

Report of Chair of Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on the 3rd March 2014 and 7 members attended.

Two elected members attended as observers including the Chair.

Some of the papers that will be presented to the Fire Authority on the 14th March 2014 were reviewed. This note summarises the main points. My report should be read in conjunction with the draft minutes of the Committee which contain more detail.

Most of the discussions were around Matters arising from the minutes and a review of items that had been raised by the Committee in the course of the year, i.e. items 5 and 6 on the agenda.

The Committee noted the intention of the HFA to review member's allowances in the next year. Since each Unitary Authority had reviewed their allowances in the current year using totally independent people should the HFA follow the same principle rather than have a sub committee comprising of Elected Members and an independent Member.

To date 28 of the Committee's recommendations had been implemented although the suggestions for the Solutions Business Plan was not included in the list but will be included in the next plan review in 2014.

There is still a concern about the role of the group secretaries and perhaps this should be better defined in the next review of the Constitution.

The Committee were pleased to hear, in the oral report, that there will be a recommendation to the HFA that the role will continue although with a slightly revised scope. It is also understood subsequently that the chair has offered to meet with the GAS Committee in the near future which we welcome.

The Committee were pleased to hear that two Member Directors of Solutions have been recommended.

The Committee were also pleased to hear of the successful recertification of the Customer Service Excellence Award which provides external scrutiny of the Fire Service.

David Hughes
Chair GAS Committee
9/3/14

