

Public Document Pack

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 28 January 2020 in Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood commencing at 10.00 am.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES REGARDING THE AGENDA PAPERS OR REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE INITIALLY CONTACT DIANE BROOKS ON TELEPHONE NUMBER PRESTON (01772) 866720 AND SHE WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST.

AGENDA

PART 1 (open to press and public)

Chairman's Announcement – Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Any persons present at the meeting may photograph, film or record the proceedings, during the public part of the agenda. Any member of the press and public who objects to being photographed, filmed or recorded should let it be known to the Chairman who will then instruct that those persons are not photographed, filmed or recorded.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Members are asked to consider any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)

4. EXTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE 2019/20 (Pages 5 - 20)

5. INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING REPORT 2019/20 (Pages 21 - 30)

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Pages 31 - 50)

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting of the Committee has been agreed for 10:00 hours on 31 March 2020 in the Main Conference Room, at Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

Further meetings are scheduled for either 21st or 28th July 2020 and 29 September 2020.

8. URGENT BUSINESS

An item of business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Clerk should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee is asked to consider whether, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, they consider that the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, indicated under the heading to the item.

PART 2

10. URGENT BUSINESS (PART 2)

An item of business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Clerk should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 September 2019, at 10.00 am in the Main Conference Room, Service Headquarters, Fulwood.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Councillors

S Clarke
S Holgate
A Kay
M Khan OBE
M Parkinson OBE (for N Hennessy)
J Shedwick (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
D Smith

Officers

B Norman, Assistant Chief Fire Officer (LFRS)
K Mattinson, Director of Corporate Services (LFRS)
D Brooks, Principal Member Services Officer (LFRS)

In attendance

R Tembo, External Audit, Grant Thornton
J Taylor, Internal Audit, Lancashire County Council

13/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor N Hennessy.

14/19 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None received.

15/19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: - That the Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16/19 EXTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

The External Auditor's Annual Audit Letter represented an overall assessment of the Authority's performance, drawing on the Auditor's findings and conclusions from their work, which had previously been reported to the Audit Committee.

Members considered the Annual Audit Letter which summarised Grant Thornton's 2018/19 audit of the Authority as presented by Richard Tembo.

The Auditors had issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2018/19 accounts on 30 July 2019. The External Auditors were satisfied that the Authority put in place proper arrangements to ensure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Authority received a positive assessment by the Fire Inspectorate this year and continued to have appropriate arrangements in place to manage its financial position. It was noted that the External Auditor's fee of £28,169 was £4,500 higher than that included in the Audit Plan of £23,639 and £2,500 higher than that included in the Annual Finding Report with the reasoning set out on page 10 of the Annual Audit Letter. The Director of Corporate Services advised that this was a topic for discussion on the next Lancashire Financial Officers meeting however, the increase was consistent with similar audited bodies and ultimately required Public Sector Audit Appointments approval before final agreement.

RESOLVED:- That the Audit Committee noted and endorsed the content of the Annual Audit letter 2018/19.

17/19 INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING REPORT

The Internal Auditors produced a summary of progress against the annual plan for each Audit Committee meeting, setting out progress to date and any significant findings. The report for the period from 1 April 2019 to 6 September 2019 was presented by Judith Taylor. It was noted that work carried out during this period was in accordance with the agreed audit plan.

The report identified that 16.5 days had been spent this financial year on the 2019/20 plan which equated to 24% of the totalled planned activity of 70 days. Consistent with previous years, the audit programme was scheduled for completion during the second half of the financial year.

Progress to date in relation of the plan was provided and discussed by Members. It was noted that the Local Pensions Partnership had appointed Deloitte as its internal auditor and in relation to their pensions administration audit (which included the calculations and payment of retirement benefit and lump sum calculations in relation to the firefighter pension schemes) Deloitte provided an overall engagement risk rating of ineffective, which was defined as 'risk mitigation or control absent or ineffective'. The Director of Corporate Services had a meeting scheduled with the Head of the Pension Fund to discuss the matter further to review this.

RESOLVED: - That the Committee noted and endorsed the report.

18/19 RISK MANAGEMENT

The report highlighted action taken in respect of corporate risk since the last Audit Committee meeting. The latest review of the corporate risk register had identified one new risk which warranted inclusion on the corporate risk register which was the discontinued or long term malfunction in the Key Performance Management

software product (CORVU).

An updated corporate risk register was considered by Members with changes summarised in the report.

RESOLVED: - That the Audit Committee noted the actions taken and endorsed the revised corporate risk register.

19/19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 28 January 2020 at 10:00 hours in the Main Conference Room at Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Fulwood. A further meeting date was noted for 31 March 2020.

To allow for any potential timing difficulties for the audit of the accounts, it was agreed to keep both 21 July and 28 July 2020 dates in the diary for the July meeting and the September date was agreed as 29 September 2020.

M NOLAN
Clerk to CFA

LFRS HQ
Fulwood

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 28 January 2020

EXTERNAL AUDIT - AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT AND SECTOR UPDATE (Appendix 1 Refers)

Contact for further information:

Keith Mattinson - Director of Corporate Services - Telephone 01772 866804.

Executive Summary

Attached as appendix 1 is an Audit Progress and Sector Update report produced by Grant Thornton, our external auditors

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note and endorse the report.

Information

Attached as Appendix 1 is an Audit Progress and Sector Update report produced by the Grant Thornton, our external auditors which will be presented by the Engagement Lead.

The report sets out the following:-

- Progress at January 2020 – in relation to the financial statements and value for money conclusion for 2019/20;
- Audit Deliverables – which sets out what the auditors will do and their planned completion date;
- Sector Update – which provides an up to date summary of emerging national issues and developments to support the Authority/Committee. This covers areas which may have an impact on the organisation; they are not specific issues relating to this Authority. Members may wish to consider if they would like further information on any of these.

Financial Implications

None

Human Resource Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Environmental Impact

None

Business Risk Implications

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
Year ending 31 March 2020

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Introduction



Robin Baker

Engagement Lead

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This paper provides the Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditors.

The paper also includes:

- a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to you as a fire authority; and
- includes a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues which the Committee may wish to consider (these are a tool to use, if helpful, rather than formal questions requiring responses for audit purposes)



Andy Ayre

Engagement Manager

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Members of the Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website, where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications www.grantthornton.co.uk ..

If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, or would like to register with Grant Thornton to receive regular email updates on issues that are of interest to you, please contact either your Engagement Lead or Engagement Manager.

Progress at January 2020

Financial Statements Audit

We issued our opinion on your 2018/19 Statement of Accounts on 30 July 2019. We also issued our VFM conclusion and certified completion of the audit on 30 July 2019.

We are currently planning the 2019/20 audit and will issue a detailed audit plan, setting out our proposed approach to the audit of the Authority's 2019/20 financial statements. Our intention is to present the audit plan to the March meeting of the committee.

We will begin our interim audit in March 2020. Our interim fieldwork includes:

- Updated review of the Authority's control environment
- Updated understanding of financial systems
- Review of Internal Audit reports on core financial systems
- Early work on emerging accounting issues
- Early substantive testing

We will report our work in the Audit Findings Report and aim to give our opinion on the Statement of Accounts by 31 July 2020.

Value for Money

The scope of our work is set out in the guidance issued by the National Audit Office. The Code requires auditors to satisfy themselves that; "the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources".

The guidance confirmed the overall criterion as: "in all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people".

The three sub criteria for assessment to be able to give a conclusion overall are:

- Informed decision making
- Sustainable resource deployment
- Working with partners and other third parties

Details of our initial risk assessment to determine our approach will be included in our Audit Plan.

We will report our work in the Audit Findings Report and aim to give our Value For Money Conclusion by 31 July 2020.

The NAO is consulting on a new Code of Audit Practice from 2020 which proposes to make significant changes to Value for Money work. Please see page 9 for more details.

Progress at January 2020 (Cont.)

Other areas

Meetings

We met with the Director of Corporate Services in December 2019 as part of our regular liaison meetings and continue to be in discussions with finance staff regarding emerging developments and to ensure the audit process is smooth and effective. Going forward we will continue to meet with key officers..

Events

We provide a range of workshops, along with network events and publications to support the Authority. Your officers will be invited to our Financial Reporting Workshop in February, which will help to ensure that members of your Finance Team are up to date with the latest financial reporting requirements for local authority accounts.

Further details of the publications that may be of interest to the Authority are set out in our Sector Update section of this report.

New Engagement Manager

We are pleased to confirm that Andy Ayre will be your new Audit Manager going forward. Andy is an experienced Audit Manager

State of Fire report

HMICFRS has this week issued its first State of Fire report. We are currently in the process of reviewing the findings and recommendations from the report and will consider the implications for our audit of fire services going forward.

Audit Fees

During 2017 PSAA awarded contracts for audit for a five year period beginning on 1 April 2018. 2019/20 is the second year of that contract. Since that time, there have been a number of developments within the accounting and audit profession. Across all sectors and firms, the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) has set out its expectation of improved financial reporting from organisations and the need for auditors to demonstrate increased scepticism and challenge and to undertake additional and more robust testing.

Our work in the Local Government sector in 2018/19 has highlighted areas where financial reporting, in particular the valuation of Property, plant and equipment and pensions, needs to improve. There is also an increase in the complexity of Local Government financial transactions and financial reporting. This combined with the FRC requirement that all Local Government audits are at or above the “few improvements needed” (2A) rating means that additional audit work is required.

We are currently reviewing the impact of these changes on both the cost and timing of audits. We will discuss this with your s151 Officer including any proposed variations to the Scale Fee set by PSAA Limited, before communicating fully with the Committee.

As a firm, we are absolutely committed to meeting the expectations of the FRC with regard to audit quality and local government financial reporting.

Audit Deliverables

2018/19 Deliverables	Planned Date	Status
Audit Findings Report The Audit Findings Report was reported to the July Audit Committee.	July 2019	Complete
Auditors Report This is the opinion on your financial statement, annual governance statement and value for money conclusion.	July 2019	Complete
Annual Audit Letter This letter communicates the key issues arising from our work.	August 2019	Complete
2019/20 Deliverables	Planned Date	Status
Audit Fee Letter Confirming audit fee for 2019/20.	April 2019	Complete
Accounts Audit Plan We are required to issue a detailed accounts audit plan to the Audit Committee setting out our proposed approach in order to give an opinion on the Authority's 2019-20 financial statements.	February 2020	Not yet due
Audit Findings Report The Audit Findings Report will be reported to the July Audit Committee.	July 2020	Not yet due
Auditors Report This is the opinion on your financial statement, annual governance statement and value for money conclusion.	July 2020	Not yet due
Annual Audit Letter This letter communicates the key issues arising from our work.	August 2020	Not yet due

Sector Update

Councils continue to try to achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of public services, whilst facing the challenges to address rising demand, ongoing budget pressures and social inequality.

Our sector update provides you with an up to date summary of emerging national issues and developments to support you. We cover areas which may have an impact on your organisation, the wider local government sector and the public sector as a whole. Links are provided to the detailed report/briefing to allow you to delve further and find out more.

Our public sector team at Grant Thornton also undertake research on service and technical issues. We will bring you the latest research publications in this update. We also include areas of potential interest to start conversations within the organisation and with audit committee members, as well as any accounting and regulatory updates.

- **Grant Thornton Publications**
- **Insights from local government sector specialists**
- **Reports of interest**
- **Accounting and regulatory updates**

More information can be found on our dedicated public sector and local government sections on the Grant Thornton website by clicking on the logos below:

Public Sector

Local
government

MHCLG – Independent probe into local government audit

In July, the then Communities secretary, James Brokenshire, announced the government is to examine local authority financial reporting and auditing.

At the CIPFA conference he told delegates the independent review will be headed up by Sir Tony Redmond, a former CIPFA president.

The government was “working towards improving its approach to local government oversight and support”, Brokenshire promised.

“A robust local audit system is absolutely pivotal to work on oversight, not just because it reinforces confidence in financial reporting but because it reinforces service delivery and, ultimately, our faith in local democracy,” he said.

“There are potentially far-reaching consequences when audits aren’t carried out properly and fail to detect significant problems.”

The review will look at the quality of local authority audits and whether they are highlighting when an organisation is in financial trouble early enough.

It will also look at whether the public has lost faith in auditors and whether the current audit arrangements for councils are still “fit for purpose”.

On the appointment of Redmond, CIPFA chief executive Rob Whiteman said: “Tony Redmond is uniquely placed to lead this vital review, which will be critical for determining future regulatory requirements.

“Local audit is crucial in providing assurance and accountability to the public, while helping to prevent financial and governance failure.”

He added: “This work will allow us to identify what is needed to make local audit as robust as possible, and how the audit function can meet the assurance needs, both now and in the future, of the sector as a whole.”



In the question and answer session following his speech, Brokenshire said he was not looking to bring back the Audit Commission, which appointed auditors to local bodies and was abolished in 2015. MHCLG note that auditing of local authorities was then taken over by the private, voluntary and not-for-profit sectors.

He explained he was “open minded”, but believed the Audit Commission was “of its time”.

Local authorities in England are responsible for 22% of total UK public sector expenditure so their accounts “must be of the highest level of transparency and quality”, the Ministry of Housing, Local Government and Communities said. The review will also look at how local authorities publish their annual accounts and if the financial reporting system is robust enough.

Redmond, who has also been a local authority treasurer and chief executive, is expected to report to the communities secretary with his initial recommendations early in 2020, with a final report later in 2020. Redmond has also worked as a local government boundary commissioner and held the post of local government ombudsman.

The terms of reference focus on whether there is an “expectation gap” between the purpose of external audit and what it is currently delivering. It will examine the performance of local authority audit, judged according to the criteria of economy, effectiveness and efficiency.

Other key areas of the review include whether:

- 1) audit recommendations are effective in helping councils to improve financial management
- 2) auditors are using their reporting powers appropriately
- 3) councils are responding to auditors appropriately
- 4) Financial savings from local audit reforms have been realised
- 5) There has been an increase in audit providers
- 6) Auditors are properly responding to questions or objections by local taxpayers
- 7) Council accounts report financial performance in a way that is transparent and open to local press scrutiny

National Audit Office – Code of Audit Practice

The Code of Audit Practice sets out what local auditors of relevant local public bodies are required to do to fulfill their statutory responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. 'Relevant authorities' are set out in Schedule 2 of the Act and include local councils, fire authorities, police and NHS bodies.

Local auditors must comply with the Code of Audit Practice.

Page 15 Consultation – New Code of Audit Practice from 2020

Schedule 6 of the Act requires that the Code be reviewed, and revisions considered at least every five years. The current Code came into force on 1 April 2015, and the maximum five-year lifespan of the Code means it now needs to be reviewed and a new Code laid in Parliament in time for it to come in to force no later than 1 April 2020.

In order to determine what changes might be appropriate, the NAO is consulting on potential changes to the Code in two stages:

Stage 1 involves engagement with key stakeholders and public consultation on the issues that are considered to be relevant to the development of the Code.

This stage of the consultation is now closed. The NAO received a total of 41 responses to the consultation which included positive feedback on the two-stage approach to developing the Code that has been adopted. The NAO state that they have considered carefully the views of respondents in respect of the points drawn out from the [Issues paper](#) and this will inform the development of the draft Code. A summary of the responses received to the questions set out in the [Issues paper](#) can be found below.

[Local audit in England Code of Audit Practice – Consultation Response \(pdf – 256KB\)](#)


Stage 2 of the consultation involves consulting on the draft text of the new Code. To support stage 2, the NAO has published a consultation document, which highlights the key changes to each chapter of the draft Code. The most significant changes are in relation to the Value for Money arrangements. Rather than require auditors to focus on delivering an overall, binary, conclusion about whether or not proper arrangements were in place during the previous financial year, the draft Code requires auditors to issue a commentary on each of the criteria. This will allow auditors to tailor their commentaries to local circumstances. The Code proposes three specific criteria:

- Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

The consultation document and a copy of the draft Code can be found on the NAO website. The consultation closed on 22 November 2019. The new Code will apply from audits of local bodies' 2020-21 financial statements onwards.

Link to NAO webpage for the Code consultation:

<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/code-of-audit-practice-consultation/>

 National Audit Office
Consultation response by the National Audit Office
Local audit in England Code of Audit Practice
Issues paper: Consultation response

Financial Reporting Council – Summary of key developments for 2019/20 annual reports

On 30 October the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) wrote an Open Letter to Company Audit Committee Chairs. Some of the points are relevant to local authorities.

The reporting environment

The FRC notes that, “In times of uncertainty, whether created by political events, general economic conditions or operational challenges, investors look for greater transparency in corporate reports to inform their decision-making. We expect companies to consider carefully the detail provided in those areas of their reports which are exposed to heightened levels of risk; for example, descriptions of how they have approached going concern considerations, the impact of Brexit and all areas of material estimation uncertainty.” These issues equally affect local authorities, and the Statement of Accounts or Annual Report should provide readers with sufficient appropriate information on these topics.

Critical judgements and estimates

The FRC wrote “More companies this year made a clear distinction between the critical judgements they make in preparing their accounts from those that involve the making of estimates and which lead to different disclosure requirements. However, some provided insufficient disclosures to explain this area of their reporting where a particular judgement had significant impact on their reporting; for example, whether a specific investment was a joint venture or a subsidiary requiring consolidation. We will continue to have a key focus on the adequacy of disclosures supporting transparent reporting of estimation uncertainties. An understanding of their sensitivity to changing assumptions is of critical value to investors, giving them clearer insight into the possible future changes in balance sheet values and which can inform their investment decisions.” Critical judgements and estimates also form a crucial part of local authority statements of account, with the distinction often blurred.



IFRS 16 Leases

The FRC letter notes “IFRS 16 is effective for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. We recently conducted a thematic review looking at how companies reported on their adoption of the new standard in their June 2019 interim accounts. In advance of our detailed findings which will be published shortly, I set out what we expect to see by way of disclosures in the forthcoming accounts, drawing on the results of our work.

- Clear explanation of the key judgements made in response to the new reporting requirements;
- Effective communication of the impact on profit and loss, addressing any lack of comparability with the prior year;
- Clear identification of practical expedients used on transition and accounting policy choices; and
- Well explained reconciliation, where necessary, of operating lease commitments under IAS 17, ‘Leases’, the previous standard and lease liabilities under IFRS 16.”

The implementation of IFRS is delayed until 1 April 2020 in the public sector when it will replace IAS 17 Leases and the three interpretations that supported its application. Authorities will need information and processes in place to enable them to comply with the requirements. They will need to make disclosures in the 2019/20 accounts about the impact of IFRS 16 in accordance with IAS 8/ Code 3.3.4.3 requirements for disclosure about standards which are issued but are not yet effective.

Financial Reporting

Challenge question:

Will you have the opportunity to review and comment on your authority’s statement of accounts before they are published at the end of May?



What is the future for local audit?

Paul Dossett, Head of local government at Grant Thornton, has written in the Municipal Journal “Audit has been a hot topic of debate this year and local audit is no exception. With a review into the quality of local audit now ongoing, it’s critical that part of this work looks at the overarching governance and management of the audit regime. We believe there is a strong need for new oversight arrangements if the local audit regime is to remain sustainable and effective in the future.”

Paul goes on to write “Local (local authority and NHS) audit has been a key part of the oversight regime for public services for more than a century. The National Audit Office (NAO) has exercised this role in central government for several generations and their reporting to Parliament via the Public Accounts Committee is a key part of the public spending accountability framework.

Local audit got a significant boost with the creation of the Audit Commission in 1983 which provided a coordinated, high profile focus on local government and (from 1990) NHS spending and performance at a local level. Through undertaking value for money reviews and maintaining a tight focus on the generational governance challenges, such as rate capping in the 1980s and service governance failings in the 1990s, the Commission provided a robust market management function for the local audit regime. Local audit fees, appointments, scope, quality and relevant support for auditors all fell within their ambit.

However, the Commission was ultimately deemed, among other things, to be too expensive and was abolished in 2010, as part of the Coalition Government’s austerity saving plans. While the regime was not perfect, and the sector had acknowledged that reform of the Commission was needed, complete abolition was not the answer.

Since then, there has been no body with complete oversight of the local audit regime and how it interacts with local public services. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; Department of Health; NHS; NAO; Local Government Association (LGA); Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA); the Financial Reporting Council (FRC); the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA), audit firms and the audited bodies themselves all have an important role to play but, sometimes, the pursuit of individual organisational objectives has resulted in sub-optimal and even conflicting outcomes for the regime overall.

These various bodies have pursued separate objectives in areas such as audit fee reduction, scope of work, compliance with commercial practice, earlier reporting deadlines and mirroring commercial accounting conventions – to name just a few.

This has resulted in a regime that no stakeholder is wholly satisfied with and one that does not ensure local audit is providing a sufficiently robust and holistic oversight of public spending.

To help provide a more cohesive and co-ordinated approach within the sector, we believe that new oversight arrangements should be introduced. These would have ultimate responsibility for ensuring the sustainability of the local audit regime and that its component parts – including the Audit Code, regulation, market management and fees – interact in an optimal way. While these arrangements do not need to be another Audit Commission, we need to have a strategic approach to addressing the financial sustainability challenges facing local government and the NHS, the benchmarking of performance and the investigation of governance failings.

There are a number of possible solutions including:

- 1) The creation of a new arm’s length agency with a specific remit for overseeing and joining up local audit. It would provide a framework to ensure the sustainability of the regime, covering fees, appointments, and audit quality. The body would also help to create a consistent voice to government and relevant public sector stakeholders on key issues arising from the regime. Such a body would need its own governance structure drawn from the public sector and wider business community; and
- 2) Extending the current remit of the NAO. Give it total oversight of the local audit regime and, in effect, establish a local audit version of the NAO, with all the attendant powers exercised in respect of local audit. In this context, there would be a need to create appropriate governance for the various sectors, similar to the Public Accounts Committee.

While the detail of the new arrangements would be up for debate, it’s clear that a new type of oversight body, with ultimate responsibility for the key elements of local audit, is needed. It would help to provide much-needed cohesion across the sector and between its core stakeholders.

The online article is available here:

<https://www.themj.co.uk/What-is-the-future-for-audit/214769>

Institute for Fiscal Studies – English local government funding: trends and challenges in 2019 and beyond

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has found “The 2010s have been a decade of major financial change for English local government. Not only have funding levels – and hence what councils can spend on local services – fallen significantly; major reforms to the funding system have seen an increasing emphasis on using funding to provide financial incentives for development via initiatives such as the Business Rates Retention Scheme (BRRS) and the New Homes Bonus (NHB).”

The IFS goes on to report “Looking ahead, increases in council tax and additional grant funding from central government mean a boost to funding next year – but what about the longer term, especially given plans for further changes to the funding system, including an expansion of the BRRS in 2021–22?”

This report, the first of what we hope will be an annual series of reports providing an up-to-date analysis of local government, does three things in this context. First, it looks in detail at councils’ revenues and spending, focusing on the trends and choices taken over the last decade. Second, it looks at the outlook for local government funding both in the short and longer term. And third, it looks at the impact of the BRRS and NHB on different councils’ funding so far, to see whether there are lessons to guide reforms to these policies.

The report focuses on those revenue sources and spending areas over which county, district and single-tier councils exercise real control. We therefore exclude spending on police, fire and rescue, national park and education services and the revenues specifically for these services. When looking at trends over time, we also exclude spending on and revenues specifically for public health, and make some adjustments to social care spending to make figures more comparable across years. Public health was only devolved to councils in 2013–14, and the way social care spending is organised has also changed, with councils receiving a growing pot of money from the NHS to help fund services.”

The IFS reports a number of key facts and figures, including

- 1) Cuts to funding from central government have led to a 17% fall in councils’ spending on local public services since 2009–10 – equal to 23% or nearly £300 per person.
- 2) Local government has become increasingly reliant on local taxes for revenues.
- 3) Councils’ spending is increasingly focused on social care services – now 57% of all service budgets.

The IFS report is available on their website below:

<https://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/14563>



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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 28 January 2020

INTERNAL AUDIT MONITORING REPORT

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Keith Mattinson – Director of Corporate Services – telephone 01772 866804.

Executive Summary

The attached report sets out the current position in respect of the internal audit plan for 2019/20.

Decision Required

The Committee is asked to note/endorse the report.

Information

The internal auditors produce a summary of progress against the annual plan for each Audit Committee meeting, setting out progress to date and any significant findings. The report for the period up to 17 January 2020 attached as Appendix 1, and will be presented by the Head of Internal Audit.

Financial Implications

None

Human Resource Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Business Risk Implications

None

Environmental Impact

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	<u>Date</u>	Contact
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

Appendix A

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Internal Audit Service

Monitoring report for the period ended

17 January 2020

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The Internal Audit Plan for 2019/20 was approved by the Audit Committee in March 2019. This report details the progress to date in undertaking the agreed coverage and the planned schedule of audit dates for the remainder of the financial year.

2 Internal audit work undertaken

- 2.1 Work carried out during the period 1 April 2019 to 17 January 2020 was in accordance with the agreed audit plan. To date, 26.5 days have been spent this financial year on completion of the 2019/20 plan, equating to 38% of the total planned audit activity of 70 days. Consistent with previous years, the audit programme is scheduled for completion during the second half of the financial year.
- 2.2 An outline of the scope and findings from the work completed to date is included in the following paragraphs.

Treasury management

- 2.3 Our work on Treasury management was completed in August 2019, and we were able to provide *substantial* assurance over the controls operating in relation to the treasury management function. A treasury management strategy is approved by the Combined Fire Authority on an annual basis, and our testing confirmed that treasury management activities are consistent with it.

Accounts payable, Accounts receivable, General ledger

- 2.4 Our audit on these three key financial systems was finalised in November 2019, and we were again able to provide an opinion of substantial assurance across all three systems. A strong control environment continues to be maintained by the finance and procurement teams at LFRS.
- 2.5 Financial Regulations and relevant policies are in place and up to date, and accessible for all staff to view. Furthermore, the monitoring of expenditure and the recovery of debts is appropriately carried out and segregation of duties is maintained and documentation is appropriately authorised.

3 Overall summary and assurance provided

- 3.1 We have set out in the table on the following pages a brief summary of the position of each review during the period. This sets out the planned and actual days we have spent on each review to date.
- 3.2 We also provide a summary of the assurance we are able to provide in relation to each system or operational area of business where work has been finalised.

System adequacy: We define a system as adequate if its design enables it to achieve its core control objectives which, if operating as intended, serve to manage its inherent risks.

System effectiveness: We define a system as operating effectively if, after testing or other supporting evidence has been found, it is operating as intended.

- 3.3 The assurance we provide over any area of control falls into one of four categories and these are defined at Appendix 1.

Use of this report

- 3.4 This report has been prepared solely for the use of Lancashire Combined Fire Authority. We accept no responsibility to any third party who may receive this report, in whole or in part, for any reliance that they may place on it and, in particular, we expect the external auditors to determine for themselves the extent to which they choose to utilise our work.

Review area	Audit days			Assurance		Comments
	Planned	Actual	Variation	Adequacy	Effectiveness	
Governance and business effectiveness						
Governance and risk management arrangements	10	0	10	O/S	O/S	This work will be completed during quarter 4 in order to provide an overall opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of governance and risk management arrangements for inclusion in the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit.
Service delivery and support						
Home Fire Safety Checks (previously Contact centre)	12	2.5	9.5	O/S	O/S	This audit has been scoped, and we have started on-site fieldwork.
Business processes						
HR and Payroll	10	0	10	O/S	O/S	The audit has been scoped and on-site fieldwork will commence on the 3 February.
Pensions administration	1	0	1	O/S	O/S	Assurance will be obtained directly from the work completed by the internal auditors of the Local Pension Partnership Limited.
Accounts payable	7	8	(1)	✓	✓	Our audit report, covering each of these reviews was finalised in November 2019. Three low residual risk actions were agreed in relation to the Accounts payable system:
				Substantial assurance		
Accounts receivable	4	4.5	(0.5)	✓	✓	
				Substantial assurance		

Review area	Audit days			Assurance		Comments
	Planned	Actual	Variation	Adequacy	Effectiveness	
General ledger	4	4.5	(0.5)	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Head of Finance will remind the LCC procurement team to ensure supplier amendments are not processed in the absence of approval from LFRS;• A contract extension document will be produced for a contract subject to a rolling extension; and• The LCC Core Systems team will on a quarterly basis review the validity of BTLS/LCC staff access permissions to the LFRS Oracle applications.
				Substantial assurance		
Treasury management	4	3.5	0.5	✓	✓	<p>Our audit report was finalised in August 2019 with two low residual risk actions agreed in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The annotation of the Treasury Management Practice documents to confirm when last reviewed; and• The signing of the contract with the council's external advisors. <p>Both the above actions are to be taken forward by the LCC Treasury Management and Pensions Manager.</p>
				Substantial assurance		

Review area	Audit days			Assurance		Comments
	Planned	Actual	Variation	Adequacy	Effectiveness	
Follow up audit activity						
Assurance map, Business Continuity Planning and Optimising Rota Management project	4	0	4	N/A	N/A	Our follow up activity will be completed during quarter 4.
Other components of the audit plan						
Management activity	10	3.5	6.5	N/A	N/A	Work in the period has included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Production of the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit;• Preparation of the quarterly monitoring reports for Audit Committee (June, September and January); and• Update of the Internal Audit Charter and Engagement Letter.
National Fraud Initiative	4	0	4	N/A	N/A	To date, a minimal amount of time has been incurred in supporting LFRS regarding their participation in the NFI process.
Total days	70	26.5	43.5			

Audit assurance levels and residual risks

Appendix 1

The assurance we can provide over any area of control falls into one of four categories as follows:

Substantial assurance: the framework of control is adequately designed and/ or effectively operated overall.

Moderate assurance: the framework of control is adequately designed and/ or effectively operated overall, but some action is required to enhance aspects of it and/ or ensure that it is effectively operated throughout the service, system or process.

Limited assurance: there are some significant weaknesses in the design and/ or operation of the framework of control that put the achievement of the service, system or process' objectives at risk.

No assurance: there are some fundamental weaknesses in the design and/ or operation of the framework of control that could result in failure to achieve the service, system or process' objectives.

We categorise the issues we raise in the context of the residual risk to which the service is exposed. The actions are therefore defined as 'extreme', 'high', 'medium' or 'low' in relation to the residual risk they are designed to address and fall into the following categories:

Extreme residual risk: critical and urgent in that failure to address the risk could lead to one or more of the following: catastrophic loss of services, loss of life, significant environmental damage or significant financial loss, with related national press coverage and substantial damage to reputation. *Remedial action must be taken immediately.*

High residual risk: critical in that failure to address the issue or progress the work would lead to one or more of the following: failure to achieve organisational objectives, significant disruption to business or to service users, significant financial loss, inefficient use of resources, failure to comply with law or regulations, or damage to reputation. *Remedial action must be taken urgently.*

Medium residual risk: failure to address the issue or progress the work could impact on operational objectives and should be of concern to senior management. *Prompt specific action should be taken.*

Low residual risk: matters that individually have no major impact on achieving the service's objectives, but where combined with others could give cause for concern. *Specific remedial action is desirable.*

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LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held on 28 January 2020

RISK MANAGEMENT

(Appendix 1 refers)

Contact for further information:

Keith Mattinson – Director of Corporate Services– telephone 01772 866804.

Executive Summary

The report highlights action taken in respect of corporate risk since these were last reported to the Audit Committee.

Decision Required

The Committee is asked to note the actions taken and endorse the revised corporate risk register.

Information

The latest review of the corporate risk register has not identified any new risks which warrant inclusion on the corporate risk register.

Existing Risks

Of the existing risks 10 have been reviewed, and an updated corporate risk register is attached as appendix 1, with changes summarised below:-

		Update since last meeting	Proposed Risk Score	
1	Insufficient resources due to poor funding settlement, inability to make required savings, additional financial pressures such as RDS pensions etc., plus council tax limits via local referendum resulting in Authority being unable to set a balanced budget.	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	16	High
2	Premises Risk Information: That operational staff do not have available adequate and reliable premises information to efficiently resolve operational incidents: Risk	The Operational Assurance Team has carried out the independent scrutiny of SSRI reviews (across varying levels). A key priority through 20/21 is the review of SSRI plans associated with built	Remains at 9	Medium

	information is provided to operational staff based on premises information and premises risks are identified on a continuous basis although this is not consistent throughout the Service.	environment risks. This will be completed jointly by the newly created BEAT (Built Environment Assessment Team). Information Sharing Agreements with neighbouring FRS' are completed for digital cascade of risk information exchange for premises within 10km of a county border. Response and Emergency Planning section is undertaking assurance (dip sample) of Level 4 PORIS.		
3	Insufficient staffing resources, due to Industrial Action, to deal with operational demand and fulfil statutory responsibilities.	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	12	Medium
4	Lack of availability of water supplies for fire fighting prevents effective fire fighting resulting in additional damage to property and increased risk to life.	Previously discharged.		
5	The increasing age profile of operational staff could adversely affect our ability to deliver effective emergency response.	Previously discharged.		
6	Operational staff do not have the required skills to operate safely at an incident with the potential to result in F/F injuries or fatalities.	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	9	Medium
7	Failure of key ICT systems resulting in disruption to services.	No change, not due to report till 30/6/2020.	9	Medium
8	Loss of corporate reputation through negative publicity.	Refresher training on both media and social media planned for current year.	Remains at 9	Medium
9	Retention and recruitment of RDS staff impacts on RDS appliance availability	Role of Retained Support Officers well established and the benefits starting to show through in terms of addressing development issues. Continuing	Remains at 9	Medium

		improvement in number of new starters compared with leavers and in terms of number of personnel successfully completing the recruit's course.		
10	Lack of workforce planning resulting in significant over/under provision of staff and resulting impact on service and finances.	Previously discharged.		Medium
11	Lack of compliance with legislation resulting in prosecution or compliance order.	Previously discharged.		
12	Ineffective Health and Safety in the workplace, resulting in prosecution, intervention fees etc.	No change since last reported. Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) remain in place certified to ISO 45001:2018 to develop, maintain and continuously improve the HSMS.	Remains at 9	Medium
13	Lack of effective Information management impacting on service delivery and support or leading to a breach of data protection/freedom of information or a loss of sensitive/personal information.	Work remains ongoing in order to deliver performance management integration within our District Plan, the first stage of which is to prototype a CorVu replacement. If successful, this should be developed further to automate the wider District Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). The Information Management Strategy has been supported by the recruitment of a Data Management Officer and a fixed-term Records Officer.	Remains at 9	Medium
14	Delayed mobilisation, impacting on service delivery	New road speed algorithms have now been deployed onto a test server at NWFC. This is currently being tested by the four FRS to assess its accuracy. Expected roll out in New Year.	Remains at 9	Medium
15	High levels of staff absence due to outbreak of ebola.	Previously discharged.		

16	Lack of clarity on future of FRS, leading to inertia.	Previously discharged.		
17	Failure of ESMCP to deliver a viable communication facility.	No change since last reported as we are still awaiting a revised National Transition Plan following anticipated approval of the Full Business Case refresh.	Remains at 9	Medium
18	Inability to maintain service provision in spate conditions.	Previously discharged.		
19	Failure to maximise the opportunities that technological advances present due to a lack of capacity within the ICT department, and an inability of staff to keep pace with new development that are implemented.	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	9	Medium
20	Loss of support for Vector Incident Command product with the product name Command Support System (CSS) leading to ineffective command function at large incidents.	A new project has now commenced to deliver a new command software solution and work is on-going to develop the specifications to move the Service forward towards procurement.	Remains at 9	Medium
21	Risk of rapid external fire spread in high rise premise resulting in a major incident.	Relevant inspections completed. Built Environment Assessment Team has been created following the release of the Grenfell Phase 1 report and associated recommendations, and in light of a number of significant / protracted fires wherein the building has failed or not behaved in the manner anticipated. Terms of Reference for the team are being developed which will give the service a greater understanding of the risk that exists across the building stock in Lancashire. Specifically in relation to the more complex built environment, that	Remains at 10	Medium

		incorporates modern methods of construction, which warrants a more focussed and detailed assessment, that will subsequently enhance the operational service delivery and protection services that we offer.		
22	Failure to maximise collaborative opportunities presented by Policing and Crime Act 2017.	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	9	Medium
23	Lack of leadership capacity impacting on delivery of services.	New performance management/appraisal system introduced. A more formal approach to Talent Management has been introduced which aspires to be an open, transparent approach and encourages individuals and line managers to reflect on their current position, for feedback to be given and opportunities for development identified through a lifetime/career conversation if this is something the individual wishes to pursue. Leadership development programmes continue to be delivered. Future workforce needs are reviewed on an ongoing basis, this is particular relevant in light of potential impact of transitional pension arrangements.	Remains at 9	Medium
24	Insufficient preparation for inspection programme leading to opportunities being lost in terms of national learning and Lancashire's ability to effectively communicate its progress and awareness.	Previously discharged.		
25	The outcome of the EU court ruling on the Matzak case relating to on-call	Previously discharged.		

	arrangements in Belgium has a detrimental impact on service provision and/or cost.			
26	Increase in costs of and/or lack of availability of goods and services, following Brexit.	No change, not due to report till 30/9/20.	12	Medium
27	Increase in costs associated with changes to pensionability of allowances.	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	16	High
28	Discontinued or long term malfunction in the KPI management software product (CORVU).	No change, not due to report till 31/3/20.	6	Medium /Low

Financial Implications

None

Human Resource Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

None

Environmental Impact

None

Business Risk Implications

The improvement in risk management arrangements should result in reduced business risk

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
1	Insufficient resources due to poor funding settlement, inability to make required savings, additional financial pressures such as pay, pensions etc., plus council tax limits via local referendum resulting in Authority being unable to set a balanced budget.	The Government has confirmed that the multi-year settlement offers have been agreed with all single purpose fire and rescue authorities (19/20 is the final year of this). The Final Settlement for 19/20 was in line with the four year settlement previously agreed. However there still remains a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the impact of Brexit. Funding in 2020 and beyond will be determined by the Governments overall budget and the 2019 Spending Review. The Budget will set overall total for public sector spending which will then be allocated out to departments as part of the Spending Review. Until such time as the outcome of this is known it is impossible to accurately predict future funding levels. In addition the Government is currently consulting on a Fair Funding Review and changes to the Business Rates Retention Scheme, both of which may impact on future funding. The draft budget assume future funding is frozen. The Authority will continue to review opportunities for further savings. The Authority holds sufficient reserves to enable it to meet anticipated funding gaps in the short to medium term.	4	4	16	Continue to monitor position and review implications arising from Brexit, Spending Review, Fair funding review and Local Retention of Business Rates. Continue to identify savings opportunities	31/03/2020	DoCS	DoCS	Corp Serv
2	Premises Risk Information: That operational staff do not have available adequate and reliable premises information to efficiently resolve operational incidents: Risk information is provided to operational staff based on premises information and premises risk are identified on a continuous basis although this is not consistent throughout the Service.	The gathering of operational risk information is a key activity within LFRS. The service has adopted an integrated approach to managing the risk; thereby ensuring safe systems of work for all employees. LFRS will undertake incident pre planning and the gathering of operational risk information to enable: *The prevention of injury and ill health of firefighters and other emergency responders *Management and mitigation of risks in the community *Continual improvement in the provision of, accurate, relevant and timely operational information *Compliance with the legal duties on Fire and Rescue Authorities in relation to operational risk information *Compliance with formal guidance and "best practice" models; and Audit and review mechanisms. Premises based risks are assessed using the Provision of Risk Information to Staff (PORIS) methodology. The risk based information is formulated via an application on the iPad and categorised from Level 1 through to Level 5 (e.g. Top Tier COMAH Sites.) All known high risk premises are recorded on the system.	3	3	9	The Operational Assurance Team have carried out the independent scrutiny, of SSRI reviews (across varying levels) completed within 2019. A key priority through 20 / 21 is the review of SSRI plans associated with built environment risks. This will be completed jointly by the newly created BEAT (Built Environment Assessment Team). Information Sharing Agreements with neighbouring FRS' are completed for digital cascade of risk information exchange for premises within 10km of a county border. REP are undertaking assurance (dip sample) of Level 4 PORIS.	30/09/2020	HoSD	DoSD	Serv Delivery
3	Insufficient staffing resources, due to Industrial Action, to deal with operational demand and fulfil statutory responsibilities.	LFRS has a separate contingency plan in place that is specific to industrial action. This has been reviewed and reissued to all SMT and relevant staff. The Home Office has undertaken an audit of our arrangements, with the final reported noting our arrangements.	3	4	12	Continue to monitor the position regarding national pay awards and related role map reviews.	31/03/2020	HoSD	DoSP	Strategy & Planning

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
4	Lack of availability of water supplies for fire fighting prevents effective fire fighting resulting in additional damage to property and increased risk to life.	The Service commissions, adopts, systematically inspects and repairs mains fed fire fighting hydrants across the County. We maintain operational plans that display the location of available hydrants and open water supplies. Accurate hydrant information now provided to FES. Hydrant inspections moved to a risk based programme. New SSI Hydrant Manager update - Central system (within FES) is now up and running with current information being available on appliance MDT's. Hydrant tech's now moved over to Toughbook's for hydrant management and reporting of defects. We have Strategic Hydrants (those with a flow rate of above 1,500 litres per minute), then Risk Category 1, 2 and 3. Strategic are tested annually, Risk 1 annually, Risk 2 every two years, and Risk 3 every three years. Defects are repaired either in-house by the Hydrant Technicians, or reported to United Utilities (Strategic being marked urgent). Strategic Hydrants are always flow tested and this is recorded on the hydrant asset in SSI. Other hydrants are dry tested Increased use of HVP for larger incidents.	2	3	6	Discharged				
5	The increasing age profile of operational staff could adversely affect our ability to deliver effective emergency response.	Fitness Assessments introduced and included as part of the Crew Training as of 1st April 14. Remedial action to ensure that acceptable levels of fitness are developed and maintained. Provision of facilities for physical exercise and training on operational stations. Currently staff are timetabled to take a fitness test, are subject to health monitoring and managers can refer staff to OHU if they have concerns. The Service provides a physiotherapy service, critical incident debriefing and counselling if needed.	3	2	6	Discharged				

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
6	Operational staff do not have the required skills to operate safely at an incident with the potential to result in F/F injuries or fatalities.	Recruitment of Whole-time and RDS staff is undertaken against national standards. Initial and Continuation training delivery is based on National Occupational Standards (NOS), National Operational Guidance (NOG) and Training Specifications. Role related competencies have been identified and recorded within the PDR Pro system with appropriate retraining frequencies identified. Initial and Refresher training delivered to cover a wide range of specialist skills. Particularly risk Critical areas such as Breathing Apparatus are centrally assessed to ensure uniformity. An Operational Assurance policy is in place delivered through a dedicated Operational Assurance Team that continually assesses operational readiness through station visits, incident / exercise monitoring and debriefing. The team publishes a quarterly performance report to promote staff awareness of key operational performance issues. As well as internal learning sources, the team receives National Operational Learning (NOL) in relation to nationwide incidents, Rule 43 Letters and Joint Operational Learning from other blue light Services and Resilience Forum Partners. Such learning results in a range of actions including REC1 safety bulletins, changes to operational policy and training content (both courses and e-learning) and thus constant evolution/improvement in safety and effectiveness. A dedicated Incident Command Training team exists recognising the vital importance of this skill to safe and effective operations. Incident Commanders are now required to maintain a command license. Retained Support Officers have been appointed and their responsibilities include recruitment and training. The Service continues to invest in training props to ensure realistic hot fire training conditions. Through the Operational Assurance Group, Prevention, Protection and Response Task and Strategic Groups along with the Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Groups, internal and external learning are monitored and fed into the Training and Operational Review department to influence operational training.	3	3	9	Monitor effectiveness of Operational Assurance Performance Report in disseminating information	31/03/2020	HoTOR	DoSD	Serv Delivery

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
7	Failure of key ICT systems resulting in disruption to services.	Separate BCP plans developed, including backup and recovery procedures, desktop exercise completed. Asset replacement policy in place, regularly reviewed. IT Firewall to prevent inappropriate access, moisture detection loop installed in SHQ plant room to identify any early threat of flooding Secondary ICT site constructed at STC to provide enhanced resilience, implementation of Active Directory to enhance security and control of user access, improved virus protection. Strategy to control use of USB devices implemented. Patch and update policy place to ensure servers and workstations are up to date with latest security developments. Wide Area Network (WAN) to all administrative and operations site. New Storage Area Network (SAN) to replicate all essential servers and data to the disaster recovery site at STC. Installed resilient link from STC to County Hall in order to maintain LCC/OCL supplied services in the event of a failure at SHQ or the link to County and also have extended the network to include the new control facility in Warrington.	3	3	9	Complete the implementation of the new WAN Work towards Cyber Essentials Plus security accreditation. Upgrade key parts of our infrastructure and replace end of life Windows 7 and Office 2010	30/06/2020	HoICT	HoICT	Strategy & Planning
8	Loss of corporate reputation through negative publicity.	Emergency communication plan and toolkit covers all aspects of risk including business continuity issues, emergencies and broader reputational risk, and fulfils requirements of the Lancashire Resilience Forum emergency communications plan. Documents were updated in September 2018 following Winter Hill moorland fire learning. Plan regularly tested during exercises. Effective reactive press office and proactive media activity to build positive reputation including on-call arrangements for out-of-hours cover. Media and social media training forms part of middle manager development programme and is delivered to individuals and teams as required throughout the year. A social media management tool was procured in February 2018 which provides ability to monitor and manage, if required, social media activity by stations. Communication plans for all corporate projects include internal communication to ensure staff are well informed to reduce risk of misinformation. Corporate use of social media is embedded in communication plans with policy and guidance in place. Scanning and planning function helps anticipate and plan for specific reputational risks and daily media monitoring highlights inaccurate reporting and emerging issues that that need to be addressed or corrected.	3	3	9	Revised image consent forms have been produced in line with GDPR however social media guidelines are yet to be updated in respect of images and personal data, as a preferred method of processing and storing images has yet to be determined by the Service. Revised media and social media training to be delivered	31/12/2020	HoCC	HoCC	People & Development

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
9	Retention and recruitment of RDS staff impacts on RDS appliance availability.	RDS recruitment and retention working group established. Increased RDS basic recruits course population from 12 to 24. Quicker access to BA course on completion of recruit training. TOR support throughout the RDS probationary period. Enhanced retained pay scheme introduced and reviewed regularly. The service allows shorter RDS contracts to improve appliance availability. Encourages dual contract staff to contribute to the RDS. RDS availability targets now reduced to 95%. Proactive recruitment by SDM's. Joint working between HR and service delivery to enhance current recruitment processes. RDS Strengthening & Improving programme in place with the focus on supporting staff through their developmental stages and improving efficiency and effectiveness of recruitment work. A new Recruitment Vehicle has been established. RSO activity around both development and recruitment are paying off with improved levels of support being given across all required skill sets to those in the Service and those looking to join us.	3	3	9	RSO's continue to embed 'core skills' workshops on stations and STC staff routinely delivering Incident Command skills across a variety of topics to RDS staff to improve competency as well as sense of feeling valued. Activity around RDS recruitment campaigns will continue to develop. For those who fail the RDS course the RSO's maintain contact and developmental work with a view to attendance on subsequent course. Monitor success of initiatives.	31/12/2020	HoSD	HoSD	Serv Delivery
10	Lack of workforce planning resulting in significant over/under provision of staff and resulting impact on service and finances.	A mechanism of workforce planning has now been agreed and this will be reviewed on annual basis. As part of the development of the workforce plan a review of retirement profile is considered which is the main reason for turnover for those staff on grey book terms and conditions, this information is used to plan recruitment and enables us to plan effectively ensuring enough staff. Further to the turnover last year, an internal recruitment campaign and associated recruitment resulted in recruitment to 27 posts. A further recruitment campaign is being conducted for 2017/18 which will be completed by mid-May. Our approach to training and organisational development ensures that staff have the necessary ability, skills and training in order to able to undertake the job role. In terms of managing the risks associated with over establishment, all posts are checked against the post book prior to advertising. Where a post is not established it needs to go through specific authorisation and establishment process which ensures that we control the number of posts we recruit.	2	3	6	Discharged				
11	Lack of compliance with legislation resulting in prosecution or compliance order.	Clerk of Authority reviews all Committee reports for legality and advises CFA. Clerk and Solicitor review new legislation. Government notify of all new requirements Horizon scanning.	2	2	4	Discharged				

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
12	Ineffective Health and Safety in the workplace, resulting in prosecution, intervention fees etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Management System (HSMS) in place certified to OHSAS 18001:2007 to develop, maintain and continuously improve the HSMS. • Operational Assurance Programme. • HSA3 – workplace inspection programme. • Publication of risk information – Health and Safety Risk and Opportunities Register resulting in service objectives and targets, Generic Risk Assessments, Service Orders, Standard Operating Procedures etc. • External audit and scrutiny through External Auditors. • Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group / Health and Safety Consultation Meeting monitor performance. • Annual SHE Report presented to CFA. • LFRS SHE Audit and Development Plan to develop, maintain, ensure compliance, review and continuously improve the HSMS. 	3	3	9	Following the independent audit of Health and Safety and Environmental Management Systems carried out as part of our OHSAS 18001 and ISO 14001 certification process non-conformances and opportunities for improvement are collated together into the SHE Audit Improvement Action Plan and monitored to conclusion through the Health, Safety and Environment Advisory Group.	31/12/2020	HoSHE	HoSHE	People & Development
13	Lack of effective Information management impacting on service delivery and support or leading to a breach of data protection/freedom of information or a loss of sensitive/personal information.	<p>A revised structure to deliver Information Management has been implemented. Nominated Data Protection and Freedom of Information Lead Officers to ensure legal obligations met. All freedom of information requests considered by Exec Board.</p> <p>Data encryption in place. Information Management related projects are progressing as scheduled with governance from Programme Board and DCFO as Sponsor. Compliance with the Data Protection Act (DPA) and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) remains a priority.</p> <p>A data protection LearnPro module; this will further support the Service in effective information management by increasing staff awareness. The Service has also provided specialist data protection and GDPR training to increase staff knowledge and engagement with the subject matter. Data protection has been added as a standard agenda item to several key Papers in the Service. The appointment of a DPO not only aligns the Service with legislative obligations but also provides the oversight inherent to that post.</p>	3	3	9	Work remains ongoing in order to deliver performance management integration within our District Plan, the first stage of which is to prototype a CorVu replacement. If successful, this should be developed further to automate the wider District Plan Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). The Information Management Strategy has been supported by the recruitment of a Data Management Officer and a fixed-term Records Officer.	31/12/2020	HoServ Develop	DoSP	Strategy & Planning

CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Jan 20

KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
14	Delayed mobilisation, impacting on service delivery.	System uses AVLS to locate the nearest available pump, based on anticipated 'run time'. 2014 saw the implementation of a new Global ITN road speed setting developed from historical evidence provided by Cheshire FRS. This implementation along with changes to Station geographical locations, the removal of road restrictions (imposed on the ITN by the developers) and the development of new response plans has seen an improvement in mobilising with appliances arriving with greater accuracy between the proposed and actual run times. Restrictions have been imposed on the system to ensure non critical incidents are attended by the host station whilst preventing a lengthy run time and/or a slow response time. This restriction ensures both the spread of resources is maintain and the continued use of RDS whilst preventing Whole time appliances being taken out of higher risk areas, this also reduces the need for standby/closing in moves.	3	3	9	New road speed algorithms have now been deployed onto a test server at NWFC. This is being tested by the four FRS to assess its accuracy and will go live in the New Year	31/12/2020	HoServ Develop	DoSP	Strategy & Planning
15	High levels of staff absence due to outbreak of Ebola.	On-going liaison with LCC Emergency Planning Dept and LRF. Separate BCP plans developed re large scale staff absence. Enhanced sickness and absence policy implemented. OHU department to provide advice to managers/staff.	1	4	4	Discharged				
16	Lack of clarity on future of FRS, leading to inertia.	The Sir Ken Knight review highlighted a need to review governance arrangements relating to FRAs identified several potential governance models, regional, national, mergers, ambulance, police etc. responsibility for Fire Service has transferred from CLG to Home Office The Policing and Crime Bill (which is currently going through Parliament) introduces measures which require the police, fire and rescue, and ambulance services to collaborate with one another. As a minimum, the legislation requires PCCs to be represented on the relevant fire and rescue authority (FRA) (or its committees) with full voting rights, subject to the consent of the FRA. Alternatively, PCCs have the option of putting forward a business case which may include arrangements to take on responsibility for the governance of fire and rescue; or to become the single employer for fire and police, to deliver greater improvements through the integration of back office functions and maximise the benefits of workforce flexibility. As such future options now appear to be:- • remain as we are • move towards a PCC	2	3	6	Discharged				

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KEY RISKS		RISK MITIGATION/CONTROLS IN PLACE	LIKELIHOOD	IMPACT	RESIDUAL RISK	ACTIONS RECOMMENDED	BY WHEN	BY WHOM	RISK OWNER	DIRECTORATE
17	Failure of ESMCP to deliver a viable communication facility.	Emergency Services Mobile Communication Programme (ESMCP) is a national project which will deliver a replacement communications and data service using 4G technology. The new broadband data services will replace the existing private mobile radio system provided by Airwave. Main contracts awarded to EE and Motorola for the network and network equipment respectively. Since the signing of the contract, there has been considerable work done by the suppliers, central programme team and emergency services in the regions. However there are still some areas that need to be resolved, and therefore the original go live for the North West (the first region go-live) September 2017, has moved on 6 months to April 2018. The current Airwave contract has been extended until 2019, in order to ensure that the roll out of the new system is complete before the existing contract ends.	3	3	9	Work is ongoing at both a service and regional level in order to prepare for transition to ESMCP. This is focussed upon coverage, transition planning, device support requirements and evaluation of Home Office (HO) documentation such as the vehicle mounted device specifications. The Programme has reported to the Parliamentary Advisory Committee and prioritised work with both key contractors, these being EE and Motorola. LFRS is managing the project with a dedicated Project Manager through Home Office allocated funding. Significant progress cannot be achieved until after the HO issue the revised National Transition Plan.	30/06/2020	HoServ Develop	DoSP	Strategy & Planning
18	Inability to maintain service provision in spate conditions	Robust Business Continuity arrangements The published 2017-2022 LFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan recognises the impacts of wide area flooding (P2 increasing weather related events) as does our SOR for 2017. Ensure ESMCP specification recognises communication needs identified Training for LFRS FDOs regarding National Resilience Asset mobilisation and associated Command Support has been delivered, testing via an exercise to be completed LFRS vehicle fleet amended with multi-purpose (4x4) vehicles suitable for use in wide area flooding placed within the fleet, further purchases to follow in 2017/18 to extend the provision to 10. The enhancement of staff PPE with provision of flood suits and associated training is complete. The Lancaster accommodation side (not appliance bay etc.) has been built with flood defences and other mitigation works as per flood risk assessment. Other works include elevating all Station Mobilisation Cabinets that are in Flood risk areas.	3	2	6	Discharged				

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19	Failure to maximise the opportunities that technological advances present due to a lack of capacity within the ICT department, and an inability of staff to keep pace with new development that are implemented	ICT Asset Mgt Plan in place, which identifies replacement timeframes for existing systems. Revised ICT Strategy presented to Resources Committee in March 2018 and includes work stream to improve user experience. BPIP consider all new ICT systems/developments, as part of this consideration is given to capacity planning in terms of ICT resource and impact on end users CPB consider outcomes from BPIP Additional Systems Engineering posts are now filled with the individuals already having a positive impact on the back log of work.	3	3	9	ICT are updating our back Office infrastructure and preparing for the next generation Windows 10 and Office 2016 that will be delivered next financial year. They have continued to develop bespoke packages, such as Assurance Monitoring System. ICT continue to carry vacancies within the team and are working with HR to fill these.	31/03/2020	HoICT	DoSP	Strategy & Planning
20	Loss of support for Vector Incident Command product with the product name Command Support System (CSS) leading to ineffective command function at large incidents	The CSS software application (Vector Incident Command) we run on our command units to manage the incident command system, went into administration and the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the software were bought at auction by Telent, who are the prime contractor for the NWFC ICT mobilising and communication. Telent have presented to say they will ensure that the original Vector developments as promised under the NWFC contract will be delivered. However developments have been very slow	3	3	9	A new project has now commenced to deliver a new command software solution and work is on-going to develop the specifications to move the Service forward towards procurement.	31/12/2020	HoServ Develop	DoSP	Strategy & Planning

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21	Risk of rapid external fire spread in high rise premise resulting in a major incident	<p>All high rise residential premises have been audited, in conjunction with relevant Local Authority. Only one building found with ACM cladding panel, this was on a 6 storey section of building (top section), which is being managed locally to limit the risk this presents. An on-going risk based inspection plan has been agreed based on following priority order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High rise Purpose flats -High rise sleeping -High rise hospitals -High rise schools -High rise commercials -Hospital non- high rise -School non-high rise -other <p>Community reassurance visits undertaken. Temporarily amend PDA to high rise to include an ALP</p>	2	5	10	<p>Relevant inspections completed. Built Environment Assessment Team has been created following the release of the Grenfell Phase 1 report and associated recommendations, and in light of a number of significant / protracted fires wherein the building has failed or not behaved in the manner anticipated. Terms of Reference for the team are being developed which will give the service a greater understanding of the risk that exists across the building stock in Lancashire. Specifically in relation to the more complex built environment, that incorporates modern methods of construction, which warrants a more focussed and detailed assessment, that will subsequently enhance the operational service delivery and protection services that we offer.</p>	31/12/2020	HoServ Develop	DoSP	Strategy & Planning
22	Failure to maximise collaborative opportunities presented by Policing and Crime Act 2017	<p>Well-developed relationships with Lancashire Constabulary and NWAS Regular meetings to discuss issues/opportunities Collaboration already taking place i.e. EMR, Gaining Entry, Missing Persons, Air Support (Drone), Site Sharing etc. Statement of Intent agreed and signed off at Deputy Chief Officer level between LFRS and Lancashire Constabulary External training for both organisations Senior Management Teams delivered by Shares Services Architects. Work areas considered and a 32 item collaboration log has been created.</p>	3	3	9	<p>3 core projects to be progressed to scope report status:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • multi officer role • response arrangements • public order training at Washington hall <p>Further roll out of EMR is dependent upon outcome of national pay negotiations</p>	31/03/2020	HoSD	DoSP	Strategy & Planning

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23	Lack of leadership capacity impacting on delivery of services	<p>Workforce plan agreed and implemented which clearly identifies our challenges and workforce profile</p> <p>Recruitment policy in place which reviews the success of recruitment campaigns against the knowledge and skills gap</p> <p>Appraisal system in place, to establish opportunities for development feedback, identification of training needs, development opportunities and talent</p> <p>Leadership Development programmes in place, including in house leadership development, ILM (Institute of Leadership and Management) ELP (Executive Leadership Programme), Leading into the Future (A cross sectoral leadership programme) etc.</p> <p>Coaching and mentoring system introduced</p> <p>Action Learning Sets introduced</p> <p>Leadership Conferences delivered</p> <p>Promotion Board in place with clear development and promotion pathways established for operational staff</p>	3	3	9	<p>New performance management/appraisal system introduced.</p> <p>A more formal approach to Talent Management has been introduced which aspires to be an open, transparent approach and encourages individuals and line managers to reflect on their current position, for feedback to be given and opportunities for development identified through a lifetime/career conversation if this is something the individual wishes to pursue.</p> <p>Leadership development programmes continue to be delivered.</p> <p>Future workforce needs are reviewed on an ongoing basis, this is particular relevant in light of potential impact of transitional pension arrangements</p>	31/12/2020	HoHR	DoPD	People & Development
24	Insufficient preparation for inspection programme leading to opportunities being lost in terms of national learning and Lancashire's ability to effectively communicate its progress and awareness	<p>Resources allocated to the required preparatory work to meet the needs of the HMICFRS inspection process.</p> <p>Creation of an internal review and subsequent self-assessment against the draft inspection criteria including the collation of key evidence and identification of any shortfalls of evidence. Completion of the HMICFRS returns including a corporate narrative overview, statements against the diagnostics covering effectiveness, efficiency and people including the submission of associated evidence.</p> <p>Inspection completed week commencing 9 July.</p> <p>Report due completion October (released at same time as other Tranche 1 reports)</p>	1	3	3	Discharged				
25	The outcome of the EU court ruling on the Matzak case relating to on-call arrangements in Belgium has a detrimental impact on service provision and/or cost.	<p>The case looked at the applicability of Working Time in connection with the Belgian Fire Service and their version of On Call Controls.</p> <p>Legal opinion is being sought in connection with the case to identify its impact in the UK. On more detailed examination, the case was not directly applicable to the UK, the issue in question was also resolved before further consideration by the Belgium Courts.</p>	1	5	5	Discharged				

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26 Increase in costs of and/or lack of availability of goods and services, following Brexit	We are continuing to monitor any trends in terms of this, with a view to identifying the extent of any impact. If costs increase significantly in the short term we will need to drawdown reserves in order to deliver a balanced budget. We have not seen any evidence that the availability of essential goods/services has been affected at this moment in time.	3	4	12	Continue to monitor impact	30/09/2020	HoProc	DoCS	Corporate Services
27 Increase in costs associated with changes to pensionability of allowances	Following a High Court decision on the pensionability of allowances, which provides a different interpretation to both the historical basis and to previous decisions of the Pensions Ombudsman, the pensionability of various allowances will change with associated cost implications. The position is unclear and the fire service (including LFRS) is awaiting guidance from the LGE. Issues to be determined include:- • What is the correct interpretation • The impact in respect of each of the three pension schemes • Does backdating apply • How to treat both employee and employer contributions • The position of representative bodies on this	4	4	16	Continue to monitor guidance	31/03/2020	DoPD	DoPD	People & Development
28 Discontinued or long term malfunction in the KPI management software product (CORVU)	Close contract management with the provider to ensure that the product remains functional and fit for purpose. Staff member will lead responsibility is highly trained in the product and can carryout some maintenance in order to support functionality. Some alternative work arounds identified that will be resource intensive and may not provide the existing quality of data and subsequent analysis.	3	2	6	Continue to review the systems utilised in the sector and comparable users in order to identify a replacement product in a timely manner. Carryout a review of alternative work solutions in order to ensure that CFA Performance reports and Service Delivery District level reports remain deliverable. Priorities the upskilling of the new GIS / analyst to reduce the single point of failure risk.	31/03/2020	HoSDD	DoSP	Strategy and Planning

HIGH	2
MEDIUM	16
MEDIUM/LOW	7
LOW	3

28

Scores

Likelihood

5 Certain, see next sheet

4 Very Likely, see next sheet

Impact

Minor, see next sheet

Noticeable, see next sheet

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3	Likely, see next sheet	Significant, see next sheet									
2	Unlikely, see next sheet	Critical, see next sheet									
1	Rare, see next sheet	Catastrophic, see next sheet									

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