

Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact Rachel Musson, Treasurer, on 01743 252007 or Joanne Coadey, Head of Finance, on 01743 260215.

1 Purpose of Report

This report presents the draft version of the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee for consideration and approval by Members, prior to submission to the Fire Authority at its meeting in April.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to approve the draft version of the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee, subject to any amendments / comments that they may wish to make.

3 Background

This is the third Annual Report provided by the Strategy and Resources Committee (the Committee), the requirement for which is incorporated within the 2011/2012 Work Plan. The Report sets out the work carried out by the Committee since March 2011.

It is intended that, when submitted to the Fire Authority, the Annual Report will be in the name of the Chair of the Committee and that he will present it.

4 Constitution and Meetings

The constitution of the Committee was last reviewed by the Committee in May 2011, when Members agreed a number of changes to its Terms of Reference to bring them up-to-date. These changes were agreed by the Fire Authority at its Annual Meeting in July 2011.

The Chair of the Committee is Councillor David Minnery, and the Vice-Chair is Councillor Mrs Joyce Barrow.

Since March 2011 the Committee has met four times: in March, May and November 2011, and January 2012.

5 Training and Development

The following awareness sessions relating to areas covered by the Committee have taken place over the last year:

- Corporate governance
- Corporate risk management

6 Role of the Committee

The principal roles of the Committee are:

- To make recommendations on the strategic direction of the Authority
- To oversee, and recommend strategies relating to the management of the Fire Authority's financial and physical resources
- To monitor budgeting and financial management
- To review the revenue budget and recommend a final budget plan to the Fire Authority each year
- To consider proposals emanating from the Public Value process and make recommendations to the Fire Authority
- To review, and make recommendations on, the Authority's performance targets

For ease of reference this report splits the work carried out by the Committee into four main areas: Corporate and Financial Strategy, Budgeting and Monitoring, Risk and Internal Control, and Asset Management and Strategies.

7 Corporate and Financial Strategy

The Committee has considered reports on the Service Plan and the Medium Term Corporate Plan; and the continuing alignment of corporate financial and strategic risk and service planning, and made recommendations to the Fire Authority. The Committee has also received updates on the Information and Communications Technology Strategy, and recommended the establishment of the ICT Reserve.

8 Budget and Monitoring

The Committee has considered reports quarterly on revenue budget monitoring, including efficiencies, capital, balance sheet items, and prudential guidelines. It has been able to recommend virements, which ensured that resources were redeployed to priority areas without delay.

It has received a number of reports on all aspects of budgeting for 2012/13, and made recommendations to the Fire Authority, taking into account the impact of the second year of the Public Value review. The Committee considered the views and opinions of the public, following the Service's extensive public consultation exercise, prior to recommending a five-year budget package to the Authority.

9 Risk and Internal Control

The Committee has received reports on internal control and the management of risk. It has received the Corporate Risk Management Summary and examined the Corporate Risk Register quarterly.

The Committee has continued to receive regular updates on investments, which is considered to be best practice.

10 Asset Management and Strategies

The Committee has received reports on the use of the investments made in the capital programme through a stewardship report.

11 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

12 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

13 Equality Impact Assessment

This report is purely an update on the work of the Committee since March 2011 to date and it, therefore, has no impact on people. Accordingly, an Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed.

14 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

15 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.