

OFFICIAL

HULL AND GOOLE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

13th December 2023

(Room 82, The Guildhall, Kingston upon Hull)

PRESENT: -

Councillors Neal T, Chambers and Vickers.

IN ATTENDANCE: -

Sally Johnson (Chief Port Health Inspector), Annemarie Hamil (Chief Administrative Officer), Alison Gill (Senior Finance Officer, Hull City Council), Louise Hawkins (Senior Democratic Services Officer, Hull City Council) and Philip Todd (Democratic Services Officer).

Minute No.	Business
1857	ANGELA MARY ELIZABETH HOOK 4.10.1974 – 9.10.2023 Item 9 on the agenda was brought forward to be heard first. The Chief Port Health Inspector notified the board of the passing of one of the Authority's long serving inspectors. Thanks were given for her commitment and long service, noting that she was a good friend and colleague to all, and that she would be deeply missed.
1858	APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Councillors Fudge, Pantelakis and Jeffreys.
1859	DECLARATION OF INTEREST No declarations of interest were made in respect of the items that follow below.
1860	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2023 Agreed – that, the minutes of the meeting of this Authority, held on 13th September 2023, having been printed and circulated, with the amendment to include the apologies for Councillors Neal and Chambers, be taken as read and correctly recorded and be signed by the chair.
1861	REVENUE ESTIMATES 2024-25 The Chief Port Health Inspector and Treasurer submitted a report that detailed the proposed revenue estimates and planned use of reserves for the Hull and Goole Port Health Authority for 2024-25 and proposed levy requirements from the constituent authorities. The report also showed the revised position

Minute No.	Business
	<p>compared to the original estimate for the current financial year ending 31 March 2024.</p> <p>The Board was informed that a cautious approach had been taken with regards to the new border regime due to the uncertainty of its viability at this stage. The proposed 4% increase to the levy was in line with inflation factors and national living wage increases and was less than the 6% increase in the previous year. Changes to the staffing structure accounted for the decrease in costs and the proposed 4% would keep the reserves at a reasonable level.</p> <p>Agreed –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the Board approve the revised estimates for 2023-24. b. That the Board approve the budget for 2024-25 based on consideration of option B with an increase in the levies of 4%. c. That the levies required from the constituent authorities, with an increase of 4% be approved. <p>Councillors Vickers abstained from the decision and requested that this be recorded.</p>
1862	<p>AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 TO 31 MARCH 2027</p> <p>The Treasurer submitted a report that provided members with the agreement for the provision of support services to Hull and Goole Port Health Authority by Kingston upon Hull City Council for three financial years from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2027.</p> <p>Agreed – that the Service Level Agreement for the provision of support services be approved.</p>
1863	<p>BORDER TARGET OPERATING MODEL – FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS AND RECRUITMENT PROPOSALS</p> <p>This item was requested to be heard alongside item 4 on the agenda, Revenue Estimates 2024-25.</p> <p>The Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report to update the Board members on the DEFRA funding arrangements available to the authority, to prepare for the delivery of the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) in April 2024 and the subsequent details of the recruitment proposals.</p> <p>The Board was informed that DEFRA would continue to fund staffing arrangements until 30 April 2024, to prepare for the implementation of the BTOM. Post April, there was no available dataset on the volumes of imports that would require control as prescribed under the new regime and therefore uncertainty remained over its viability; particularly the ability of the Authority to</p>

Minute No.	Business
	<p>deliver a 'cost neutral' service. To mitigate the perceived financial risk and reduce, as far as practicable, any risk from further redundancies due to delays with implementation, it was proposed that new fixed term posts be created alongside the use of specialist contractors to provide the required veterinary expertise. This would allow the Chief Port Health Inspector to more appropriately consider longer term resource needs once the borders regime is implemented. DEFRA had stated that some emergency funds would be available post April 2024, should Port Health Authorities fail to break even.</p> <p>The Chief Port Health Inspector noted that the proposal presented the least risk, financially and reputationally, until stability had been re-established following implementation.</p> <p>Agreed – that the Board approve the recruitment proposals.</p>
1864	<p>AFRICAN SWINE FEVER CONTROL MEASURES</p> <p>The Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report that advised the board of the outcome of the Authority's first planned joint target operation with UK Border Force, in relation to the enforcement of the African Swine Fever Import Controls that came into force in September 2022.</p> <p>The Board was informed that the joint operation, which took place in November 2023, was a success and had resulted in the surrender of 15kg of pork products. It had been a beneficial experience for the team and had also improved relationships with UK Border Force. The intelligence gained during the exercise would be used to assist the Authority in the future and another operation had been planned to take place after Christmas.</p> <p>Agreed – that the report be noted.</p>
1865	<p>QUARTERLY SUMMARY AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2023</p> <p>The Chief Port Health Inspector submitted a report which detailed the quarterly summary of the Authority's work in respect of inspections, notifications and investigations undertaken during the period August 2023 to October 2023.</p> <p>It was explained that the high number of dogs on board vessels was due to the pet travel scheme on P&O Ferries and the reduction of cattle and horses was due to the new controls coming into force.</p> <p>Agreed – that the report be noted.</p>