

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

29th MARCH 2010

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 2009/10.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An annual internal audit review of risk management arrangements within the Authority has been undertaken. Throughout the year, meetings have been held with the officer with responsibility for risk management, to discuss progress being made on the embedment of risk management.
- 3.2 The overall conclusion from the review was that the risk management process, including assurance mapping, is continuing to be driven forward within the Authority, with an established process of review for the corporate risk register and strategy. Work is continuing to further embed risk management, with particular emphasis on the further development of the corporate risk register and the introduction of risk registers linked to strategic objectives.
- 3.3 Four significant and two merits attention recommendations were made, including, finalising and implementing the proposed organisational action/improvement plan. Also, three recommendations were made regarding member involvement in the risk management process:

- Provision of risk management training for all members,
- Identification of a member to 'champion' risk management,
- Presentation of the Corporate Risk Register to the Audit Committee on a more regular basis, so that it becomes more embedded in the work of the Committee.

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 Manager, Sandwell MBC