



**Safest People, Safest Places**

## **Combined Fire Authority**

**21 September 2020**

### **Notes of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2020**

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#### **Report of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee**

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**Members Present:** Cllr J Turnbull in the Chair  
Cllrs B Avery, D Bell, L Marshall and G Lee

**Apologies:** Cllr E Scott

#### **Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on the discussions and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 28 July 2020.

#### **Audit Completion Report for the year ended 31 March 2020**

2. Members were presented with details of the audit completion report which summarised the audit conclusions and noted signoff would be delayed until information was received in relation to the pension fund and whole of government accounts.

The Committee **noted** the Audit Completion Report and that it remained open pending sign off by the pension fund auditor and completion of the whole of government accounts.

### **Statement of Accounts year ended 31 March 2020**

3. Members received a presentation on the Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

The Committee **approved** the Statement of Accounts for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority for the financial year ended 31 March 2020.

### **Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020**

4. Members were presented with details of the 2019/2020 Annual Governance Statement.

The Committee **approved** the 2019/2020 Annual Governance Statement.

### **Internal Audit Progress Report for Quarter ended 31 March 2020**

5. The Committee were updated on work undertaken by Internal Audit between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Progress against planned work, amendments to the annual audit plan and the audit recommendations were considered. It was noted that there were no reports issued with a limited assurance opinion and no unplanned work carried out this quarter.

The Committee **noted** the report.

### **Fraud and Corruption Annual Report**

6. Members were presented with details of the advice and assurance provided regarding the work being undertaken within the Authority in seeking to identify, control and prevent fraud and corruption.

The Committee **noted** the progress made and assurances provided in relation to the Authority's anti-fraud and anti-corruption arrangements.

### **Annual Review of the System of Internal Audit**

7. Members were presented with details of the annual review of the system of internal audit.

The Committee **considered** and **noted** the findings and conclusions of the 2019/2020 review of the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit.

## **Annual Internal Audit Opinion Report 2019/2020**

8. Members received details of the work carried out by Internal Audit during 2019/2020. Internal Audit had issued a moderate overall assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control operating across the Authority in 2019/2020. Members were informed that a moderate overall assurance opinion should be regarded as positive.

The Committee **considered** the Annual Internal Report and the overall opinion provided on the adequacy of effectiveness of the Authority's control environment for 2019/2020.

## **PART B**

### **Internal Audit Outstanding Actions (appendix 3)**

9. Members **noted** the outstanding actions.