

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

11 JANUARY 2010

1. **ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND USE OF RESOURCES
ASSESSMENT 2008/2009**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the findings arising from West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's (WMFRA) Organisational Assessment and Use of Resources Assessment for 2008/2009 are noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Audit Committee of the findings of the WMFRA Organisational Assessment (OA) and Use of Resources Assessment (UoR) for 2008/2009.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 As part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Framework all public services in England are subject to an annual OA by the Audit Commission.

3.2 The OA determines how well the Service has delivered against its priorities and objectives contained in the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework. It also assesses how effective the Service is at delivering its prevention, protection and response functions. The OA for 2008/2009 encompassed three separate assessments namely:

- Managing Performance (MP)
- Use of Resources (UoR)
- Operational Assurance (OpA)

- 3.3 The MP assessment focused upon how well the WMFRA managed and improved its services and contributed to wider community outcomes. Key themes of the assessment determined how well priority outcomes and improvements that matter to the community have been delivered. Leadership and the capability and capacity to deliver future improvements have been assessed. This year's MP assessment incorporated an OpA peer assessment undertaken in March 2009.
- 3.4 The annual UoR assessment is the appointed auditor's assessment. It reports on how the Service used its resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people. A detailed UoR report has been produced by the Audit Commission and is attached as Appendix 2 of this report. The key issues arising from the UoR assessment are included within the OA report.
- 3.5 The MP and UoR assessments are both scored on a range of 1 (poor performance) to 4 (excellent performance). The OA score is derived from these two scores. The WMFRA OA has been completed for 2008/2009. The final OA report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.6 The scores arising from the 2008/2009 assessment process are detailed in the table below:-

		Score
Assessment	Organisational Assessment	3 out of 4 - Overall the WMFRA performs well.
	Use of Resources	3 out of 4
	Managing Performance	3 out of 4

- 3.7 The Service has been fully involved and consulted in the development of the final OA report. This has been facilitated by regular meetings between Audit Commission representatives and the Deputy Chief Fire Officer. The Audit Commission presented the findings of the WMFRA OA 2008/2009 to Corporate Board on 8th December 2009 and the Policy Planning Forum on the 14th December 2009. The findings detailed within the reports will be used to inform the Service's future direction and where appropriate improvement programmes will be implemented.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required as this report will not lead to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The OA reflects that the Service continues to meet its requirements detailed within the National Framework 2008/2011.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

WMFRA Organisational Assessment 3rd December 2009

Use of Resources Assessment November 2009

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER