

Minutes

Audit Committee

Date: 30 July 2021

Time: 10.30 am

Venue: Fire and Rescue Headquarters, Birkenshaw

Present: Councillor K Renshaw (in the Chair), R Downes, P Harrand (as substitute for Councillor D Hall), J Illingworth, S Nazir (from item 7 Min no. 7 refers) and S Tulley

In Attendance: Simon Straker – Kirklees MC (internal audit)

Apologies: Councillor Hall

1 Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2021 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 Matters arising

3 Urgent items

None.

4 Admission of the public

There were no items which required the exclusion of the public and press.

5 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest made in any matter under consideration at the meeting.

6 Internal Audit quarterly report

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted a report which presented the internal audit activity for the period April to June 2021.

It was reported that four audits had been completed as follows;

- Mobile devices - procurement – adequate assurance
- Pensions administration – substantial assurance
- Implementation of Grenfell Inquiry phase 1 recommendations – substantial assurance
- Implementation of HMICFRS inspection recommendations – substantial assurance

Members were advised that the Stores audit, together with those for implementation of HR rostering systems and faulty respiratory personal protection equipment risk audits were in progress and on schedule for completion by the end of March 2022.

Members sought and received further clarification on the following issues;

- confirmation of receipt of credit in respect of 80 days of audit work not completed due to the pandemic
- security issues surrounding Access databases – to be pursued by Officers (although that specific software was not used to a great extent at West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service), and
- recommendations from Phase 2 of the Grenfell inquiry were not anticipated before 2022 and the buildings risk review across the County was on target for completion in December 2021

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7 Risk Management Strategy Group - update

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Service Delivery which advised of the risk management activity and developments reported to the Risk Management Strategy Group in June 2021.

Members were informed that, in addition to the COVID19 standard quarterly review, 29 risks had been reviewed by their respective owners – six of which had been identified to be in the 'very high' category relating to;

- Loss or reduction in government grant
- Wide area flooding and swift water rescue
- Responding to a marauding terrorist firearms attack
- Inability to continue / deliver duty systems

- Temporary loss of personnel (eg. flu, industrial action) resulting in reduced levels of service, and
- A digital attack or unauthorised attempt to access West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service systems

Members were reminded that the Coronavirus COVID 19 risk was reviewed every three months and the risk relating to negligent fire safety work had decreased from high to medium.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair