

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington  
Fire and Rescue Authority



## COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

21 MARCH 2018

### NOTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2018

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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, G Lee and L Marshall

**Apologies:** Cllr M McGaun

#### Purpose of the report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update of the discussions and recommendations of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 22 February 2018.

#### Corporate Governance Action Plan Update

2. The Committee were updated with the progress being made in relation to the actions arising from the corporate governance action plan. The plan was developed to progress the high priority actions identified during the production of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of the final accounts for 2016/17. Members considered and discussed the findings and associated risks within the plan.

The Committee **noted** the report.

#### Corporate Risk Register update

3. Members were presented with the details of the corporate risk register as at 31 January 2018. There were eight risks on the risk register. Changes to the register were summarised and discussed.

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

#### Internal Audit Progress Report

4. The committee were updated on work undertaken by Internal Audit between 01 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. Progress against planned work, amendments to the annual audit plan and the audit recommendations were considered. It was noted that there were no outstanding management responses to draft reports and no reports issued with a limited assurance opinion and no unplanned work this quarter. The summary of agreed target performance indicators was also considered and discussed.

The Committee **noted** the report.

## **External Audit Progress Report**

5. The Committee received a progress update from the Authority's external auditors. The key areas highlighted were 2017/18 audit planning, General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), financial reporting workshops and issues arising from national publications.

The Committee **noted** the report.

## **Annual Audit Letter**

6. The committee were presented with the annual audit letter for 2016/17 which provided a summary of work and findings for the 2016/17 audit period.

The Committee **noted** the report

## **Audit Strategy Memorandum**

7. Members were presented with the Audit Strategy Memorandum for 2017/18. The document summarised the audit approach and highlighted significant audit risks, key areas of judgement and value for money. The key points were discussed with the committee.

The Committee **noted** the report.

## **Dates for 2017/18**

8. Proposed meeting dates were circulated following the meeting.

## **PART B**

## **Internal Audit Recommendations**

9. The two medium priority recommendations overdue against the original target implementation dates were discussed and considered by the committee. Revised target dates were noted.

The Committee **noted** the report.