

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

Director of Legal & Governance, Graham Britten  
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**Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive**  
Mark Jones

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To: The Members of the Overview and Audit Committee

24 November 2014

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND AUDIT COMMITTEE** of the **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY** to be held in Meeting Room 1, Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Stocklake, Aylesbury on **WEDNESDAY 3 December 2014 at 10.00 am** when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully



Graham Britten  
Director of Legal and Governance

Chairman: Councillor Watson  
Councillors: Bendyshe-Brown, Chilver, Exon, Glover, Huxley, Mallen, Vigor-Hedderly, and Wilson

# **OVERVIEW AND AUDIT COMMITTEE**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Overview**

1. To review current and emerging organisational issues and make recommendations to the Executive Committee as appropriate.
2. To comment upon proposed new policies and make recommendations to the Executive Committee as appropriate.
3. To review issues referred by the Authority and its other bodies and make recommendations to those bodies as appropriate.
4. To make recommendations to the Executive Committee on:
  - (a) the Electronic Services Delivery Plan;
  - (b) the Brigade Personnel Strategy;
  - (c) Levels of Incident Response;
  - (d) the Corporate Risk Management Policy;
  - (e) the Authority's Information Policy; andother such policies and procedures as are required from time to time

### **Audit**

1. To determine the internal and external audit plans and the Internal Audit Strategy
2. To determine the Internal Audit Annual Plan and Annual Report (including a summary of internal audit activity and the level of assurance it can give over the Authority's governance arrangements).
3. To consider and make recommendations on action plans arising from internal and external audit reports, including arrangements to ensure that processes which deliver value for money are maintained and developed.
4. To consider and make recommendations to the Executive Committee on reports dealing with the management and performance of the providers of internal audit services.
5. To consider and make recommendations on the external auditor's Annual Audit Letter and Action Plan, relevant reports and the report to those charged with governance.
6. To consider specific reports as agreed with the Treasurer, Internal Audit, Monitoring Officer, Chief Fire Officer, or external audit and to make decisions as appropriate.
7. To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
8. To oversee investigations arising out of fraud and corruption allegations.
9. To determine Insurance matters not delegated to officers, or another committee.
10. To consider and determine as appropriate such other matters as are required in legislation or guidance to be within the proper remit of this Committee.



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## **Governance**

1. To:
  - (a) make recommendations to the Authority in respect of:
    - (i) variations to Financial Regulations; and
    - (ii) variations to Contract Standing Orders.
  - (b) receive a report from the Chief Finance Officer/Treasurer when there has been any variation to the Financial Instructions in the preceding twelve month period.
2. To determine the following issues:
  - (a) the Authority's Anti-Money Laundering Policy;
  - (b) the Authority's Whistleblowing Policy; and
  - (c) the Authority's Anti Fraud and Corruption Policy.
3. To determine the Statement of Accounts and the Authority's Annual Governance Statement. Specifically, to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Authority.
4. To consider the Authority's arrangements for corporate governance and make recommendations to ensure compliance with best practice.
5. To monitor the Authority's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.
6. To maintain and promote high standards of conduct by the Members and co-opted members of the Authority.
7. To assist Members and co-opted members of the Authority to observe the Authority's Code of Conduct.
8. To advise the Authority on the adoption or revision of a code of conduct.
9. To monitor the operation of the Authority's Code of Conduct
10. To deal with cases referred by the Monitoring Officer.
11. To advise on training, or arranging to train Members and co-opted members of the Authority on matters relating to the Authority's Code of Conduct.
12. To monitor the operation of any registers of interest, of disclosures of interests and disclosures of gifts and hospitality in respect of officers or Members

## **Risk**

1. To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance within the Authority.
2. To consider reports dealing with the management of risk across the organisation, identifying the key risks facing the Authority and seeking assurance of appropriate management action.

## Employees

1. To be a sounding board to help the Authority promote and maintain high standards of conduct by employees of the Authority.
2. To advise the Executive Committee on the adoption or revision of any policies, codes or guidance:
  - (a) regulating working relationships between members and co-opted members of the Authority and the employees of the Authority;
  - (b) governing the conduct of employees of the Authority; or
  - (c) relating to complaints; andother such policies and procedures as are required from time to time.
3. To monitor the operation of any such policies, codes or guidance mentioned at 2 above.
4. To comment on the training arrangements in connection with any of the above.

## General

1. To make such other recommendations to the Executive Committee on the issues within the remit of the Overview and Audit Committee as required.
2. To review any issue referred to it by the Chief Fire Officer, Treasurer, or Monitoring Officer, or any Authority body within the remit of these terms of reference.
3. To consider such other matters as are required in legislation or guidance to be within the proper remit of this Committee.
4. To commission reports from the Chief Fire Officer, the Internal Audit Service, the Monitoring Officer, or such other officer as is appropriate, when the Committee agrees that such reports are necessary.
5. To support the Monitoring Officer and the Treasurer in their statutory roles and in the issue of any guidance by them.
6. To receiving reports from the Monitoring Officer in his/her statutory role or otherwise relating to ethical standards and deciding action as appropriate.
7. To respond to consultation on probity and the ethical standards of public authorities.

## **AGENDA**

### **Item No:**

**1. Apologies**

**2. Minutes**

To approve, and sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24 September 2014. **(Pages 7 - 12)**

**3. Disclosure of Interest**

Members are to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in any matter being considered which are not entered onto the Authority's Register, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

**4. Questions**

To receive questions in accordance with Standing Order S0A7

**5. Corporate Risk Management**

To consider Item 5 **(Pages 13 - 24)**

**6. Internal Audit Reports**

**(a) Internal Audit Report; Update of progress of the Annual Audit Plan (Pages 25 - 28)**

To consider Item 6(a)

**(b) Internal Audit Report (Pages 29 - 40)**

To consider Item 6(b)

**(c) Internal Audit Report: Update of progress of Audit Recommendations (Pages 41 - 44)**

To consider Item 6(c)

**7. Annual Audit Letter**

To consider Item 7 **(Pages 45 - 58)**

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

To note that the next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 11 March 2014 at 10.00am.

If you have any enquiries about this agenda please contact: Katie Nellist (Democratic Services Officer) – Tel: (01296) 744633 email: [knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk](mailto:knellist@bucksfire.gov.uk)

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