

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 Sharon Lloyd, Corporate Services Manager, on 01743 260210.

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

The Strategy and Resources Committee (the Committee) has not previously provided an Annual Report but, when the Committee agreed its 2009 / 2010 Work Plan, this action was included for March 2010. Accordingly, this report sets out the work carried out by the Committee since March 2009.

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 the Report.

4 Constitution and Meetings

The constitution of the Committee was last reviewed by the Committee in May 2009, when Members agreed to include more specific responsibilities, which mirrored, to a large extent, the actions set out in the Committee's Work Plan. These changes were agreed by the Fire Authority at its Annual Meeting in July 2009.

The Chair of the Committee is Councillor David Minnery, who is also Vice-Chair of the Fire Authority and Asset and Procurement Champion. The Vice-Chair of the Committee is Councillor Keith Roberts.

Since March 2009 the Committee has met five times: in March, May, September and November 2009, and January 2010.

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 received 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 anticipates that channelling the work of the newly formed Strategic Risk and Planning Working Group into its consideration of future recommendations will enhance the integration of planning during a difficult period.

7 Budget and Monitoring

The Committee has received 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 2010/11, and made recommendations to the Fire Authority, taking into account the impact of public consultation, the impact 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 Survey and examined the Corporate Risk Register.

It has confirmed the main principles of Treasury Management practices (now delegated to the Audit and Performance Management Committee) and received regular updates on investments, following the Icelandic banking collapse.

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 2009 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.

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Area Assessment		Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings		Retained	
Environmental		Risk and Insurance	*
Financial	*	Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Strategic Planning	*
Information Communications and Technology		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	*