

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Governance Committee

Item

24 March 2010

Internal Audit Strategy - 2010/11 review

Report of the Treasurer

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1 Summary

1.1 The purpose of this report is to review delivery of the current audit strategy and present the proposed 2010/11 internal audit plan to members for information.

2 Recommendation:

2.1 That the Governance Committee endorse the view that the internal audit strategy 2008 to 2013 remains valid.

2.2 That the Governance Committee endorse the view that the internal audit plan for 2010/11 to 2011/13 is in line with the agreed strategy.

3 Background

3.1 The Audit Strategy 2008 to 2013 was approved by the Governance Committee in November 2007, following a fundamental review carried out during the Summer 2007.

3.2 The overall objective of the strategy is to ensure that internal audit resources are efficiently and effectively deployed to meet the requirements for internal audit outlined in:

- CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006 (the Code)
- The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, including 2006 amendments.

3.3 Since the last full review of the audit strategy external challenges have included the recession and changes to inspection regimes. We believe the audit strategy adequately deals with the issues arising from these changes and our experience of delivering the internal audit work, knowledge of the sector and professional developments have not identified a need for revision to the strategy at this stage.

- 3.4 We have made good progress in working towards delivering the revised audit strategy and in our opinion it continues to ensure that internal audit resources are used effectively in providing an appropriate level of assurance for Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority. In addition, the Audit Commission have endorsed our approach following their recent review of our work which concluded that 'Internal Audit meets all the required standards and their work can be relied on'.
- 3.5 Internal audit plans have been prepared each year in line with the approved strategy. The detailed plan for 2010/11 to 2012/13 has been prepared on that basis and is attached at appendix A for information. The plan has been discussed with senior officers and has been approved by the Treasurer.
- 3.6 The 2010/11 audit plan will be monitored throughout the year and changes discussed with senior managers. A report on progress against the plan will be presented to the Governance Committee in November 2010.
- 3.7 The terms of reference for the internal audit service provided to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority were last approved by the Governance Committee in March 2009, following minor revisions. No further changes are proposed at this time.

4 **Resource implications**

Liaison with the Audit Commission

- 4.1 We have had regular liaison meetings with the Audit Commission throughout 2009/10 to discuss national and local audit issues, ensure that duplication is minimised and also that reporting to the Governance Committee is co-ordinated as far as possible. We propose to continue with this arrangement in 2010/11.

Staff input

- 4.2 The 2010/11 plan has been prepared on the basis of assessed audit need and there has been no significant change in the resources required to deliver the assurance work compared to 2009/10.

5 **People Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 An impact assessment has been made on the proposals in the paper and shown that they are not discriminating. They are considered compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

6 **Environmental and Sustainability impact assessment**

- 6.1 Proposals have no environmental or sustainability impacts.

Section 100 D – Local Government Act 1972 – background papers

The following documents disclose 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 this report.

NB the list excludes:

Published works.

Documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

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NONE	
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