

Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
1 February 2016

Report by Chairperson and
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. The report also draws attention to matters considered by the most recent meeting of the Authority which may be of interest to this Committee.

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 draft minutes of the meeting of the GAS Committee held on 2 November 2015.

Minute	Feedback/Update
<p><u>Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16 – Business Safety – Update</u> (Minute 4971 refers) – The Committee agreed that it be a recommendation to the Fire Authority that –</p> <p>(i) the Authority takes assurance that the Business Safety team, supported by colleagues in the Directorate of Emergency Response, is proactive in seeking to continually improve the technical fire safety provision, work in the most effective ways and add value through partnership working;</p> <p>(ii) the Authority support the running of additional Business Safety seminars as a cost effective way of reaching a number of businesses;</p> <p>(iii) the Authority consider asking the Corporate Management Team to present, at a Member Day, on the range of approaches taken nationwide to address unwanted fire signals;</p> <p>(iv) that a small piece of work be carried out by the Business Safety team to review unwanted fire signals activity at the level of business type e.g. agricultural, small retail etc. to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish if there are any patterns • Evaluate whether there may be merit in sector specific education initiatives. <p>(v) the Authority consider requesting that the Corporate Management Team specify aspirational positioning against other fire and rescue services in some of the outcome measures in the next strategic plan.</p>	<p>The HFA agreed (Minute 4989 refers) -</p> <p>(a) That the Authority takes assurance that the Business Safety team, supported by colleagues in the Directorate of Emergency Response, is proactive in seeking to continually improve the technical fire safety provision, work in the most effective ways and add value through partnership working;</p> <p>(b) that the Authority support the running of additional Business Safety seminars as a cost effective way of reaching a number of businesses;</p> <p>(c) that the Corporate Management Team be requested to present, at a Member Day, on the range of approaches taken nationwide to address unwanted fire signals;</p> <p>(d) that a small piece of work be carried out by the Business Safety team to review unwanted fire signals activity at the level of business type e.g. agricultural, small retail etc. to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish if there are any patterns • Evaluate whether there may be merit in sector specific education initiatives. <p>(e) that the Corporate Management Team be requested to specify aspirational positioning against other fire and rescue services in some of the outcome measures in the next strategic plan;</p> <p>(f) that if Members have any topics for future scrutiny by the GAS Committee they should contact the Chairperson of the GAS Committee or the Monitoring Officer/Secretary as soon as possible prior to the next meeting of the GAS Committee, and</p> <p>(g) that the Members of the GAS Committee be invited to future Member Days.</p>
<p><u>Annual Audit Letter</u> (Minute 4972 refers) – The Committee agreed that the Annual Audit Letter be noted.</p>	<p>The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee's decision.</p>
<p><u>External Audit Progress Report and Technical Update</u> (Minute 4973 refers) – The Committee agreed that the report be noted.</p>	<p>The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee's decision.</p>

<u>Management Accounts 2015/16 – Based on the Period ending 30 September 2015</u> (Minute 4974 refers) – The Committee agreed that Members take assurance from the report and the Authority's financial position for the period ending 30 September 2015.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee's decision.
<u>Treasury Management Mid-Year Update Report 2015/16</u> (Minute 4975 refers) – The Committee agreed that Members note the treasury management activities undertaken during the first half of 2015/16 and the Prudential Indicators as outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16 and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted.	The HFA agreed that Members note the treasury management activities undertaken during the first half of 2015/16 and the Prudential Indicators as outlined in paragraphs 16 and 17 and detailed in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted.
<u>Internal Audit Update</u> (Minute 4976 refers) – The Committee agreed that the Committee notes the progress against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan and issues arising, and also the MIAA Briefing Paper on cyber security.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee's decision.
<u>Service Performance and Risk Report – 2nd Quarter Period July - September 2015</u> (Minute 4977 refers) – The Committee agreed that the Committee takes assurance as to the Service's proactive approach to performance and risk management.	The HFA agreed that Members take assurance as to the Service's proactive approach to performance and risk management.
<u>Health, Safety and Environmental Report for the 2nd Quarter Period July - September 2015</u> (Minute 4978 refers) – The Committee agreed that the Committee notes the report and takes assurance as to the Service's proactive approach to Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes.	The HFA agreed that Members note the report and take assurance as to the Service's proactive approach to Health, Safety and Environmental outcomes.

3. The following summarises matters considered by the HFA on 11 December 2015 which may be of interest to this Committee.

Item	Feedback
<u>National Audit Office Reports - Financial Sustainability of Fire And Rescue Services and Impact of Funding Reductions on Fire and Rescue Services</u> (HFA Minute 4990 refers).	The HFA agreed that Members note the contents of the two National Audit Office reports.
<u>Financial Planning 2016/17 Onwards</u> (Minute 4992 refers).	The HFA agreed (a) That Members note the report and the financial challenges for the period 2016/17 onwards and that the precept/council tax report be considered at the February 2016 Authority meeting, and (b) that the Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer include a briefing session on Appendix 1 to the report at the next Member Day.
<u>Capital Programme 2016/17 Onwards – Vehicles, Estates and IT</u> (Minute 4993 refers).	The HFA agreed that Members approve the capital programme for vehicles, estates and ICT for 2016/17 onwards and that it is incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Plan 2016/17 to 2019/20 to be considered at the 15 February 2016 Fire Authority meeting.

<p><u>Operational Efficiency Options For Formal Consultation</u> (Minute 4996 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA Agreed –</p> <p>(a) That Members approve formal consultation on the following operational efficiency options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Merge Immingham East and West Fire Stations and remove one fire engine or Remove one fire engine from Immingham West. - Remove one fire engine from Market Weighton or Brough. - Remove one fire engine from Hornsea. - Remove one fire engine from Withernsea. <p>(b) that Members endorse the Consultation Plan set out in the report,</p> <p>(c) that Members receive the consultation results at the March 2016 Authority meeting, and</p> <p>(d) that Members decide what options, if any, to implement at a meeting to be held in June 2016.</p>
<p><u>East Hull Integrated Care Centre</u> (Minute 4998 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA agreed that Members approve the proposal to re-locate the existing East Hull station to a new fit-for-purpose facility within the proposed East Hull ICC and that an update on the lease negotiations be submitted to the next meeting of the Authority.</p>
<p><u>Service Redesign Programme (SRP) Transactional Administration and Data Management Review</u> (Minute 4999 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA Agreed that Members approve the commencement of a six week consultation period from early January 2016, for the proposal set out in the report and attached appendices and that an update be submitted to the meeting of the Authority in March 2016.</p>
<p><u>Early Voluntary Release</u> (Minute 5000 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA Agreed that Members approve the Early Voluntary Release (EVR) policy attached to the report and that applications be invited from LGPS members of staff over the coming weeks through to late January 2016 and that an update be submitted to the meeting of the Authority in March 2016.</p>
<p><u>Collaboration Update</u> (Minute 5001 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA Agreed - (a) That Members support the discussions with North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service and that an update be submitted to the meeting of the Authority in February 2016, and (b) that in conjunction with North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service a letter be sent to the Fire Minister informing him that both Fire Authorities are discussing an outline business case for greater collaboration up to and including a full merger.</p>

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

4. None arising directly.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

5. As outlined above.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. As outlined above.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

7. None arising.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8. None arising.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9. None arising.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

10. None.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

12. None.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

13. The Committee is asked to consider this report.

M BUCKLEY

D CHAPMAN
(Chairperson, Governance, Audit
and Scrutiny Committee)

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