

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**8<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009**

**1. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2008/09**

Report of the Chair of the Audit Committee.

**RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 That the Committee agrees to the production of its Annual Report for 2008/09.
- 1.2 That the Committee gives consideration to the content and format of its Annual Report 2008/9.
- 1.3 That the Committee agrees that its Annual Report 2008/9 be prepared in time for submission to the full meeting of the Authority on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2009.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to Members to seek approval to the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2008/2009.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In January the Audit Committee undertook its first annual self-assessment, in accordance with CIPFA recommendations.
- 3.2 One of the committee's conclusions was that, in order for the Authority to be fully effective in comprehending and assessing the control environment within which West Midlands Fire Service operated then it was necessary for the committee to present an annual report to the Authority.
- 3.3 This report has been prepared by the Chair of the Audit Committee.

- 3.4 The Committee is now requested to give consideration to the publication of an Annual Report for 2008/9 and to submit any suggestions it may have regarding the content or format of the Report.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out because the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Authority has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Accounts and Audit Regulations Act states that a relevant body must “maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices”.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annual Internal Audit Report 2008/09.

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