

**HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY**  
**GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**5 SEPTEMBER 2022**

**PRESENT:** Independent Co-opted Members James Doyle (Chair) Chris Brown (remote), Kathryn Lavery, and Gerry Wareham.

Phil Shillito – Deputy Chief Fire Officer/Executive Director of Corporate Services, Jon Henderson – Director of Prevention and Protection, Steve Topham – Director of Emergency Response, Jamie Morris – Senior Service Improvement Officer, Nick King – Deputy Monitoring Officer/Secretary, Sam Campbell - Committee Manager, and Rob Close – Committee Manager were also present. Ross Woodley - External Auditor (Mazars) attended remotely.

The meeting was held at the Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull. The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m.

**PROCEDURAL**

**61/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies for absence were received from Pam Jackson and Councillors Briggs and Green.

**62/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – There were no declarations of interest.

**63/22 MINUTES – *Resolved*** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record as amended.

**64/22 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA** – There were no matters arising.

**GOVERNANCE**

**65/22 UPDATE: MATTERS ARISING/FEEDBACK FROM FIRE AUTHORITY** – The Deputy Monitoring Officer/Secretary provided feedback on items considered by the Fire Authority at its meetings of 22 July 2022.

***Resolved*** - That the update be received.

**AUDIT**

**66/22 EXTERNAL AUDIT COMPLETION REPORT** - Ross Woodley (Mazars) presented a report updating the Committee on progress in relation to the external audit process.

The external audit was substantially completed and there appeared to be no matters that might affect the final audit opinion. Assurances were still outstanding from the pension fund auditor to allow for the significant risk resulting from the defined benefit pension liability valuation to be addressed. Those assurances were however, expected to be received in advance of the deadline. Moreover, the billing authorities' 2021/22 accounts were now available so the external auditors could assess that the accuracy of the estimates used by the Authority remained appropriate. No significant weaknesses to internal control or value for money were identified during the 2021/22 audit. A misstatement value of £263,000 was identified and would be corrected at the next valuation.

***Resolved*** - That the report be received.

**67/22 Internal Audit Update** - The Sub-Committee received a report of the internal auditors, TIAA.

**Resolved** - That the report be received

### **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

**68/22 HMICFRS UPDATE** - The Senior Service Improvement Officer delivered a verbal update advising the Committee on the December HMICFRS inspection prior to it being formally received at the Humberside Fire Authority. The Authority received a Good rating over the three pillars and increased four Requires Improvement ratings to Good, resulting in a universal Good rating throughout the sub-categories.

In response to a question seeking clarity on the higher than England average Firefighter cost per person, the Committee were advised there were a number of factors that may impact the cost per person including being a largely rural and coastal authority.

**Resolved** - That the updated be noted.

### **SCRUTINY PROGRAMME**

**69/22 GAS COMMITTEE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2022/23** - The Committee Manager submitted a report summarising the Committee's Scrutiny Programme 2022/23.

Under officers' advice, the Committee moved to defer the item titled 'Emergency Response Business Continuity' to be programmed for a future meeting stressing that they were keen for it to be scrutinised.

**Resolved** - That the item titled 'Emergency Response Business Continuity' be deferred with a view to consider it at a later date.