

# Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee

## Report of the Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee

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 Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee for the period March 2011 to March 2012.

### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to note the Annual Report of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

### 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.

### 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 (ICT) 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.