

Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee  
3 March 2014

Report by the  
Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its inception in October 2012 the Governance Audit and Scrutiny Committee has made 37 recommendations/calls for action to officers and/or the Humberside Fire Authority. To date 28 of those have been implemented. This report identifies recommendations/calls for action that have not yet been implemented and the actions that are proposed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Committee Members are assured that their recommendations and calls for action are considered and acted upon by officers and/or the Fire Authority.

## BACKGROUND

2. The Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee was formed in October 2012 to fulfill the functions of an audit committee, to scrutinize reports prior to meetings of the Humberside Fire Authority and in doing so provide an independent view which would assist Authority Members to make informed decisions. In performing these functions the governance of the Authority is enhanced.
3. The GAS Committee makes observations and recommendations to the Fire Authority who consider these comments prior to making any decisions. So far the GAS Committee has made 37 recommendations/calls for action to officers and/or the Authority and of these 28 have been implemented, nine however remain outstanding.
4. The outstanding items are listed below along with the actions being taken by officers and/or Members of the Authority.

### Item 4005 - Service Performance and Risk Report for Period April to December 2012

5. The Committee resolved that SPI data should be broken down to highlight performance at CPU and ward level.

*Action: This information is provided to CPUs and is available on request.*

The Committee also asked for a breakdown of the use of operational staff time to assess the impact of reducing operational activity and to refocus staff on delivering the Service vision.

*Action: Operational activity constitutes on average, 3.9% of a firefighter's workload. The remaining time at work is managed through station work routines. Early response to flooding and developing a medical response are examples of staff working differently to deliver the Service Vision.*

### Items 4007 & 4029

6. Members discussed the role of the Group Secretaries and felt that Group Secretaries should not be regarded as a sub-committee as they had no decision making role within the Constitution.

*Action: The Group Secretaries meet infrequently and act as a sounding board. They express the views of their political groups and take appropriate information back to their respective groups. When appropriate, feedback from Group Secretaries will be included in reports to the GAS Committee and HFA.*

### Item 4009 – Data Regarding Injury to Firefighters

7. A Member suggested that it would be helpful if the Committee could be supplied with data regarding injuries to firefighters over a period of 4 – 5 years and that these should be compared to industry.

*Action: Those figures will be included in future annual performance reports as this should provide sufficient data for comparisons to be made.*

Item 4044 – Review of the Role of the Governance, Audit & Scrutiny Committee

8. This review has been delayed and will now report as originally planned in the Spring of 2014. The role of the GAS Committee was discussed by Members at their Member Day in February 2014.

Action: *A report regarding the future role of the GAS Committee will come before the Committee to enable its views to be considered.*

Item 4084 – Annual Governance Statement

9. A Member suggested that the format and wording of the AGS could be improved.

Action: *Whilst officers have some latitude to alter the AGS format it must still conform to current guidance. Consideration will be given to the production of a more user friendly fronting report to the 2013/14 AGS.*

Item 4215 – Accountability of Chief Fire Officer

10. Members submitted comments regarding the process to be implemented.

Action: *This will be discussed by Group Secretaries on 3 March 2014 and with the CFO designate following that.*

Item 4939 – Appointment of Directors to HFA Solutions

11. The Committee noted the delay in appointing Member Directors to the Board of HFR Solutions.

Action: *This will now take place on 3 March 2014.*

Item 4402 – Member Allowances 2014/15

12. These should have been reviewed in 2013 but were not. The GAS Committee recommended that Member Allowances remain frozen for 2014/15 but during that year an independent review should take place.

Action: *A paper was submitted to HFA on 17 February 2014 and the Member Allowances were frozen for a further year. Members agreed that a review would take place in 2014/15 and that a Member of the GAS Committee would be involved.*

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

13. The GAS Committee provide an independent view which adds value to Strategic Plan delivery.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

14. None at this time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. None directly though good governance supports legal compliance.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

16. None.

## CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17. An effective audit committee should ensure that risks are managed effectively.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

18. None directly.

## COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

19. None.

## DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

20. Not applicable.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

21. None.

## RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

22. That Committee Members are assured that their recommendations and calls for action are considered and acted upon by officers and/or the Fire Authority.

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