

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

20 SEPTEMBER 2010

1. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT 2009/2010**

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the report be noted and the contents of the draft letter of representation be agreed.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

2.1 This report is submitted to inform Members of the audit work undertaken by the Audit Commission and provides a summary of findings as a consequence of this audit work.

2.2 Members are required to approve the draft letter of representation on behalf of the Authority, following which the Auditor will issue a final opinion and conclusion.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Annual Governance Report sets out the key messages arising from the audit work undertaken during the year. The report is designed to support the Auditor's opinions and conclusions and is a requirement of the Code of Audit Practice.

3.2 Representatives from the Audit Commission will be present at the meeting to answer Members' questions in relation to this report.

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 within the report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The audit of accounts has been completed in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Committee Act 1988, the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Audit Practices Board.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Final Accounts 2009/2010 – Files located in the Finance Office.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

STUART KELLAS
TREASURER