

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

11 January 2010

1. **AUDIT COMMITTEE – SELF ASSESSMENT EXERCISE**

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

RECOMMENDED

THAT the results of the self assessment exercise be noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

2.1 To ask the Committee to note the issues raised as a result of the self assessment exercise.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Audit Committee was formed in January 2008 in accordance with guidance from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The CIPFA guidelines recommend that Audit Committees measure their effectiveness by reviewing their performance against a self assessment checklist.

3.2 The Audit Committee undertook its second self assessment exercise on 30 November 2009. The Audit Manager and Principal Auditor facilitated a workshop to consider the committee's effectiveness. The workshop, attended by all the members of the committee, focussed upon the completion of a CIPFA self assessment checklist.

3.3 Members felt that the committee was successfully fulfilling its terms of reference. They also identified certain actions which could improve the committee's performance in the future.

3.4 An Action Sheet has been drawn up from the assessment and is attached for the committee's consideration.

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

Audit Committee – Self Assessment Exercise: Checklist
Audit Committee – Self assessment Exercise: Action Plan

Peter Farrow
Audit Services & Risk Management Manager, Sandwell MBC