



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 08

MEETING	Finance and Audit Committee
DATE OF MEETING	6 th July 2016
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Internal Audit Annual Report
STATUS OF REPORT	For open publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	To consider and note
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This report summarises the work of Internal Audit for 2015/16 and provides a positive opinion on the framework of risk management, governance and internal control based on the internal work undertaken during the year. The report presents both the South West Audit Partnership Ltd (SWAP) annual report and opinion for 2015/16 as Appendix A and Swindon Borough Councils (SBC) annual report and opinion for 2015/15 as Appendix B. The outcome of the audits complete in 2015/16 will support the delivery of the final Annual Governance Statements for both former authorities.
RISK ASSESSMENT	The report contains a summary of the outcomes from Internal Audit work completed during the period. Although weaknesses have been identified, none of these are judged to represent a significant risk to the Authority's control environment.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None for the purposes of this report
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None for the purposes of this report
RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that the Committee note the completion of the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16 for both Dorset Fire and Rescue Service and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and the outcomes of the work completed.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
APPENDICES	Appendix A : SWAP Annual Report and Opinion 2015/16 Appendix B: SBC Annual Report and Opinion 2015/16

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1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 the former Dorset Fire Authority and Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority were required to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.
- 1.2 The guidance accompanying the Regulations recognises the "CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom 2006" as representing "proper internal audit practices". The Code defines the way in which the internal audit service should be established and undertake its functions.

2. Role of internal audit

- 2.1 The Internal Audit service for the Dorset Fire & Rescue Service was provided by the South West Audit Partnership (SWAP). Swindon Borough Council (SBC) provided this service for Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. SWAP and SBC's work is completed to comply with the International Professional Practices Framework of the Institute of Internal Auditors, further guided by interpretation provided by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in England & Wales.
- 2.2 One of the key requirements is that Head of Internal Audit should prepare a formal annual report and make arrangements for interim reporting during the course of the year to provide the Committee with an awareness of significant issues that are emerging from internal audit work. The reports include a full list of completed audits, together with their corresponding "assurance" rating.
- 2.3 The CIPFA Code also requires that an opinion is given on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control environment from the work undertaken by the Service. It also places a further specific requirement that the report must draw attention to any issues judged relevant for consideration in the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The conclusion from both Heads of Internal Audit, from the reviews undertaken and completed in 2015/16, is that adequate controls have been established and are operating satisfactorily. The work completed has not identified any matters that should be considered for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16.