

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

9TH JUNE 2008

1. **ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2006/07**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee notes the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform Members of the outcomes from the three aspects of the latest round of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) process including the Service, Use of Resources and Direction of Travel assessments.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Members may recall that, during the last year, the Authority has been subject to three different types of Comprehensive Performance Assessment undertaken by the Audit Commission and external auditors, KPMG. The assessments included the Use of Resources judgement, a Service Assessment focusing upon an assessment of performance against Best Value Performance Indicators and a Direction of Travel assessment, which included an element of value for money. These assessments cover the 2006/07 business year.

3.2 Attached as Appendix 1 to this report is the final version of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter, which has been amended following feedback from the Authority.

This report includes sections dealing with:

- Key Messages
- How is the West Midlands FRA performing?
- Direction of Travel Report
- Service Assessment
- Audit of Accounts and Value for Money
- Looking Ahead
- Closing Remarks

3.3 The Authority has been rated as '**improving well**' during 2006/07 and good progress has been recognised in a number of priority areas as well as some key areas for improvement.

3.4 Lead Members for Performance Management have been apprised of the outcomes of this assessment process.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is a legal requirement for the Authority to consider the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Letter under Statutory Instrument 2006 No. 564 – The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The content of this report does not raise any financial implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CPA files

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER