

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

28 NOVEMBER 2011

1. **ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2010/11**

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Audit and Performance Management Committee note the Annual Audit Letter (AAL) attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Committee of the findings of the external audit work undertaken for the audit year 2010/11 which is summarised in the attached AAL.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The attached AAL summarises the key findings from external audit work undertaken for the 2010/11 audit year. The audit comprised two elements:

- the audit of financial statements; and
- an assessment of the arrangements in place to enable value for money to be achieved in the use of resources.

3.2 In respect of the Authority's financial statements, the AAL reports that the accounts give a true and fair view of the Authority's financial affairs and of the income and expenditure recorded by the Authority.

3.3 The Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2010/11 accounts on 20 September 2011 following the approval of the accounts by the Fire Authority at its meeting on 19 September 2011.

3.4 As part of the external audit work programme, the auditor was required to provide a value for money conclusion. In arriving at this conclusion, an assessment was made of how the Authority managed and used its money, time and people to deliver value for money. This assessment was undertaken against two criterion:

- Financial Resilience – The arrangements in place to secure financial resilience; and
- Securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness – The arrangements in place for challenging how economy, efficiency and effectiveness are secured.

As a consequence of this work the auditor concluded that, for 2010/11, the Authority made proper arrangements to secure value for money. The auditor issued the value for money conclusion to Fire Authority on 19 September 2011.

3.5 In preparing the AAL, Corporate Board have been consulted upon its content.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required. The matters contained in the report will not lead to policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The actual external audit scale fee for the delivery of the 2010/11 work programme was £86,122.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Draft Annual Audit Letter 2010/2011, October 2011
Annual Audit and Inspection Fee 2010/11, Authority Paper, April 2010.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

STUART KELLAS
TREASURER