

Safest People, Safest Places

County Durham and Darlington
Fire and Rescue Authority



COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

24 NOVEMBER 2016

NOTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Members Present: Cllr J Turnbull in the Chair
Cllrs L Marshall, C Carr, S Iveson, D Bell and G Lee

Apologies: Cllr M Hodgson

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 2016.

Audit Completion Report

The Audit Completion report was presented to the committee by Mazars. The audit conclusions were summarised to the members, along with the conclusion of pending matters letter which stated that the certificate on the financial statement will be issued by 30 September

Members **approved** the Audit Completion Report.

Final Statement of Accounts Year ended 31 March 2016

2. Members were presented with the final statement of accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2016. The draft unaudited accounts had been presented to the committee on 28 July where the committee had received a detailed presentation.

The Auditor had 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 2016.

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

3. Members considered and discussed the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2015/16, which reflected the comments made at July's meeting. The approved Annual Governance Statement was to be made available on the Authority's website along with the Statement of Accounts.

Members **approved** the AGS.

Statement of Assurance 2015/16

4. The Statement of Assurance was presented to the Committee. The final version reflected the comments made at the July's meeting.

Members **approved** the 2015/16 Statement of Assurance.

Internal Audit Progress Report

5. The Committee considered a report which outlined the work undertaken by Internal Audit between 01 April 2016 and 31 March 2017. The key points of the reviews were discussed along with the response to audit recommendations. The Committee were also informed of 2 new principles outlined in the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework on which internal audit and officers from the service will continue to work together. On completion of this work a refreshed and updated AGS will be prepared for 2016/17.

Members were also informed that confirmation had been received from the Cabinet Office that submission of pensions, payroll and creditors data for the latest National Fraud Initiative (NFI) will occur in October 2016 with results of the exercise to be released for review from January 2017.

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

PART B

Internal Audit Recommendations

6. Members considered and commented on the Internal Audit Recommendations.