

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

19 APRIL 2010

1. **EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN AND SCALE OF FEES FOR 2010/2011**

Joint report of the Chief Fire Officer and the Treasurer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority note the planned Audit Commission fees and work plan for 2010/ 2011.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform Members of the Audit Commission's proposed work plan and fees for 2010/2011.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Between 6 July 2009 and 4 September 2009 the Audit Commission published a consultation document to local government, including Fire and Rescue Authorities outlining their work plan and fee proposals for 2010-2013. The Authority responded to this consultation paper on 3 September 2009.

3.2 The outcome of the consultation exercise was reported to the Authority at its meeting on 30 November 2009 and the letter attached as Appendix 1 to this paper reflects the details contained within that report.

3.3 The external audit fee for this Authority in 2010/2011 is £93,326. This compares to the planned fee of £87,850 for 2009/2010. The increase in fee predominantly relates to additional work associated with the introduction of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) although this will be fully subsidised in 2010/2011. Consequently, there will be no net overall increase in fees compared to 2009/2010.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 7 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory duty on the Commission to prescribe a scale of fees for the audit of accounts in inspections. Before prescribing any scale of fees it consults audited and inspected bodies, their representative associations and the accountancy profession. Once the Commission has prescribed a scale of fees it becomes payable by the audited or inspected body.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The proposed fees indicated in the attached letter are consistent with the provisions established as part of the Authority's 2010/2011 budget setting process.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Authority Report 30 November 2009 – Consultation response – Audit Commission's Proposed Work Programme and Scale of Fees for 2010/2011 and Indicative Fee Proposals for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Chief Fire Officer's letter 3 September 2009 – Consultation response – Proposed Work Programme and Scales of Fees 2010/11 and Indicative Fee Proposals for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for Local Government, Housing and Community Safety.

Audit Commission publication, July 2009 – Proposed Work Programme and Scales of Fees 2010/11 and Indicative Fee Proposals for 2011/12 and 2012/13 for Local Government, Housing and Community Safety.

Audit Commission Act 1998
Local Government Act 1999

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

STUART KELLAS
TREASURER