

**At a meeting of the HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY STANDARDS
AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE held at Hampshire Fire
and Rescue Service Headquarters, Eastleigh
on 14 June 2016**

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.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

p	Graham Burgess	p	Robin McIntosh (Chairman)
p	Chris Carter	p	Sharon Mintoff
p	David Fuller	p	Mark Staplehurst
a	David Harrison	a	Matthew Winnington
p	Geoff Hockley (Vice Chairman)		

137 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Harrison and Winnington.

138 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 personal interests in any such matter that they might have wished to disclose.

There were no declarations of interest received for the meeting.

139 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

With regard to Minute 136, it was noted that this applied to Committees of the Authority and not to Sub-Committees, therefore with the removal of "sub" the Minutes from the meeting on the 7 April 2016 were agreed to be correct and signed by the Chairman.

140 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman noted that Councillor Matthew Winnington had been newly appointed to the Committee.

141 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received for the meeting.

142 AUDIT PLAN

The Committee received a report from the external auditor (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The process of external audit was explained and the risks to be considered were highlighted. Members were assured that no significant risks had been identified in relation to HFRA but monitoring would continue. It was confirmed that Ernst and Young were an independent auditor and noted that the audit fee was now 25 percent lower than it had been. The external audit of the Fire Authority would run alongside similar activity for the County Council, Hampshire Constabulary and the Hampshire Pension Fund.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee note the report.

143 LOCAL APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS UPDATE

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer (Item 7 in the Minute Book), setting out changes to the arrangements for appointing External Auditors following the closure of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits.

Members heard that the current position followed the abolition of the Audit Commission and that the contract was shortly due to expire. The options available were set out and the Committee noted the particular advantages in terms of consistency of a sector led body.

RESOLVED:

The Standards and Governance Committee.

Agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Authority that it support the Local Government Association in setting up a national Sector Led Body.

144 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015 - 2016

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer (Item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding the Annual Governance Statement 2015-2016.

The requirement to produce an Annual Governance Statement and its content was explained and Members heard that it formed part of the Statement of Accounts.

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 (set out as Appendix 1 to the report) is approved for inclusion in the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2015/16.

145 ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Officer and Chief Internal Auditor regarding the Annual Assurance Statement (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

It was explained that this was distinct from operational assurance and published electronically in a prominent position on the website each year. Members heard that following an enquiry by the Home Office, further action had been taken to ensure prominence. It was asked how many people had viewed the Statement and agreed that this data be provided following the meeting.

The transcript of the current statement was circulated to Members who noted that for transparency the previous as well as the current Statement should and would be published.

RESOLVED

The Standards and Governance Committee noted the action being taken on the Annual Assurance Statement.

146 HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer regarding updates to the health and safety statement of intent (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The purpose of the statement of intent was outlined and changes introduced. The recommendations were agreed on the basis that further clarification was sought on whether responsibility lay with the Chairman of the Authority personally or with the Authority as a whole.

RESOLVED

The Standards and Governance Committee:

- a) Approve the revised Statement of Intent.
- b) Agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Authority that the Statement of Intent (appendix 1 to the report) be approved and be signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Authority.

147 INTERNAL AUDIT PACK

The Committee received a report from the Chief Officer and Chief internal Auditor regarding internal audit (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The reports set out in appendices A to F were presented to the Committee. In particular the significance of the internal auditor's opinion was explained and Members heard that the framework of control continued to be adequate.

RESOLVED

The Standards and Governance Committee:

- Note the progress made towards the internal audit plan
- Accepts the annual opinion 2015/16
- Notes the progress of the management actions