

Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact Keith Dixon, Treasurer, on 01743 260202 or Joanne Coadey, Principal Accountant, 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 second Annual Report provided by the Strategy and Resources Committee (the Committee), the requirement for which is incorporated within the 2010/2011 Work Plan. The report sets out the work carried out by the Committee since March 2010.

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 2010, when Members agreed that its Terms of Reference should remain unchanged. The constitution was also revisited by the Committee in September 2010 for the benefit of any new members appointed to it by the Fire Authority's at its Annual Meeting in July 2010.

The Chair of the Committee is Councillor Nigel Hartin, and the Vice-Chair is Councillor Mrs Joyce Barrow.

Since March 2010 the Committee has met five times: in March, May, September and November 2010, and January 2011.

5 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 and monitor procurement strategies
- 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.

6 Corporate and Financial Strategy

The Committee has considered reports on the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan; and the integration of corporate financial and strategic risk and service planning, and made recommendations to the Fire Authority. The Committee has also considered reports on the work of the Strategic Risk and Planning Working Group, and has recommended to the Authority the schedule and nature of proposed budget cuts for the period 2011 to 2015, following the Public Value 2010 consultation process.

7 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 2011/12, and made recommendations to the Fire Authority, taking into account the impact of the findings of the Public Value review and public consultation in light of the worsening public financial climate, and the need to produce robust and adequate provision to maintain agreed service levels.

8 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.

9 Asset Management and Strategies

The Committee has received reports on the use of the investments made in the capital programme through a stewardship report. It has also considered a Carbon Reduction Strategy.

10 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

11 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

12 Equality Impact Assessment

This report is purely an update on the work of the Committee since March 2010 to date and it, therefore, has no impact on people. Accordingly, an Equality Impact Assessment has not been completed.

13 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

14 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.