

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

11TH JANUARY 2010

1. **CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve the changes proposed to the Corporate Risk Register (paragraph 3.3) and note the position statements prepared for each risk on the Register (paragraph 3.5).

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted in order to seek the Committee's approval of the changes proposed to the Corporate Risk Register and to note the position statements prepared in relation to each risk on the Register.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 For the Fire Authority to meet the Government's expectations of performance and improvement in the forthcoming years, it will be important for the organisation to maintain a proactive approach to identifying and managing a wide range of risks at a strategic level.
- 3.2 At its meeting on 19th January 2009 the Committee approved the revised Corporate Risk Register and the associated reporting schedule relating to the ongoing management of those risks. Subsequently this reporting schedule was incorporated into the Corporate Risk Management Strategy that was approved by the Committee on 30th March 2009.
- 3.3 Corporate Board has received update reports throughout the year and at its meeting on 8th December 2009 proposed that the following amendments to the Register be submitted to the Committee for approval:
- that the score for Risk 8: Financial Management, is increased from 6 to 12 in order to reflect the uncertainty surrounding future Grant settlements.

- that the score for Risk 12: Firelink, is reduced from 9 to 3 in order to reflect the successful completion of equipment installation associated with the project.

3.4 A copy of the revised Corporate Risk Register, which incorporates these changes, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. In conjunction with the risk management action plan previously developed for each risk, the Register provides an audit trail that demonstrates how the Authority manages its strategic risks. Note: A larger copy of the Register will be circulated to Members at the meeting.

3.5 In addition, a position statement of the key issues considered in determining the current rating for each risk has been prepared by the relevant Risk Owner. These statements are attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out as the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Whilst the purpose of the Authority's Risk Management Strategy is to assist in the achievement of the Authority's corporate objectives and statutory responsibilities, evidence of a Risk Management Strategy is also required by audit and inspection bodies who review the Authority.

There are numerous standards applicable to the management of risk within the local authority sector. Included amongst these is guidance from the Audit Commission, CIPFA/Solace and a set of joint standards published by the Institute of Risk Management (IRM), ALARM (The National Forum for Public Sector Risk Management) and AIRMIC (Association of Risk Managers). Evidence that robust management of the Authority's corporate risks is undertaken demonstrates compliance with these standards.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Audit Committee Meeting 19th January 2009 – Agenda Item 8
Audit Committee Meeting 30th March 2009 – Agenda Item 7

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER