

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**30<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2009**

**1. INTERNAL AUDIT – RISK MANAGEMENT AUDIT REPORT**

Report of the Audit Services Manager.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Risk Management Audit Report be noted.

**2. PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

- 2.1 To ask the Committee to note the issues raised from the risk management audit undertaken by Internal Audit in 2008/9.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 An annual internal audit review of risk management arrangements within the Authority has been undertaken. During the year regular meetings have been held with the officer with responsibility for risk management, to discuss progress being made on the embedment of risk management, including training, further development of the Corporate Risk Register (CRR), and plans for the introduction of departmental risk registers.
- 3.2 The overall conclusion from the review was that the risk management process is being driven forward within the Authority, with an established process of review and training for the corporate risk register and strategy. An assurance framework has also been introduced, showing sources and levels of assurance. Work is now continuing to further embed the process by focussing on establishing departmental risk registers and development of supporting strategy/procedure documents.

- 3.3 One significant and three merits attention recommendations were made, including: review of the terms of reference of the Insurance Risk Management Group so that it becomes a focal point for risk management activity, and that risk management is further embedded by the development of departmental risk registers in accordance with the Department/Command Action Plan 2009, 'Embedding Risk Management'.

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 and/or do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL 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".

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

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