee in 2014;</p> <p>(iii) the appointment of Mr David Hughes and Mr John Jepson as members of the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee until 30 September 2014, and</p> <p>(iv) the appointment Mrs Gill Hardy as a member of the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee until 30 April 2015.</p> <p>(b) that the proposed amendments to the role of the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee, particularly around the scrutiny function, be further examined and a report submitted to the next meeting of the Authority.</p>

<p><u>Suspension of Senior Manager</u> – (Minute 4439 refers) – The Committee recommended to the Authority that when reviewing its Constitution consideration is given to clarifying the position of Independent Co-opted Members with regard to Exempt Business.</p>	<p>The recommendation was received.</p>
<p><u>Review of Member Code and Member Development</u> – (Minute 4442 refers) – The Committee recommended that the Fire Authority be informed of the following recommendations/views:</p> <p>(i) That the proposed revised Code of Conduct be approved;</p> <p>(ii) that with regard to the procedure for the investigation and determination of allegations under the Code of Conduct set out in Appendix 2 the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee considers that it is not good practice for the Quorum for meetings of the Panel to be 2 Members and that this should be changed to 3 Members of the Panel (paragraphs 3.7 and 9.12 refer):</p> <p>(iii) that with regard to the procedure for raising concerns about the conduct of Members of the Fire Authority set out in Appendix 2 the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny considers it is not good practice to include the name of individual officers in policy documents as they might change over time and therefore the document should only refer to the Officer's job title;</p> <p>(iv) that with regard to paragraph 13 of the report submitted to the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, the Independent Co-opted Members do not feel that they need to be approached through the Group Secretaries in considering their views on the report, and</p> <p>(v) the Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the intention to include them in the proposed Member Training Needs Analysis.</p>	<p>The HFA agreed (a) That the revised Code of Conduct set out in the Appendix I to the minutes be approved;</p> <p>(b) that the procedure for the investigation and determination of allegations under the Code of Conduct set out in Appendix 2 to the report be amended in line with the recommendations of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee (paragraphs 4 (ii) and (ii) of the report and as set out in Appendix II to the minutes, and</p> <p>(c) that Members endorse the intention to circulate the Member Training Needs Analysis form to all Elected Members and also Independent Co-opted Members of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee, for completion before the Fire Authority AGM 2014.</p>

<p><u>Senior Management Review</u> (Minute 4470 refers)</p>	<p>The HFA approved -</p> <p>(i) the commencement of a review of the two most senior levels of service management (CMT and Area Managers) with recommendations to be brought to the Authority meeting of 25 April 2014;</p> <p>(ii) the initiation of a rotating 'acting up' process between Area Managers to provide strategic Gold Command resilience for the Service temporarily from 1 April 2014 until the review is concluded and its outcomes implemented, and</p> <p>(iii) a review as detailed in the body of the report now submitted to be carried out by the Chief Fire Officer (Designate).</p>
<p><u>Operational Efficiency Programme – Implementation Plan</u> (Minute 4460 refers)</p>	<p>The HFA endorsed the implementation plan for:</p> <p>(i) Option 5 (Hull) – remove second engine from East Hull, crew all fire engines in Hull with four firefighters and crew a small fires unit, and</p> <p>(ii) Option 16 (Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Waltham) – merge Peaks Lane and Cromwell Road fire stations and remove one fire engine, replace the fire engines at Cleethorpes and Waltham with small fires units and use them for small fires in the Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Waltham areas.</p>

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)**

Officer Contact: Matthew Buckley ☎ 01482 567443
Monitoring Officer

Humberside Fire & Rescue Service
Summergroves Way
Kingston upon Hull

JS
27 March 2014

