

17. Audit Committee Report

Purpose of report

1. To inform Members of the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 9 October and the Committee's recommendation to the Fire and Rescue Authority that its Terms of Reference be amended to include the monitoring of the Authority's arrangements against fraud.
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Recommendations

The Committee recommends that:

- i) The Authority notes the proceedings of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 9 October, and*
- ii) The Authority amends the Terms of Reference of the Committee to include the monitoring of the Authority's arrangements against fraud.*

2. Audit Committee Meeting on 9 October 2009

All 5 members of the Committee attended, and the Meeting noted updates on the following items:

- a. Quarterly Risk Management, which identified the following issues:
 - (i) Regional Fire Control
 - (ii) The downturn in the Economy;
 - (iii) Environmental and Climate Change risks;
 - (iv) Resilience arrangements;
 - (v) Emergency Planning, and
 - (vi) The Swine Flu Pandemic.
 - b. Internal Audit;
 - c. The National Fraud Initiative 2008/09, and
 - d. The operation of the Service Business Continuity Plan during the Snow Event of February 2009.
3. On 26 June 2009, the Committee considered the Audit Commission's draft Annual Governance Report and the Action Plan included in the Report. As part of the work for the Annual Governance Report, the Audit Commission reviewed the terms of reference for the Audit Committee and highlighted that reference to monitoring the Authority's arrangements against fraud was not included.

4. The Audit Committee approved Recommendation Number 7 of the Action Plan that *“The terms of reference for the Audit Committee include reference to monitoring the Authority’s arrangements against fraud”*, and recommended that the Authority approves the necessary addition to the Audit Committee terms of Reference as recommended by the Audit Commission.

Corporate Considerations

5. A Business Impact Analysis form is attached at Appendix 1 to measure and address the proposals contained in this report. The form contains information on the potential resource implications, legal issues, strategic policy links, equality / ethical issues and risk management implications.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 – Business Impact Assessment Form
- Background papers – The Audit Commission’s Governance Report to the Authority 2008/09
- Agenda and papers for Audit Committee Meeting held on 9 October 2009.

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