

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

29 March 2010

1. **AUDIT COMMITTEE – SKILLS AUDIT RESULTS**

Report of the Audit Services & Risk Management Manager
[Sandwell MBC].

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee gives consideration to the results of the Audit Committee Skills Audit, and agrees priorities for its training programme.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

2.1 To ask the Committee to give consideration to the results of its skills audit and to agree priorities for its training programme.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 At its meeting in June 2009 the Committee considered and approved a skills audit form, which was designed to give members the opportunity to record details of any relevant experience and knowledge and to identify areas where they felt they would benefit from additional training. The Committee agreed to complete the forms and that the results of the audit would be assessed and a plan of action drawn up to address any training gaps.

3.2 The forms have now been completed, returned and are summarised below.

Knowledge/expertise in the following areas	Low	Moderate	High
General business management	1	2	2
Staff management		2	3
Understanding Financial Statements		2	3
Understanding Local Authority Accounting Standards and Regulations	1	3	3
The role of Internal Audit	1	2	2
The role of External Audit	1	2	2
Fraud Management		3	2
Risk Management		2	3
The Assurance Framework	2	2	1
The Audit Committee terms of reference & legislative requirements	1	2	2
The cycle of the Committee's business	1	2	2
Financial Regulations	1	3	1
Contract Standing Orders	1	4	
Understanding the Governance Statement		4	1
The Use of Resources module within the Comprehensive Area Assessment <i>(1=no answer)</i>	2	2	
The role of the Treasurer	1	3	1
The role of the Monitoring Officer	2	2	1
The Fire Service's core objectives		2	3
Are there any particular areas related to your membership of The Audit Committee on which you would like training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External Audit 			

3.3 The Committee is now requested to give consideration to the results of its skills audit and to agree priorities for its training programme.

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

Peter Farrow
Audit Services & Risk Management Manager, Sandwell MBC