

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**

**Standards and Governance Committee**

**Item: 6**

**4 April 2014**

**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority External Audit plan 2013/14**

**Report by the Chief Officer**

**Contact:** Neil Odin, Assistant Chief Officer  
Telephone: 023 8062 6828

**1 Summary**

1.1 Attached to this report, in appendix 1, is the External Audit Plan for the financial year 2013/14. It sets out the proposed audit approach and scope for the 2014 audit, in accordance with:

- the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998,
- the Code of Audit Practice,
- the Standing Guidance,
- auditing standards and other professional requirements,
- the Committee's service expectations.

1.2 It explains how key risks are assessed and outlines the planned audit strategy in response to those risks, and the fee to be charged for this work.

**2 Recommendation**

2.1 That the Committee receives and accepts the External Audit Plan for 2013/14.

**3 Introduction**

3.1 The Plan details the proposed work to be undertaken by Ernst & Young for the audit of the financial statements and the firefighter's pension fund for 2013/14. It details how the Plan is based on a risk-based approach to audit planning. It sets out the method used to gain assurance on key controls, and how reliance is placed on the work of internal audit.

3.2 The Plan explains that a conclusion on the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness will be produced, and details the criteria upon which this will be based.

- 3.3 Appendix 1 part B provides members with details of the communications that must be provided to those charged with the governance of the Authority.
- 3.4 The Authority is required to prepare and certify the accounting statements by 30 June 2014 and the Auditor aims to issue their opinion and conclusions at the Committee's September meeting.
- 3.5 The fee for the audit will be £48,300 as set out in appendix 1 part A.

#### **4 Resource implications**

- 4.1 Appropriate financial resources have been made available to pay the 2013/14 fee.

#### **5 People impact assessment**

- 5.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

#### **Background information (Section 100D of Local Government Act 1972)**

The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

None

#### **Appendix 1 – Audit Plan 2013/14**