

# North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority

## Audit and Performance Review Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28 September 2018 at 1.05 pm at North Yorkshire Fire Training Centre, Oaklands Way, Easingwold

### Present:-

County Councillor David Blades (in the Chair); County Councillors Stanley Lumley, Chris Pearson (as Substitute for Val Arnold), Helen Swiers, Geoff Webber and Robert Windass

City Councillors Lars Kramm and Tony Richardson

### Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors Philip Barrett and David Ireton and City Councillor Danny Myers and from Cameron Waddell (Mazars) and Gary Fielding (Section 151 Officer)

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**Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book**

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### 77. Minutes

#### Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2018 be taken as read and be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 78. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 79. Questions or Statements from Members of the Public

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

### 80. External Audit - Annual Audit Letter - Year Ending 31 March 2018

Considered -

The Annual Audit Letter which summarised the work which Mazars had undertaken as External Auditor for North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority for the year ended 31 March 2018. The Letter included:-

- Mazars' opinion that the financial statements gave a true and fair view of the Authority's financial position as at 31 March 2018 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended, and had been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2017/18.

- Mazars' opinion that the other information in the Statement of Accounts was consistent with the audited financial statements.
- Mazars' satisfaction that, in all significant respects, the Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Gavin Barker (Director, Mazars) introduced the Annual Audit Letter and responded to Members' questions.

Members advised that the Authority, at its meeting held on the morning of 28 September 2018, had agreed to write again to the Government about precept flexibility and that the Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed to counter-sign that letter.

Members expressed concern about the amount of financial pressure which might be placed on NYFRS in the future.

Members commented that, whilst governance of NYFRS was being transferred from the Authority, they were pleased to see continuity between NYFRS and its External and Internal Auditors.

**Resolved -**

That Mazars' Annual Audit Letter for the year ending 31 March 2018 be noted.

**81. External Audit Progress Report**

Considered -

The report of Mazars which advised of progress in delivering their responsibilities as External Auditor to NYFRA and highlighted key emerging national issues and developments.

Gavin Barker (Director, Mazars) introduced the progress report.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**82. Internal Audit Progress Report**

Considered -

The report of Veritau which advised of progress which had been made to complete the agreed programme of Internal Audit work for 2018/19.

Stuart Cutts (Audit Manager, Veritau) introduced the progress report.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**83. Treasury Management Update**

Considered -

The report of the Section 151 Officer which provided an assurance that the investment and lending activities of the Authority were under frequent review and adjustment in light of the changing circumstances in the financial markets.

Clare Godfrey (Head of Finance and Administration, NYFRS) introduced the report and responded to Members' questions.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**84. Corporate Risk Register**

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) which advised of the status of the Corporate Risk Register as at 6 September 2018.

Jez Rushworth (Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations)) introduced the report and responded to Members' questions.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**85. Performance Report - 1 April to 30 June 2018**

Note: Copies of an amended version of the report concerning this item of business were circulated at the meeting.

Considered -

The amended version of the report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) which advised of the performance of NYFRS during the period 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018 as measured by the approved performance indicators.

Jez Rushworth (Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations)) introduced the report and responded to Members' questions.

During debate, a Member suggested that NYFRS should adopt targets which showed, more clearly, what NYFRS was doing and for the Service to discontinue monitoring existing targets over which NYFRS had little control eg the performance indicator which monitored the number of deliberated fires. Owen Haywood (Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Development)) advised that that comment would be fed back to the Police and Crime Commissioner's external consultant who was currently reviewing NYFRS.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**86. Member Development Update**

Considered -

The report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) which advised of Member Development undertaken during the previous twelve months.

Jez Rushworth (Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations)) introduced the report.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**87. Members' Attendance Records**

Considered -

The report of the Secretary to North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority which advised of Members' attendance records for the year ended 31 August 2018 and concluded that all Members had achieved the expected attendance rate.

Ruth Gladstone, from the Secretariat to North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority, introduced the report.

**Resolved -**

That the report be noted.

**88. LGA Fire Services Management Committee**

**Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the LGA's Fire Services Management Committee held on 22 June 2018 be noted.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman announced that this was the Committee's last meeting prior to the transfer of governance of NYFRS to the Police and Crime Commissioner. The Chairman paid tribute to the effort which Members had put into the Committee, working non-politically to focus on NYFRS. He thanked Members, the External Auditor and Internal Auditor, and NYFRS staff for their contributions to the Committee and also Ruth Gladstone for her work in organising meetings.

The meeting concluded at 2pm.

RAG/JR