

## **10. Audit Committee Report**

### **Purpose of report**

1. To inform the Authority of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 26 January and to note the Annual Audit Letter
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### **Recommendation**

***The Audit Committee recommends that the Authority note the proceedings of the Committee Meeting held on 26 January 2011 and the annual Audit Letter 2009/10.***

### **Business conducted at the Meeting**

2. The main items for consideration at the meeting were presented by the Audit Commission and included:
  - Audit 2009/10 – The Annual Audit Letter from the Audit Commission to the Authority; and
  - Audit 2010/11 – The Audit Strategy.

### **Audit 2009/10 – The Annual Audit Letter**

3. The Letter summarises the findings by the Audit Commission in relation to the audit 2009/10, comprising 2 elements:
  - i. The Audit of Financial Statements; and
  - ii. The Value for Money Assessment.
4. The Committee noted that in 2009/10 the Authority reported its best ever annual performance in terms of the lowest total number of incidents, together with delivering a number of five-year performance records in key areas. There was also a further reduction in the number of accidental fire-related deaths and non-fatal injuries in the home compared to the previous year.
5. The Commission reported that through centralised control of crewing the Service had achieved annual savings whilst at the same time increasing firefighter availability.
6. However, at the time of writing the Annual Audit Letter investigations into the matter of the retirement of the previous Chief Fire Officer were ongoing and, as a result, the Commission had not issued the statutory Value for Money (VFM) conclusion for 2009/10. It was hoped to finalise this matter in the near future and close the 2009/10 audit. (A copy of the Annual Audit Letter 2009/10 is attached at appendix 1).

## Audit 2010/11 – The Audit Strategy

7. The Audit Commission presented the Audit Strategy for 2010/11, which outlined the following:

- The Fee for the Audit;
- Audit risks and testing strategy;
- The proposed timetable for the audit;
- The Value for Money conclusion;
- The Audit Team;
- The planned output; and
- The proposed meetings with Officers of the Authority.

### Other Business

8. The Clerk presented an update on the work of the Governance Review Group which is currently reviewing the Whistleblowing Policy, the Anti-Money Laundering Policy and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.

9. The Committee noted an update on the work of the Internal Auditor.

### Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Y	7

### Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	Y	6

### Additional Considerations

10. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
<b>Resources</b> (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	N	
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	N	
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
<b>Consultation with Representative Bodies</b>	N	

**Supporting Information:**

**Appendix 1:** The Annual Audit Letter 2009/10

**Background Papers:** Agenda and Reports for the Audit Committee Meeting on 26 January 2010. (see [www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).

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