

Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 255011 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 fifth Annual Report provided by the Strategy and Resources Committee (the Committee), the requirement for which is incorporated within the 2013/14 Work Plan. The Report sets out the work carried out by the Committee since March 2013.

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 at the Annual Meeting of the Fire Authority in July 2013, when a number of changes to the Terms of Reference were agreed to bring them up-to-date.

The Committee is politically balanced and comprises of seven Members: Councillors Mrs Barrow, Carter, Hartin, Minnery, Miss Reynolds, Thompson and West. Its Chair is Councillor Carter, and its Vice-Chair Councillor Minnery.

Since March 2013 the Committee has met four times: in March, September and November 2013, and February 2014. The June 2013 meeting of the Committee was cancelled at short notice, because it would have been inquorate.

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 proposals emanating from the Integrated Risk Management Planning / 2020 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.

6 Corporate and Financial Strategy

The Committee has considered the Service's current strategic planning processes and the Medium Term Corporate Plan, which will lead to an overarching 2020 Strategy, and has made recommendations to the Fire Authority.

It has also considered the results from Phases 1 and 2 of the Integrated Risk Management Planning 2020 Process, as reported by the Strategic Risk and Planning Group, making recommendations, for which proposals should go forward for full consultation as part of the Fire Authority's IRMP 2015-20 Plan.

7 Budget and Monitoring

The Committee has regularly considered reports on revenue budget monitoring, including prudential guidelines and Treasury Strategy updates. It has been able to recommend virements, which ensured that resources were redeployed to priority areas without delay.

The Committee has also considered the use of general fund balances, following closedown of the 2012/13 financial year.

It has received a number of reports on all aspects of budgeting for 2014/15, and made recommendations to the Fire Authority, taking into account the impact of the fourth year of the Public Value review, Integrated Risk Management Planning Process and the decisions made by the Fire Authority regarding the Service Transformation Programme.

8 Risk and Internal Control

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

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.

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 Initial Impact Assessment

This report is purely an update on the work of the Committee since March 2013 to date. An Initial Impact Assessment is not, therefore, required.

13 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

14 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.