

HUMBERSIDE FIRE AUTHORITY

FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT:

Members

Representing East Riding of Yorkshire Council:

Councillors Bayram, Cantrell, Cary, Dennis, Gill, Heslop-Mullens and Sutton

Representing Hull City Council:

Councillors Collinson, Henry, McMurray, Neal and Nicola

Representing North East Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Bonner, Lindley, Patrick and Shepherd

Representing North Lincolnshire Council:

Councillors Grant, Ogg and Sherwood

Officers of Humberside Fire & Rescue Service

Phil Shillito – Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive, Niall McKinry – Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Matt Sutcliffe - Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Martyn Ransom - Executive Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer, Donna Chambers - Assistant Director People and Culture, Jason Kirby - Area Manager of People and Culture, Steve Duffield - Area Manager of Emergency Response, Richard Gibson – Area Manager of Service Improvement, Dan Meeke - Area Manager of Resilience and Public Safety, Lisa Nicholson - Monitoring Officer/Secretary and Alison Finn - Committee Manager.

HMICFRS

Phil Innis – HMICFRS Service Liaison Lead.

GAS Committee

Chris Brown – Chair of the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee

External Auditors

Rejoice Mapeto was in (remote) attendance from Forvis Mazar.

The meeting was held at Service Headquarters, Hessle.

A minute's silence was held to remember former Member of the Fire Authority Sue Armitage who had sadly passed away.

1/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies for absence were submitted from Bovill, Hofman, Waltham and Jonathan Evison PCC.

2/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no declarations of interest.

3/26 MINUTES - Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting of the Authority held on 28 November 2025 be approved as a correct record.

4/26 UPDATE FROM THE MEETING OF GOVERNANCE, AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2026 – The Chairman of the GAS Committee, Chris Brown, provided Members with an update from the Committee’s meeting of 9 February 2026.

5/26 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS - There were no questions by Members.

6/26 COMMUNICATIONS – There were no communications

7/26 FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT UPDATE - PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2025 - The Executive Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer submitted a report summarising the current financial position based on information to 31 December 2025.

The summary estimated outturn position for the current financial year based on information to 31 December 2025 was as follows:

CATEGORY	2024/25 OUTTURN PROJECTION
HFA	
Revenue Budget	£0.034m overspend
Capital Programme	£8.437m spend against a £8.156m allocation
Pensions Account	£13.943m deficit

Members took assurance from the report as to the Authority’s financial position for the period ending 31 December 2025.

Resolved - That the report be received.

8/26 MEDIUM-TERM RESOURCE STRATEGY 2026/27 TO 2030/31 AND PRECEPT 2026/27 - The Executive Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer submitted a report summarising the Authority’s budget for 2026/27, with considerations extending into the medium-term, and the recommendation for 2026/27 precept.

The report had been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 Sections 72 to 79 and the Local Government Finance Act 2012 to allow the Authority to approve:

- The Council Tax Requirement for 2026/27,
- The Council Tax Base figure for 2026/27; and
- The basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27.

The report also complied with the Local Government Act 2003 and allowed the Authority to approve:

- The financial spending plans that are necessary to support the Authority’s activities [Section 25(1)(a)]; and
- Maintenance of adequate reserves and provisions [Section 25(1)(b)].

There had been a series of reports to the Fire Authority on the budget position for 2025/26 onwards. Reports had been considered at the September, October and December 2025 round of meetings.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2026/27 was released in December 2025 and the key headlines were:

- The assumption that Fire Authorities will make the maximum use of the precept flexibility in the calculation of core spending power.
- Council Tax Referendum threshold of £4.99 or above on a Band D property for Humberside Fire Authority for 2026/27.
- A £0.789m (2.7%) decrease non-Council Tax Funding for the 2026/27 financial year.

The Authority's Medium-Term Resource Strategy had been updated in line with new information that had become available since December 2025. The main examples of that were:

- the Council Tax Base for 2026/27,
- Collection Fund surplus/deficit figures,
- the Capital Programme which is based on the Premises, IT and Vehicles reports for 2026/27 onwards approved at the November 2025 Fire Authority.

Resolved - (a) That the 2026/27 precept at a level of £4.99 higher than the level set in 2025/26 on Band D properties be approved, and

(b) that the Medium-Term Resource Strategy 2026/27 - 2030/31, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

As required under paragraphs 11 and 12 of Schedule 2 Part 11 of the Local Authorities Standing Orders England Regulations 2001, voting was by way of recorded vote:

For: Councillors Bayram, Bonner, Cantrell, Cary, Collinson, Dennis, Gill, Grant, Henry, Heslop-Mullens, Lindley, McMurray, Neal, Nicola, Ogg, Patrick, Shepherd, Sherwood and Sutton

Against: None

Abstentions: None

For: 19

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

9/26 FEES AND CHARGES 2026/27 - The Executive Director of Finance/Section 151 Officer submitted a report summarising the recommended fees and charges for the 2026/27 financial year.

In accordance with relevant Fire Service Acts, Fire Authorities have the discretion to charge for special services performed (where there is no immediate threat of fire) and for services relating to training, fire safety and administration. The total income for the Fire Authority generated through these sources was circa £10k in 2024/25.

Resolved - That the revised fees and charges detailed in the report's appendices be approved with effect from 1 April 2026.

10/26 SCRUTINY TOPICS 2026/27 – The Head of Corporate Assurance submitted a report summarising the eight potential scrutiny topics for the GAS Committee in 2026/27.

The Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee, in line with their responsibilities set out in Part 2, Article 6, Section 6.4.5 Scrutiny Function and Scrutiny Process (a-f) of the Constitution, was responsible for determining its own work programme, which must remain tightly focused on a short list of topics each year. The Committee determined its work programme using the shortlist of topics approved by the Fire Authority.

The topics, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, outlined the proposed scrutiny topics for 2026/27, from which six subjects would be selected by the GAS Committee, using clearly defined scopes to guide both the selection process and the focus of scrutiny.

Resolved - That the list of shortlisted topics as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be approved for the Governance, Audit and Scrutiny (GAS) Committee to then select six topics for scrutiny as part of its work programme 2026/678.

11/26 – ESTATES UPDATE – The Deputy Chief Fire Officer gave Members a verbal update on the Estate held by Humberside Fire Service.

There were 30 sites across the Humberside area and many were in need of improvement having been built in the 1960's. Some sites had already been updated but many were still waiting for changes to meet the needs of the current workforce.

The estate was managed in collaboration with Humberside Police but as part of the capital programme of works, HLM Architects had been awarded the contract to implement the programme of works to ensure the Estate met the needs a modern fire and rescue service. A more detailed report would be brought to the Authority in March 2026.

Resolved - That the update be noted.

12/26 CHIEF FIRE OFFICER UPDATE - The Chief Fire Officer delivered a verbal update making the following points:

- Local Government Reorganisation– A briefing note was tabled updating Members on the latest position on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). There were national moves toward unitary authorities and devolution which could legally abolish existing Fire and Rescue Authorities, requiring new statutory governance arrangements. If the proposals for Greater Lincolnshire went ahead this could alter current Service boundaries, which would require significant legal, operational, financial and community-safety implications, and timely legislation to ensure the Service retained lawful authority to operate.
- The Chief Fire Officer had written to the Fire Minister to express the Authority's concerns over the proposal and seeking clarity on the lawful authority on which it could operate.
- The Service had received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of East Riding of Yorkshire commending the work of those involved in the rescue efforts of the tragic events that occurred in Withernsea.
- HMICFRS Cyber Security Thematic Inspection – The Service was selected alongside three other fire and rescue services and police forces to take part in a thematic inspection on cybersecurity. The inspection took place between 27 and 28 January 2026, following which a debrief took place that provided positive feedback in recognition of the work the Service delivered in this area. No graded judgement would be issued. Instead, the findings from across the three fire and rescue services and police forces would inform a national report with recommendations.
- Letters had been sent to all local venues following the tragic events in Switzerland at Christmas.
- Fire Cadets – The Fire Cadets programme continued to expand, with a sixth unit having now opened. The programme now supported 87 fire cadets.
- Fire Service ambassador - Firefighter Millie Margetts had recently appeared on the TV programme Gladiators, showcasing her as a fantastic advocate for the Service and firefighting profession.
- Neurodiversity awareness - The BBC had run a story on how Crew Manager Sam Heslop's dyslexia condition was supported by the Service.

Resolved - that the Chief Fire Officer Update be received.