

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 2 April 2015.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Robin McIntosh (Chairman); Graham Burgess; David Harrison; Chris Lagdon; Phil Smith and Sharon Mintoff

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

85 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Chris Carter, Geoff Hockley and Royston Smith.

86 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Members were mindful of their duty to disclose at the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they had in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest was not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and their ability to disclose any other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

There were no declarations of interest received for the meeting.

87 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes from 11 December 2014 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

88 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairman's Announcements on this occasion.

89 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

90 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2014/15

The Committee received a report from the Chief Internal Auditor in relation to work completed and the status of live audit reports (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

It was confirmed that there were still gaps for completion as of year end, but these were a result of further discussions being needed regarding certain areas like the Retained Duty System (RDS). The new layout only showed medium and high priority items in the appendix, with low level being removed to make the reporting process more streamline.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards and Governance Committee note the progress of internal audit work for the period ending 28 February 2015.

91 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer regarding audit action reports and progress made towards the implementation of recommendations (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Insurance and Risk Officer introduced the report, highlighting that three audits had been completed since the last Committee meeting. The Networked Fire Control Project went live in Hampshire on 31 March 2015, with the other three Fire Controls due to go live by September 2015. A six month review would follow in March 2016.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report and the progress made towards the implementation of the internal audit management actions detailed in Appendix 1.

92 INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER AND ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2015/16

The Committee received a report from the Chief Internal Auditor regarding the Audit Charter and Audit Plan for 2015/16 (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members were informed that there were no significant changes since the report had last gone to Committee and that good governance was in place to reflect any changes. A further update would be reported at the next Standards and Governance Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee approved the Internal Audit Charter for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority and the Internal audit plan for 2015/16.

93 AUDIT PLAN

The Committee received the Audit Plan from Maria Grindley, Ernst & Young (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the H3 contract and issues regarding injury pensions had been monitored although were not noted as significant risks. It was confirmed by the Chief Finance Officer that some feedback had been sent regarding the allocation of overheads since the report had been published, and that this had acknowledged by External Audit. It was also noted that a Value for Money (VfM) judgement would be offered individually to each body in H3 and not done as a “group” feedback to H3 as a whole.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee noted the Audit Plan.

94 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer regarding the Corporate Risk Register (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

Progress was regularly monitored with key controls in place. It was confirmed that two risks had been removed, subject to the approval of the Committee, regarding the commercial trading arm and FireWatch.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee:

- a) Approved the current version of the Corporate Risk Register;
- b) Agreed that the following risks be removed from the “active” register:
 - Entry #20 – Failure to manage the relationships between Firewatch and other key corporate projects. *A TIGER team was set up to manage the relationship between key corporate projects and to mitigate risks that had been identified. The TIGER team closed but the communication between all projects remains and is monitored by the Programme and Project Management Office.*
 - Entry #21 – Failure to optimise the opportunities of the commercial trading arm. *Governance surrounding the set up of 3S Fire is complete.*