

Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
7 March 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 1 February 2016.

Minute	Feedback/Update
<u>Minutes</u> (Minute 5010 refers) – The Committee agreed “ (b) that the Committee meet with the Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer following the meeting of this Committee to be held on 7 March 2016.”	Meeting scheduled to be held following this meeting.
<u>Scrutiny Work Programme 2015/16 – Topics for Scrutiny - Discussion</u> (Minute 5012 refers) –The Committee agreed - (a) that the Committee approves Collaboration as its next topic for scrutiny and that a scoping document be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee, and (b) that Mrs B Boyes (MIAA) be asked to define and circulate to Members an outline of the forthcoming internal audit capital management review.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee’s decision. During the discussion by the Fire Authority of the exempt item relating to Collaboration Update (see separate item later in this report) a Member of Authority suggested that the GAS Committee might look at Collaboration as a scrutiny topic.
<u>Management Accounts 2015/16 to 31 December 2015</u> (Minute 5014 refers) – The Committee agreed that Members take assurance from the report and the Authority’s financial position for the period ending 31 December 2015.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee’s decision.
<u>2015/16 Annual Accounts Closedown Timetable</u> (Minute 5015 refers) – The Committee agreed - That the Committee take assurance that the Fire Authority has robust plans in place to produce the Annual Accounts by the required deadlines.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee’s decision.
<u>Draft External Audit Plan 2015/16</u> (Minute 5016 refers) – The Committee agreed - (a) That the draft Audit Plan 2015/16 be noted, and (b) that it be noted that Mrs Rae will circulate copies of the new guidance from the National Audit Office to Members.	The HFA agreed that the Audit Plan 2015/16 be approved. Mrs J Rae (KPMG) has since circulated to Members the National Audit Office guidance.
<u>Internal Audit Update</u> (Minute 5017 refers) – The Committee agreed that the Committee notes the progress against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan and issues arising.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee’s decision.
<u>Proposed Internal Audit Plan 2016/17</u> (Minute 5018 refers) – The Committee agreed that the report be noted.	The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the Committee’s decision. See separate item on the Agenda for this meeting.

<p><u>Any Other Business – Scrutiny Programme 2014/15 – Human Resources: Part 1: Advisory and Transactional Services & Part 2: Succession Planning – Final Report</u> (Minute 5021 refers) – The Chairperson referred to Minute 4769 and stated that the Committee would welcome some feedback on how the outcomes of the HR review had been received.</p>	<p>The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the feedback request.</p>
<p><u>Any Other Business - Member Training</u> - The Executive Director Service Support/Section 151 Officer stated that building on from scrutiny he was proposing to arrange a half day training session during March 2016 for Members of the Authority on 'Systems Thinking' and would include the Members of the GAS Committee and that he would circulate some information in advance of that session.</p>	<p>The HFA in receiving the minutes noted the proposal.</p>

3. The following summarises matters considered by the HFA on 15 February 2016 which may be of interest to this Committee.

Item	Feedback
<p><u>2015/16 Budget and Precept and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2015/16 To 2017/18</u> (HFA Minute 5033 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA agreed that Members approve setting the 2016/17 precept at a level 1.25% higher than 2015/16.</p>
<p><u>Fees and Charges 2016/17</u> (HFA Minute 5034 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA agreed that the revised charges shown in the Appendices A and B to the report now submitted be approved with effect from 1 April 2016.</p>
<p><u>Members' Allowances 2016/17</u> (HFA Minute 5035 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA agreed - (a) That the allowances be frozen at their current level for 2016/17 as set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes, and (b) that the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee be asked to review the level of the Special Responsibility Allowance paid to the Vice Chairperson of the Fire Authority.</p> <p>See separate item on the Agenda for this meeting.</p>
<p><u>Exempt Item – Collaboration Update</u> (HFA Minute 5037 refers).</p>	<p>The HFA received an oral update with regard to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Consultation - Enabling Closer Working between the Emergency Services – The Government's Response. • Discussion regarding the development of a full business case for a potential merger between North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Humberside Fire Authority. • Arrangements with South Yorkshire Fire Authority regarding Shared Human Resources services.

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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JS
23 February 2016