

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

9 NOVEMBER 2015

1. **REPORT ON VALUE FOR MONEY FOR WEST MIDLANDS
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee note the content of the Value for Money report attached as an Appendix.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform Audit Committee Members of the external auditor's (Grant Thornton UK LLP) findings which support their Value for Money (VFM) conclusion which is required as part of the statutory external audit responsibilities.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Code of Audit Practice 2013 (the Code) describes the Authority's responsibilities to put in place proper arrangements to:

- secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources;
- ensure proper stewardship and governance; and
- review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

3.2 The external audit is required to give their VFM conclusion based on two criteria specified by the Audit Commission. These criteria are:

- the Authority has proper arrangements in place for securing financial resilience; and

- the Authority has proper arrangements for challenging how it secures economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

3.3 Representatives from Grant Thornton will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss the reports with Members.

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 a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

The contact officer for this report is Deputy Chief Fire Officer Philip Hales, telephone number 0121 380 6907.

PHIL LOACH
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

MIKE GRIFFITHS
TREASURER