

## Report of Treasurer

### 9. Provision of Internal Audit Services

#### Purpose of report

1. To inform Members of a potential entry to the collaborative partnership arrangement for provision of Internal Audit with Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service and to seek authority to join the shared service if this is shown to be beneficial.
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#### Recommendation

***It is recommended that the Fire Authority give delegated authority to the Treasurer, in consultation with the Clerk, to enter into a shared service arrangement if appropriate.***

#### Introduction and Background

2. The Authority has delegated the responsibility for maintaining or procuring an adequate and effective internal audit to the Treasurer under Financial Regulation paragraph 4.10.
3. The Internal Audit Service for Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority is currently provided under contract by the Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service, following the cessation of provision by Worcestershire County Council.
4. The Shared Service is managed for and by the District Councils (except Wyre Forest) within Worcestershire and enables each Authority to gain economies of scale, specialist skills and resilience.
5. The service provision has worked well for the Fire Authority and the Treasurer would wish to continue with the arrangement.
6. The current partners have indicated that they would be happy for the Fire Authority to formally join the Shared Service as a partner.
7. Although negotiations are yet to be commenced it is anticipated that the full membership of the Fire Authority will give benefits to the Shared Service through securing the level of demand and reflect in the overall cost to the Fire Authority.
8. The current annual cost of the service is £0.36m.

## Conclusion/Summary

9. Members are asked to give their approval for the Authority to join the Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Service if this is shown to be the most cost-effective approach.

## Corporate Considerations

<b>Resource Implications</b> (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	Financial Resources: costs of purchased service
<b>Strategic Policy Links</b> (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	Internal Audit is a statutory requirement
<b>Risk Management / Health &amp; Safety</b> (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	None
<b>Consultation</b> (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	None
<b>Equalities</b> (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	None

## Supporting Information

N/A

Background papers – None

### Contact Officer

Martin Reohorn, Treasurer

(01905 368205)

Email: [mreohorn@hwfire.org.uk](mailto:mreohorn@hwfire.org.uk)