

AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

9 July 2014

Present:

Councillors Dyke (vice Horsfall), Edmunds, Radford and Woodman (vice Healey).

Apologies:

Councillors Ball, Healey, Horsfall and Way.

Also in attendance:

Peter Barber, Grant Thornton

***APRC/1. Election of Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Radford be elected Chair of the Committee until its first meeting following the Authority Annual Meeting in 2015.

***APRC/2. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2014 be signed as a correct record.

***APRC/3. Election of Vice Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Edmunds be elected Vice-Chair of the Committee until its first meeting following the Authority Annual Meeting in 2015.

***APRC/4. External Audit Plan 2014/15**

(Peter Barber, Grant Thornton, in attendance for this item).

The Committee considered a copy of Plan setting out work to be undertaken by the Authority's external auditor, Grant Thornton, during the forthcoming financial year. The work would feature, amongst other things, the audit of the Authority's Statement of Accounts for the 2013-14 financial year and the issuing of a Value for Money conclusion for that year.

In introducing the document, Peter Barber (Grant Thornton) identified that consideration would be given to the ability of Authority to address developments in the sector and that the work would comply with the national audit requirements of the Code of Audit Practice and associated guidance. The document also set out the result of interim, preparatory audit work recently undertaken.

RESOLVED that the plan of external audit work proposed for the Authority in 2014-15, as identified in the document submitted by Grant Thornton, be approved.

***APRC/5. 2013-14 Draft Annual Statement of Assurance**

The Committee considered a report of the Audit and Review Manager (APRC/14/4) to which was appended the draft 2013-14 Annual Statement of Assurance. This document was both backwards and forwards looking, identifying issues from the 2013-14 financial year in terms of financial assurance, governance and operational assurance and identifying areas to be addressed during the forthcoming twelve months.

The document had been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and the current iteration of the Fire and Rescue National Framework. The document also reflected guidance issued by Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society for Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) on effective corporate governance.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Authority draft Annual Statement of Assurance 2013-14, prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations and the Fire & Rescue Service National Framework and as appended to report APRC/14/4 be approved in principle;
- (b) that the Statement be submitted as part of the audit process for the 2013-14 Statement of Accounts and a further report submitted to the September 2014 meeting seeking approval to the final Statement, subject to incorporation of any issues identified during the audit process.

***APRC/6. Draft Statement of Accounts 2013-14**

The Committee received for information a report of the Treasurer (APRC/14/5) to which was appended, in the format required by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the Authority's Statement of Accounts for 2013-14.

The Treasurer drew particular attention as part of a presentation at the meeting to the following four key statements within the accounts:

- the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES);
- the Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS);
- the Balance Sheet; and
- the Cash Flow Statement

each of which was expanded on in the report.

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 required the draft Statement of Accounts to be prepared and certified by the Chief Finance Officer as a true and fair record by 30 June each year; and formally be approved by the Authority, following audit, by 30 September each year.

The 2013-14 accounts were presented to the Committee at this stage as a matter of good practice and would be submitted for formal approval, following audit, at the meeting scheduled for 24 September 2014.

*** DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.31am.