

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

29 MARCH 2010

1. **CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve the revised Corporate Risk Management strategy.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted in order to seek the Committee's approval of the revised Corporate Risk Management strategy.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 If the Fire and Rescue Authority is to continue to meet the Government's expectations of performance and improvement in the forthcoming years, it will be important for the organisation to have in place a robust risk management strategy which reflects current arrangements.
- 3.2 It will also be necessary for the Authority to demonstrate a proactive approach to identifying and managing a wide range of risks at a strategic level and to ensuring that the roles and responsibilities associated with those arrangements are clearly defined and communicated.
- 3.3 At its meeting on 11 January 2010 the Committee approved the revised Corporate Risk Register, which was prepared following an in-depth review of the strategic risks previously identified and the arrangements in place to manage those risks.
- 3.4 In line with the organisational strategy for reviewing key documents, the Corporate Risk Management Strategy (Standing Order 22/7) has been updated to take account of recent organisational changes and is attached as Appendix 1.

3.5 The attention of the Committee is drawn to the following sections of the strategy:

- Paragraph 2.4.6: this outlines the existing reporting arrangements and timescales in relation to strategic risks, and
- Paragraph 2.5: this outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Authority in relation to strategic risks,

as well as the Internal Audit Report of Risk Management (dated 3rd March 2010), which contains further recommendations relating to the reporting arrangements that the Committee may wish to incorporate into the strategy.

3.6 Subject to the approval of the Committee, the revised strategy will be issued in line with current organisational procedures and reviewed in 12 months time.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment has not been undertaken as the report only provides an update on policy previously agreed.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Whilst the purpose of the Authority's Corporate Risk Management Strategy is to assist in the achievement of the Authority's strategic objectives and statutory responsibilities, evidence of a Corporate Risk Management Strategy is also required by audit and inspection bodies who review the Authority.

5.2 There are numerous standards applicable to the management of risk within the local authority sector. Included amongst these is guidance from the Audit Commission, CIPFA/Solace and a set of joint standards published by the Institute of Risk Management (IRM), ALARM (The National Forum for Public Sector Risk Management) and AIRMIC (Association of Risk Managers). Evidence that robust management of the Authority's corporate risks is undertaken demonstrates compliance with these standards.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Audit Committee Meeting 11 January 2010 – Agenda Item 9
Internal Audit Report on Risk Management – 3rd March 2010

V RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER