10. Report from Audit Committee

Purpose of report

1. To inform the Authority of the proceedings of the Audit Committee meeting held on 29 June 2012.

Recommendation

The Audit Committee recommends that the Authority notes the proceedings of the Committee Meeting held on 29 June 2012.

Provisional Annual Statement of Accounts 2011/12

- 2. The Audit Committee received a copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 3. The accounts had been brought before the Committee to permit wider discussion of their contents prior to their formal approval process in September 2012. (Prior to the meeting Members had received training that would supplement their knowledge of the accounts and enable them to scrutinise the accounts in more detail in readiness for their formal approval in September).
- 4. Members noted the provisional Annual Statement of Accounts 2011/12.

Internal Audit Annual Report

- 5. The Committee considered a report that provided the overall results in terms of meeting Internal Audit's objectives as set out in the Internal Audit Plan for 2011/12. The report also provided an audit opinion and commentary on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment.
- 6. The report provided the Committee with a précis of the work that had taken place over the last 12 months. Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Services (WIASS) had been required to complete 6 full systems of audit of which 5 were required to suitably assist the External Audit to reach their 'opinion.'
- 7. The Committee was informed that the External Auditors had been able to form their 'opinion' based on the work undertaken by WIASS.
- 8. Whilst WIASS had been unable to conclude that there was no system of control which could provide an absolute assurance against a material mistake, it was noted that within the audits that had been delivered it was considered that there was nothing identified as a fundamental weakness. Furthermore, it was noted that the County Council Auditors had also reached the same conclusion.
- 9. The Annual Internal Audit report was reviewed and noted by the Committee.

Audit Committee Work Programme 2012/13

- 10. The Committee considered a report that put forward a draft work programme for the coming year.
- 11. The Work Programme for 2012/13 was approved.

Financial Considerations

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

Legal Considerations

Consideration		Reference in Report
		i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and	N	
procurement, reputational issues that require		
consideration		

Additional Considerations

12. 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.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	N	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	N	
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	N	

Supporting Information

None

Background papers

Agenda and Papers Audit Committee meeting 29 June 2012.

Contact Officer

Committee Services (01905 368241)

Email: committeeservices@hwfire.org.uk