

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

15 DECEMBER 2006

PRESENT -**Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:**

Councillors Cox, Engall, Grange, Jefferies, Stead and Wastling

Representing Kingston upon Hull City Council:

Councillors Baker and Lowery

Representing North Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Briggs and Sherwood

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Beasant and Shaw.

The meeting was held at Humberside Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Kingston upon Hull.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barkworth, Fudge, Hudson, Petch, Randall, Rouse, Swinburn and Toon.

A two minute silence was held in memory of Fire Fighters who had lost their lives in an explosion in a firework factory in East Sussex.

Councillors Lowery and Shaw were welcomed to the membership of the Authority.

1790 MINUTES - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 18 September 2006, having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair.

1791 MATTERS ARISING - There were no matters arising from the minutes.

1792 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Members of the Authority made the following declarations.

- (i) Councillor Beasant declared a personal interest in minute 1807 stating that he is a member of Shoreline Housing Partnership who have pledged funding to support the Youth Engagement Programme.
- (ii) Councillor Sherwood declared a personal interest in minute 1812 as a member of North Lincolnshire Council.

1793 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Equal Opportunities Committee held on 27 October 2006, having been printed and circulated amongst the Members be taken as read and correctly recorded subject to the addition of Councillor Baker in the apologies, and be signed by the Chair.

1794 APPEALS COMMITTEE - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Appeals Committee held on 20 November 2006, having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair.

1795 AUDIT AND QUALITY COMMITTEE - Resolved - (a) That the minutes of the meeting of the Audit and Quality Committee held on 4 December 2006, having been printed and circulated amongst the Members, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the Chair.

Members' attention was drawn to Minute 1779 regarding the Yorkshire and Humberside Fire Authorities Regional Management Board Proposed Amendments to Financial Arrangements within the Constitution. The Secretary reported that at its meeting on 19 October 2006 the Regional Management Board had received a joint report from the Board's Secretary and Treasurer upon the cost of officer support and related issues. The report covered inter alia a review of Schedule 5 of the Board's Constitution. Members' attention was drawn to the revised Schedule 5 attached as an appendix to the minutes. Paragraph 3(i) of the report stated that - The Regional Management Board recommends to each constituent Fire Authority the amendment of the Constitution (detailed in Schedule 5) so that time and travel costs of Lead Officers arising from participation on behalf of the Board in national working groups, for example the Finance, Legal and HR Working Groups on Regional Control Centres, are pooled and re-allocated to the constituent Authorities by reference to council tax base.

Resolved - (b) That the amendment to Schedule 5 of the Regional Management Boards' Constitution be approved by the Authority.

1796 HONOURS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive on a recommendation by the Humberside Fire and Rescue Services Honours and Awards Committee that an award for four firefighters be made in connection with two separate incidents. (A formal presentation to the firefighters was made before the meeting of the Authority commenced).

Resolved - (a) That the report be noted, and

(b) that Members' appreciation be formally recorded to firefighters Ashmore, Dunhill, Harrison and Russell in performing these rescues in arduous and dangerous circumstances.

1797 CFOA - AWARD EVENING - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive on a nomination made to CFOA for a Community Safety Initiative developed by Watch Manager Ray Dixon. It was noted that Watch Manager Dixon was awarded first place for the 'Play with Football not Fire' Initiative and that as a result of this award the initiative is now growing across other Fire and Rescue Services.

Resolved - (a) That the report be noted;

(b) that Members' congratulations be recorded, and

(c) that Watch Manager Dixon be nominated for the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Chairman's Award.

1798 FINANCIAL PLANS 2007/08 TO 2009/10 - REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT - INTERIM POSITION - Members received a report by the Treasurer and the Chief Fire

Officer & Chief Executive on the Revenue Support Grant interim position. The Treasurer highlighted the Forecast Outturn 2006/07. It was noted that with regard to the Local Government Finance Settlement that an announcement is expected following the expiry of the consultation period on 5 January 2007. Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 6 of the report relating to the forecast position on Reserves and Balances as at 31 March 2007. The Treasurer reminded Members of the need to determine priorities and risks in the delivery of objectives. Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 10 of the report detailing major elements of change that would also need to be taken into consideration by Members.

Resolved - (a) That the interim position be noted and that the Authority receives a full report at the February 2007 meeting, and

(b) that a Finance Seminar during January on a date to be confirmed.

1799 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2006/07 - IT SOFTWARE LICENSING - The Secretary presented a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive seeking approval for an increase of £50,000 for use on information technology in 2006/2007.

In response to a question from a Member, the Secretary confirmed that upgrades would be covered within the £50,000.

Resolved - That approval be given to increase the value of the 2006/2007 Capital Programme for information technology by £50,000.

1800 VIREMENTS - BUDGET 2006/07 - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive providing information on revenue budget virements in compliance with Financial Regulation 18 (I).

Resolved - That the report be noted.

1801 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME 2007/08 TO 2011/12 - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive presented a report recommending a further revision to the replacement programme to realise greater value for money whilst maintaining operational effectiveness. Members' attention was drawn to the proposed programme summarised in appendix B to the report.

The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive reported that a working group had been established to consider the effectiveness of the current command unit. The Group will examine the prevailing and future operational requirements of the command unit and identify proposals for improving the vehicle's effectiveness.

Members were asked to note that under the proposed replacement programme predicted savings will be realised totalling £260,000 at 2006/07 prices.

Resolved - (a) That the revised Vehicle Replacement Programme summarised in appendix B be approved, and

(b) that any savings made in the procurement of smaller/compact appliances in the financial year 2007/08 be used to undertake any remedial work identified on the Service's current Command Unit.

1802 CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE FUNDING OF FIREBUY - The Secretary presented a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive on future funding options for Firebuy.

Members' attention was drawn to a consultation document on the future funding options for Firebuy Limited jointly written by the Department of Communities and Local Government and Firebuy Ltd.

Resolved - That the response to the consultation exercise be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

1803 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2006/07 - UPDATE - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive on the Performance Framework for 2006/07. Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 4 of the report providing details on the three areas to be assessed which are the Use of Resources, Direction of Travel and Service Assessment.

Resolved - That any response to the consultation process be delegated to the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

1804 OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF SERVICE DELIVERY ASSESSMENT REPORT - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive to provide feedback following the Operational Assessment of Service Delivery which was undertaken by a review team from the Department of Communities and Local Government between 3 and 6 October 2006. Members' attention was drawn to appendix A to the report providing details of the self-assessment undertaken by Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and the actual scores received following the review.

Resolved - (a) That the report be noted, and

(b) that Members' thanks be recorded for a pleasing outcome.

1805 INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING - YEAR 3 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN - Members received an update on progress achieved against the actions contained within the Authority's Year 3 IRMP Action Plan. Members were reminded of the statutory requirement to consult with stakeholders on Strategic Priorities under IRMP guidance.

Resolved - (a) That approval be given for the scoping documents relating to each of the key project areas, and

(b) that a further report is submitted to the March 2007 meeting of the Authority detailing the outcomes and recommendations from Project Work.

1806 UPDATE ON IRMP TASK 11 - CO-RESPONDING SCHEME - Members received an update regarding the outcome of the ongoing research into a Co-responding Scheme and the result of the High Court judgment in the Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Services - v - The Fire Brigade Union (FBU) case.

It was noted that in delivering his judgment on Monday, 23 October, Mr Justice Butterfield acknowledged that co-responding can contribute to saving lives but ruled that it was not part of the Contract of a firefighter. It was noted that both authorities are intending to lodge an appeal against this decision.

Resolved - (a) That Members approve further research on a voluntary co-responding scheme;

(b) that a further report be made to the February 2007 meeting;

(c) that Members receive a future report once the outcome of the appeal and related costs are known, and

(d) that the Chief Fire Officer writes to firefighters to provide clarification on the current situation.

Councillor Engall left the meeting.

1807 ATTACKS ON FIREFIGHTERS - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive providing a breakdown on the number of attacks on firefighters. It was noted that during 2006 (January to October) the 25 attacks on firefighters were recorded.

On a national level from April 2004 to March 2006, Humberside featured tenth with 67 recorded attacks during this period.

Resolved - (a) That anti social behaviour awareness training be made available for officers;

(b) that training be provided to de-escalate incidents of anti social behaviour;

(c) that the Service utilises modern Police surveillance equipment to attempt to identify perpetrators of anti social and criminal behaviour;

(d) that officers within the Service liaise with the Police and Anti Social Behaviour Teams to identify individual offenders;

(e) that Fire Service Health and Safety procedures be reinforced;

(f) that best practice between CPUs be shared;

(g) that research be undertaken into UK wide initiatives to reduce attacks on fire crews, and

(h) that a progress report be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority providing details of prosecutions made.

1808 KINGSTON UPON HULL ARSON TASK FORCE - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive presented a report to inform Members of the progress of the Kingston upon Hull Arson Task Force from its initial launch in July 2005, to spearhead a multi-agency approach to tackle the growing problem of arson in Hull.

Resolved - (a) That a further report on progress and an assessment of how administrative support may be funded be submitted to the March Fire Authority meeting.

1809 ELECTED MEMBER CHAMPIONS - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive presented a report to record formally the agreed outcome from recent Member discussions with regard to Member Champion roles connected to eight key service themes.

Members were asked to note the current vacancy for a Member Champion for Procurement.

Resolved - (a) That approval be given for Member Champion representation for the eight themed areas in accordance with appendix A to the report, and

(b) that Councillor Shaw be appointed as Member Champion for Procurement.

1810 PROPOSED BUILDING SERVICES CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS - Members received a progress report from the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive. It was noted that tenders for major projects will be issued in the future in order to comply with European Directives and the Authority's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations because the work will incur costs over the European threshold.

Members' attention was drawn to proposed timescales detailed in paragraph 7 of the report.

Resolved - (a) That the progress towards securing a Building Services Contractual Arrangement be noted, and

(b) that a further report be submitted to the March 2007 meeting of the Authority.

1811 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (EARLY TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT) (DISCRETIONARY COMPENSATION) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2006 - The Secretary presented a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive proposing a policy on the use of revised discretionary powers available to Local Government employers within the Local Government Pension Scheme under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006. Members' attention was drawn to the proposals detailed in paragraph 9 of the report.

Resolved - That the proposals in paragraph 9 of the report be approved and adopted.

1812 NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive presented a report requesting a contribution towards the cost of the North Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

Resolved - (a) That the Authority reaffirms its membership of the Partnership, and

(b) that a contribution of £1,000 be made to the Partnership for the year 2006/07.

1813 PROGRESS REPORT ON SERVICE PERFORMANCE - Members received a progress report on Service Performance.

Resolved - (a) That the Authority acknowledges that the Service is on course to meet the DCLG 2010 targets on accidental fire deaths and deliberate fires, which reflects the efforts of the organisation on Community Safety Initiatives;

(b) that additional information be reported at future meetings regarding the number of complaints from the public that have been substantiated;

(c) that the format of the report and the use of a DVD to show specific incidents, be used in the future, and

(d) that Members' congratulations be recorded for the excellent results relating to sickness absence.

1814 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY 2006/07 - Members received a report by the Secretary to highlight changes to the Membership of the Authority for the current year.

Members were asked to note a change of representation for North East Lincolnshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council. It was noted that Councillor Christopher Shaw replaces Councillor Carol Dalton (North East Lincolnshire Council) and Councillor Julie Lowery replaces Councillor Calvin Neil (Kingston upon Hull City Council).

Resolved - that the changes to the Membership be noted.

1815 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP - The Secretary presented a report to advise Members of the vacancies on committees arising from changes to the membership of the Authority.

Changes to the political composition of the Authority were also highlighted as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Resolved - (a) That the Authority notes the revised political composition of the Fire Authority, and

(b) that respective Group Secretaries consider the appointment of Members and substitutes to committees, taking account of the changes now reported and submit details to the secretary as soon as possible.

(Following the meeting Councillor Shaw was appointed to the membership of the Equal Opportunities Committee, the Audit and Quality Committee and the Urgency Committee. Councillor Lowery was appointed to the membership of the Appointments Committee).

1816 APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATED SPOKESPERSON - NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL - Members received a report by the Secretary seeking the nomination of a Member from amongst the representatives of North East Lincolnshire Council to answer questions on Fire Authority matters at meetings of their Authority.

Resolved - That Councillor Shaw be nominated to act as a spokesperson at North East Lincolnshire Council until the Annual General Meeting of the Fire Authority on 31 May 2007.

1817 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC - Resolved - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following items (Minutes 1818 to 1823) on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

(In making its decision the Authority confirmed that having regard to all the circumstances it was satisfied that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information).

Councillor Briggs left the meeting.

1818 RATING REVALUATION APPEALS 2005 - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive advising them of the outcome of the appeals process and the resulting savings and refunds.

Resolved - (a) That the report be received;

(b) that the services of the Consultants be retained for a further five years subject to researching the market on the 20% fee charge, and

(c) that a virement of £63,827 be made to Management and Support, Consultants, from Firefighting and Rescue, Business Rates (£52,627) and Management Support, Business Rates, (£11,200).

1819 DEVELOPMENT OF THE AUTHORITY'S FINANCE FUNCTION - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive presented a report seeking approval for the creation of an additional post in the Finance Section.

Resolved - That the proposals contained in paragraph 24 to 29 of the report be approved and adopted.

1820 DIRECTORATE OF PERSONAL AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT - SUPPORT STAFF ESTABLISHMENT - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive detailing proposals for additional support staff resources in the Directorate of Personal and Organisational Development.

Resolved - That the proposals contained in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the report be approved and adopted.

1821 COMMUNITY SAFETY EDUCATION TEAM - The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive presented a report seeking approval to secure permanent contracts for four temporary positions remaining in the Community Safety Education Team.

Resolved - That Members approve the permanent appointment of the remaining four Community Education staff, thereby completing and securing the phased decentralisation of the team.

The Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the Assistant Chief Fire Officers left the meeting.

1822 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICE & CHIEF EXECUTIVE - The Secretary presented a report outlining the recruitment and selection process for the post of Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive.

Resolved - (a) That Standing Order 29 be temporarily suspended insofar as it relates to arrangements for drawing up a shortlist of candidates for interview for the post of Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive;

(b) that responsibility be delegated for drawing up a shortlist of candidates for interview for the post of Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive to the Appointments Committee;

(c) that a date be determined for a meeting of the Appointments Committee for this purpose;

(d) that a date be determined for a special meeting of the Authority to interview shortlisted candidates;

(e) that the proposed assessment and interview arrangements described in paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of the report be adopted, and

(f) that Mr KL Marshall be asked to accept a period of intermediate reemployment in the post of Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive following his retirement on 19 January 2007 until 31 May 2007 or such other date agreed by the Authority.

N.B. - Resolutions a, b and c of this minute were subsequently superseded by the meeting of the Authority held on 8 January 2007 at which candidates for the post of Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive were shortlisted.

1823 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION - Members received a report by the Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive outlining a proposal to bring the currently outsourced Committee Management/Administration Function in-house to strengthen corporate arrangements.

Resolved - That Members approved the creation of a post of Committee Manager at Grade 9 contracted to work an estimated 560 hours (85 days) per annum.

