

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**19 JANUARY 2015**

1. **AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE FOR WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee note the content of the Audit Committee Update attached as Appendix 1 and the Continuing to Deliver Value to West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority report attached as Appendix 2.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The update is provided to keep Audit Committee Members informed of the progress of the external auditor (Grant Thornton UK LLP) in delivering their responsibilities.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 In order to ensure that Audit Committee Members continue to remain informed on audit matters, the external auditor has provided an Audit Committee Update and Continuing to Deliver Value report. It is the intention of the external auditor to provide an update at all Audit Committee meetings.

3.2 The update provides the Audit Committee with a report on Grant Thornton's progress in delivering their responsibilities and also includes:-

- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority; and
- a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider.

- 3.3 The Continuing to Deliver Value to West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority report reflects on how Grant Thornton has brought the Authority added value.
- 3.4 Representatives from Grant Thornton will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss the reports with Members.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report will not lead to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The contact name for this report is Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Philip Hales, Telephone Number – 0121 380 6907.

PHIL LOACH  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER