



Safest People, Safest Places

Combined Fire Authority

16 February 2022

Notes of the Audit and Finance Committee Meeting held on 27 January 2022

Report of the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee

Members Present: Cllr R Bell in the Chair
Cllrs B Kellet, A Batey

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 27 January 2022.

External Audit Annual Report

2. Members were presented with the external audit annual report.

The committee **noted** the report.

Internal Audit Progress Report

3. The committee was updated on the work undertaken by Internal Audit since 31 December 2021. Progress against planned work, amendments to the annual audit plan and the audit recommendations were considered.

The committee **noted** the report.

Corporate Risk Register Position at 31 December 2021

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

The committee **considered** and **noted** the report.

Forecast Out-turn 2021/22 – Estimate based on expenditure and income to 31 December 2021 (quarter three)

5. Members were presented with a forecast of out-turn for 2021/22 and noted that based on expenditure and income to 31 December 2021 an underspend of £0.033m (0.11%) is forecast at 31 March 2022.

The committee **noted** the report.

Short Term Investments 2021/22 Quarter three

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

The committee **noted** the report.

Revenue and Capital Budgets 2022/23 and Medium-Term Financial Plan

7. Members were presented with details of the provisional local government finance settlement for 2022/23. Members were asked to consider the revenue and capital budgets and medium-term financial plan (MTFP) and to agree a firm recommendation to the meeting of the Fire Authority on 16 February 2022.

The committee discussed the possible impacts of a council tax increase particularly the effect on residents in the current economic climate.

- (i) The committee **considered** the information in the report.
- (ii) The committee **considered** the level of council tax for the 2022/23 financial year.
- (iii) The committee **noted** the risks that had been identified as part of the budget setting process
- (iv) The committee **agreed** that a firm recommendation be made to the Combined Fire Authority meeting on 16 February 2022 that council tax for 2022/23 be increased by 1.99%.

PART B

Outstanding Audit Recommendations

8. Members noted the outstanding actions.

