

## **WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

### **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE**

**07 JUNE 2021**

#### **1. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE 2020/21**

Report of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

RECOMMENDED

That the Committee considers the content and format of its Annual Report 2020/21 for submission to the next meeting of the Authority.

#### **2. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to Members to seek approval to the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee 2020/2021.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Enabling the Authority to be fully effective in comprehending and assessing the control environment within which West Midlands Fire Service operates, the Audit and Risk Committee present an annual report of its activities to the Authority.
- 3.2 A draft Annual Report for 2019/20 has been prepared by the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and is attached for comments by the Committee in preparation for submission of the report to the next meeting of the Authority.
- 3.3 The Committee maintained its functioning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It met virtually utilising the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) Regulations 2020 to ensure business continuity as a Standing Committee of the Authority.

Ref. AU/2021/June/92405214

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

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

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Authority has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

#### 6. **FINANCIAL 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”.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee 2020/21.

Chair of the Audit Committee