



DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

M. Pearson
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

To: The Chair and Members of the Audit &
Governance Committee

(see below)

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Your ref :
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Website : www.dsfire.gov.uk

Date: 25 February 2022
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AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
(Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority)

Monday, 7th March, 2022

A meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee will be held on the above date, **commencing at 10.00 am in The Committee Rooms, Somerset House, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters** to consider the following matters.

M. Pearson
Clerk to the Authority

A G E N D A

PLEASE REFER TO THE NOTES AT THE END OF THE AGENDA LISTING SHEETS

1 Apologies

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

of the previous meeting held on 28 October 2021 attached.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

PART 1 - OPEN COMMITTEE

4 Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority External Audit:

a External Auditor's Annual Report 2020-21 (Pages 5 - 30)

Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice, the Authority's external auditor, Grant Thornton, is required to consider whether the Authority has put into place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The auditor is no longer required to give a qualified/unqualified opinion on the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion but instead provides a more detailed view of overall arrangements in an Annual Report.

The report categorises the Authority's arrangements under specific criteria, namely:

- Financial sustainability;
- Governance; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

The external auditor's Annual Report, including their opinion measured against the above criteria, is attached FOR INFORMATION.

b Value for Money (VFM) Extension Letter (Pages 31 - 32)

The VFM extension letter is attached FOR INFORMATION.

c Informing the Risk Assessment for Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority (Pages 33 - 68)

The purpose of this report attached and submitted by the external auditor, Grant Thornton, is to contribute towards the effective two-way communication between Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority's (the Authority) external auditors and the Authority's Audit and Governance Committee, as 'those charged with governance'.

The report covers some important areas of the auditor risk assessment where the external auditor is required to make inquiries of the Audit and Governance Committee under auditing standards and is submitted FOR INFORMATION..

5 2022-23 Internal Audit Plan (Pages 69 - 72)

Report of the Director of Governance & Digital Services (AGC/22/1) attached.

6 Internal Audit Progress Report 2021-22: Quarter 3 (Pages 73 - 84)

Report of the Director of Governance & Digital Services (AGC/22/2) attached.

7 Corporate Risk Register (Pages 85 - 98)

Report of the Director of Governance & Digital Services (AGC/22/3) attached.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership:-

Councillors Healey MBE (Chair), Brazil, Dr. Buchan, Napper, Parker-Khan, Prowse (Vice-Chair), Roome and Shayer

NOTES

1. **Access to Information**

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact the person listed in the “Please ask for” section at the top of this agenda.

2. **Reporting of Meetings**

Any person attending a meeting may report (film, photograph or make an audio recording) on any part of the meeting which is open to the public – unless there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair - and use any communication method, including the internet and social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.), to publish, post or otherwise share the report. The Authority accepts no liability for the content or accuracy of any such report, which should not be construed as representing the official, Authority record of the meeting. Similarly, any views expressed in such reports should not be interpreted as representing the views of the Authority.

Flash photography is not permitted and any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

3. **Declarations of Interests at meetings (Authority Members only)**

If you are present at a meeting and you are aware that you have either a disclosable pecuniary interest, personal interest or non-registerable interest in any matter being considered or to be considered at the meeting then, unless you have a current and relevant dispensation in relation to the matter, you must:

- (i) disclose at that meeting, by no later than commencement of consideration of the item in which you have the interest or, if later, the time at which the interest becomes apparent to you, the existence of and – for anything other than a “sensitive” interest – the nature of that interest; and then
- (ii) withdraw from the room or chamber during consideration of the item in which you have the relevant interest.

If the interest is sensitive (as agreed with the Monitoring Officer), you need not disclose the nature of the interest but merely that you have an interest of a sensitive nature. You must still follow (i) and (ii) above.

Where a dispensation has been granted to you either by the Authority or its Monitoring Officer in relation to any relevant interest, then you must act in accordance with any terms and conditions associated with that dispensation.

Where you declare at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary or personal interest that you have not previously included in your Register of Interests then you must, within 28 days of the date of the meeting at which the declaration was made, ensure that your Register is updated to include details of the interest so declared.

	NOTES (Continued)
4.	<p><u>Part 2 Reports</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that any Part 2 reports as circulated with the agenda for this meeting contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Committee Secretary at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.</p>
5.	<p><u>Substitute Members (Committee Meetings only)</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Clerk (or his representative) must be advised of any substitution prior to the start of the meeting. Members are also reminded that substitutions are not permitted for full Authority meetings.</p>
6.	<p><u>Other Attendance at Committees)</u></p> <p>Any Authority Member wishing to attend, in accordance with Standing Orders, a meeting of a Committee of which they are not a Member should contact the Democratic Services Officer (see “please ask for” on the front page of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.</p>