

Minutes

Audit Committee

Date: 27 January 2023

Time: 10;30

Venue: FSHQ

Present: Cllrs Renshaw (in the chair), Illingworth, Ahmed (as substitute for Cllr Downes) and Hall

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

Apologies: Cllrs Downes, Tulley and Zaman

20 Minutes of last meeting held on 21 October 2022

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2022 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

21 Matters arising

None

22 Urgent items

There were no urgent items

23 Admission of the public

There were no items that required the exclusion of the press and public

24 Declarations of interest

None

25 Abridged Performance Management Report

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Corporate Services which informed members of the Authority's performance against Key Performance Indicators where targets are not being achieved during the period 1 April - 30 September 2022.

Members were reassured that total activity and arson figures were high due to the unprecedented hot weather experienced over the summer but were now returning to amber and expected to return to green by year end.

Members queried why similar reports go to Community Safety and Full Authority Committees and it was emphasised that this report is for scrutiny of targets not being met and to ensure actions are followed.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

26 Risk Management Strategy Group Quarterly Update

Members were presented with a report from the Director of Corporate Services giving details of the risk management activity and developments reported to Risk Management Strategy Group (RMSG) in September and December 2022 and highlighting any future risks or risk related areas.

In the period considered, 25 risks have been reviewed and Members were given a summary of the key areas as follows;

- The risk relating to the Headquarters development costs has been removed
- The risk relating to pay increases in excess of the amount included in contingencies score has increased from 12 to 16.
- The risk relating to the impact on the Authority of the national and international economic downturn score has increased from 9 to 16.
- The risk relating to industrial dispute resulting in reduced levels of service and effect on reputation score has increased from 16 to 20
- The risk relating to the inability to continue/deliver duty systems has decreased from 16 to 12.

Members were advised that all risks scoring 6 or less were reviewed based on the fact that the risks had not occurred in the past 3 years and/or they had an 'unlikely' likelihood rating. Out of 33 risks it was agreed that 10 risks could be removed and archived. These 10 risks would be reviewed again in 12 months.

Members asked for clarification of the processes in place to review such archived items.

Further information was provided to members on their request, on the recent evacuation of the large student accommodation building in Leeds City Centre and the services ability to fund the expected strike action and pay settlement.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

27 Internal Audit Quarterly Report

The Chief Finance and Procurement Officer submitted a report which provided a summary of the audit activity for the period October to December 2022. Members were informed that in the period three audits have been completed, Accounts Payable, Inventories and Attendance Management, all of which received Substantial Assurance.

Members were further informed that there are also three audits in progress, Overtime Payments, Asset Disposal and Corporate Governance which will be reported to the next Committee, along with the National Fraud Initiative Exception Reports and the outcome of the recent audit of Kirklees Metropolitan Council Audit Department.

Members asked and were provided with further information on the work ongoing nationally regarding medical risks to firefighters. Members appreciated the pro active work undertaken by WYFRS to mitigate any such risks.

Finally, members challenged the costs associated with sickness absence, mentioned in the Internal Audit Report.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair