



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

12 November 2021

Notes of the Audit and Finance Committee Meeting held on 30 September 2021

Report of the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee

Members Present: Cllr R Bell in the Chair
Cllrs B Avery, A Batey, H Crumbie

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 Finance Committee held on 30 September 2021.

Audit and Finance Committee Terms of Reference

2. Members were presented with the terms of reference for the committee

Short Term Investments 2020/21 Quarter 4

3. Members received an update on the performance of the Authority's short-term investments for the period ended 31 March 2021.

The Committee noted the report.

Short Term Investments 2021/22 Quarter 1

4. Members received an update on the performance of the Authority's short-term investments for the period ended 30 June 2021.

The Committee noted the report.

Annual Governance Statement

5. Members were presented with the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement for approval.

The Committee approved the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.

Corporate Risk Register

6. Members were presented with the corporate risk register as at 31 August 2021. Risks were discussed in turn.

The committee considered and noted the report.

Compliance with CIPFA Financial Management Code

7. Members received details of the Chartered institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Code.

The committee noted that the Authority was compliant with the Code.

Audit Strategy Memorandum Year Ending 31 March 2021

8. Members received a report from external audit which summarised audit approach, significant risks, key judgement areas, value for money and fees, noting the delay in issuing the auditors annual report.

Audit Progress Report

9. Members received an update on the progress made in delivering responsibilities as the Authorities external auditors. No significant matters were identified.

The Committee noted the report.

Internal Audit Progress Report year ending 31 March 2021

10. Members received details of the work undertaken by Internal Audit between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021.

The committee considered and noted the report.

Annual Internal Audit Opinion and Report 2020/21

11. Members received an update on the work that had been undertaken by internal audit during 2020/21. A moderate overall assurance opinion had been received, which should be regarded as positive.

Members considered and noted the report.

Annual Review of the Systems of Internal Audit 2020/21

12. Members received a report asking for consideration and comment on the annual review of the system of internal audit.

Members considered and noted the report.

Fraud and Corruption Annual Report 2020/21

13. 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 report.

Audit Committee Practical Guidance Report

14. Members were presented with information advising members of the publication of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) guidance on the function and operation of audit committees in local authorities in the UK.

The committee noted the report.

PART B

Outstanding Audit Recommendations Quarter Ended 31 March 2021

15. Members noted the outstanding actions.