

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

22 NOVEMBER 2017

NOTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Members Present:	Cllr J Turnbull (Chair) Cllrs C Carr (for L Marshall), A Simpson (for M McGaun), B Avery, D Bell and G Lee
Officers Present:	T Hope and A Hopkinson
Audit:	C Dearden, J Greener and P Monaghan
Apologies:	Apologies were received from Cllrs L Marshall and 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 28 September 2017.

Audit Completion Report

2. The Audit Completion report was presented to the committee by Mazars. The audit conclusions were summarised to the members, along with a letter detailing the outcome of matters marked as outstanding. Members were informed that the auditor would be issuing an unqualified opinion on the Statement of Accounts and on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money.

Members **noted** the Audit Completion Report.

Final Statement of Accounts Year ended 31 March 2017

3. Members were presented with the final statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2017. The draft unaudited statement of accounts had been presented to the committee on 27 July where the committee had received a detailed presentation.

The Auditor had now completed his audit, and a number of improvements and amendments had been identified and were included in the final statement of accounts.

Members **approved** the Statement of Accounts for County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority for the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

4. Members considered and discussed the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2016/17, which reflected the comments made at the July meeting. The approved Annual Governance Statement was to be made available on the Authority's website alongside the Statement of Accounts.

Members **approved** the AGS.

Statement of Assurance 2016/17

5. The Statement of Assurance was presented to the Committee. The final version included reflected any comments made at the July meeting and included significantly more information than previous years.

Members **approved** the 2016/17 Statement of Assurance.

Corporate Risk Register

6. Members considered and discussed the amendments to the Corporate Risk Register and any actions taken to mitigate risk.

Members **noted** the report.

Internal Audit Progress Report

7. The Committee considered a report which outlined the work undertaken by Internal Audit between 01 April 2017 and 31 March 2018. The key points of the 10 reviews plus one which was carried forward from 2016/17 were highlighted to the committee along with the response to audit recommendations. There was no unplanned work undertaken during the period.

Members **considered** the progress made to date on delivering the internal audit plan for 2017/18, and the changes made to the Corporate Governance action plan and **noted** that the action plan will be used as the mechanism for progress reporting to the Committee throughout the year.

PART B

Internal Audit Recommendations Appendix 3

8. Members **noted** and **approved** the revised target date set out in the report.