

Report of the Chair of Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on the 14th April 2014 and 6 members attended.

The Chair of the Fire Authority attended as an observer.

Some of the papers that will be presented to the Fire Authority on the 25th April 2014 were reviewed. This note summarises the main points. My report should be read in conjunction with the draft minutes of the Committee which contain more detail.

Mr John Jepson has decided to retire from the committee in April 2014 rather than stay on until September. John was thanked for his work with the various committees he has been associated with over many years.

The Committee met with the Chair of the Fire Authority prior to the GAS Committee meeting. The meeting had been requested by the GAS committee previously with the aim of discussing the role of the Committee and to obtain feedback.

The Chair explained some of the views of the elected members and the background to the current Governance structure. The aim, subject to approval, in the future, was to change the scrutiny role into one where the committee would take a "project" and review the original assumptions, implementation and also whether the project achieved its objectives. While this was not approved at the last HFA, some revisions will be proposed at the next HFA meeting, although these were not discussed.

It became apparent during the GAS Committee meeting that this new scrutiny role was also to be carried out by the new internal auditing company and so some co-ordination will be required

The Chair said that he had found the meeting useful and believed that meetings between the Chair and the Committee should be held in the future.

The Committee welcomed the new internal auditors and their proposed outcome driven process and believe that the topics chosen are appropriate. There is a proviso that a topic could be changed if deemed to be appropriate during the year.

DGH
17 April 2014

