

AUDIT AND VFM SCRUTINY PANEL

Functions of the Authority

- 1) To act as the Authority's Audit Committee;**
- 2) To ensure that the Authority provides value for money in all its work.**

Terms of Reference (within a planned forward programme of work)

1. Scrutinise reports referred from the Authority or any of its Committees in relation to Value for Money issues;
2. Receive reports on complaints and compliments and refer any issues to the relevant Scrutiny Panel for scrutiny of any recommendations to ensure improved outcomes for the community;
3. Scrutinise relevant qualitative and quantitative performance indicators;
4. Refer to the Fire Authority any matter which following scrutiny should be brought to the attention of the Authority;
5. If requested, offer any views or advice to the Strategic Assets Committee on any matter;
6. Receive reports from the Treasurer and where appropriate, the Monitoring Officer, on the efficiency and effectiveness of internal control processes, including probity and to receive Internal Audit reports in this respect;
7. To ensure that an effective interface is in place with external accreditation bodies;
8. Liaise with the Audit Commission over the appointment of the external auditor;
9. Comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and ensure it gives value for money;
10. Commission work and receive reports from external and internal auditors;
11. To consider in detail the recommendations of the external auditor's annual letter and other relevant audit reports;
12. Agree the annual internal audit programme, to receive reports and monitor against agreed progress;
13. Consider the summary of internal audit activity and the level of assurance it can give to the Authority's corporate governance arrangements;
14. In performing its role the Panel may wish to consult and involve the local community and other local public, private and voluntary bodies or organisations/stakeholders.