

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

### INTERNAL AUDIT

#### 1 Purpose of Report

This report highlights the progress made on recommendations arising from the Fire Authority's internal audit for 2004/05, and also confirms the completion of the outstanding Risk Management element of the audit.

#### 2 Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the progress made on issues raised as a result of the 2004/05 internal audit; and
- b) Note that the outstanding Risk Management audit has now been completed.

#### 3 Background

The Performance Management Committee received a report at its inaugural meeting on 9 January 2006, which detailed the Fire Authority's current strategy for delivering Internal Audit. Matters arising from the audit for 2004/05 were reported, and it was agreed that progress would be reported back to the Committee for information.

The report also noted that the Risk Management element of the 2004/05 audit was outstanding. This audit has now been completed, and the outcomes are covered in a separate report on today's agenda.

#### 4 Matters Arising from 2004/05 Audit

Of the fifty four recommendations made as a result of the audit, three were considered to be fundamental:

a) **Inconsistencies in records relating to sickness absence recording and reporting**

Following a review of the report issued by Internal Audit officers, all of the queries contained within the report have been resolved. Procedures have been put in place to ensure that all sickness absence is recorded properly and consistently, and copies of sickness reports will be available to assist future audit reviews.



- b) **Maintenance and annual review of up-to-date manpower lists**  
Manpower lists were sent to line managers in December to ensure that payroll payments were being made to genuine employees. In addition, it is proposed that up-to-date manpower lists are sent to managers twice yearly from April 2006.
- c) **Information Technology, in particular continuity planning arrangements**  
Departmental service continuity plans are currently being developed by officers to ensure the delivery of support to operational personnel.

## **5 Internal Audit 2005/06**

Officers from Internal Audit have carried out a number of the reviews contained within the risk based audit plan for 2005/06, with the remainder to be completed in March. A report detailing any recommendations made following the audit will be brought to the Performance Management Committee.

## **6 Legal Comment**

The Authority has discretion in its management arrangements for internal audit but the function is required under Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **7 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **8 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

## **9 Appendices**

There are no appendices attached to this report.

## **10 Background Papers**

### **Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority**

Performance Management Committee Inaugural Meeting 9 January 2006, Report 9 Internal Audit, and Minutes

For further information about this report please contact Keith Dixon, Treasurer, on 01743 260202.

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