

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**27 JULY 2020**

1. **INFORMING THE AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT - WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY 2019/20**

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee note the content of the Informing the Audit Risk Assessment – West Midlands Fire & Rescue Authority 2019/20 attached as an Appendix.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The report is provided to keep the Audit and Risk Committee Members informed upon the progress of the external auditor (Grant Thornton UK LLP) in delivering their responsibilities.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 In order to ensure that the Audit and Risk Committee members continue to remain informed upon audit matters, the external auditor has provided a report to the Audit and Risk Committee report. It is the intention of the external auditor to provide an update at all Audit and Risk Committee meetings.

3.2 The report provides the Audit and Risk Committee with an update on Grant Thornton's progress in delivering their responsibilities and includes:

- Matters in relation to fraud;
- Matters in relation to law and regulations;
- Matters in relation to going concern;
- Matters in relation to related parties; and
- Matters in relation to accounting estimate.

3.3 Representatives from Grant Thornton will be in attendance at the meeting to discuss the report 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**

The scale fee for undertaking West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's external audit work for 2019/20 was set at £29,750. However, Grant Thornton have notified the Authority of a fee variation (increase) of £5,750 on this figure.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

The contact officer for this report is Wayne Brown, Deputy Chief Officer, telephone number 0121 380 6907.

PHIL LOACH  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

MIKE GRIFFITHS  
TREASURER