

At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY STANDARDS & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh on 18 June 2015.

PRESENT:

Councillors: Robin McIntosh (Chairman); Graham Burgess; Chris Carter; David Fuller; David Harrison; Geoff Hockley; 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.

95 APOLOGIES

None

96 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.

97 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes from 2 April 2015 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

98 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman highlighted that the external audit fee for 2015/16 was approximately one third the cost of previous years, noting that this was down to the efficiencies of the new arrangements.

99 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations to the meeting.

100 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 6 in the Minute Book).

Members received an update on the actions highlighted in the report, noting where timescales for completion were being met or had required adjustment and the details behind that. There was some concern about extended deadlines on actions and it was proposed and agreed that a single line summary be included in future reports, setting out what activity was ongoing and whether it was on track.

RESOLVED:

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

That an additional summary be included in future reports, as detailed above.

101 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2014/15

The Committee received a report from the Chief Internal Auditor providing an overview of internal audit work for the period ending 5 June 2015. (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced and changes to internal audit standards highlighted.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards and Governance Committee note the progress of internal audit work for the period ending 5 June 2015.

102 COMMITTEE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer, providing a revised list of officer responsibilities supporting HFRA Committees. (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members received the report and additionally noted that Rob Carr and Sandy Gregory were the lead officers for the newly formed Pension Board.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards and Governance Committee note the revised list of officer responsibilities supporting HFRA Committees.

103 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE

The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Officer on annual operational assurance.

It was noted that the item should have been titled Annual Assurance Statement and the Statement was introduced through a presentation. It was explained that it was a requirement to publish the Statement and it could be divided into three areas: Governance, Finance and Operational. It was published online and available to the public.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards and Governance Committee welcome and note the Annual Assurance Statement.