

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Audit and Risk Committee

12 March 2018

Report title	West Midlands Combined Authority - Assurance	
Accountable director	Claire Nye, Finance	
Originating service	Audit	
Accountable employee(s)	Peter Farrow Tel Email	Head of Audit 01902 554460 peter.farrow@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	Not applicable	

Recommendation for noting:

The Committee is asked to note:

1. The role of the West Midlands Combined Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee and the reliance the Council's Audit and Risk Committee can place upon the assurance they provide.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates the Audit and Risk Committee on the role of the West Midlands Combined Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Council has a strategic risk "Maximising benefits from the West Midlands Combined Authority". At the last meeting of the Committee it asked to be updated on the work of the Combined Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee in order to obtain a degree of assurance over the control framework within the Combined Authority and any impact this may have on the Council in the part it plays in the Combined Authority.
- 2.2 The Combined Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee is made up of a number of elected members from both its constituent and non-constituent members along with an independent Chair. The membership is:

David Lane – Independent Member (Chair)
Councillor Craig Collingswood – City of Wolverhampton Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sucha Bains – Coventry City Council
Councillor Margaret Bassett – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Kerrie Carmichael – Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Keith Chambers – Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Steve Clark – Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Sean Farnell – Coventry and Warwickshire LEP
Councillor John Fisher – Redditch Borough Council
Councillor Mariam Khan – Birmingham City Council
Councillor Simon Peuple – Tamworth Borough Council
Councillor Alexander Phillips – Shropshire Council
Councillor June Tandy – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

- 2.3 The Council's Audit Services also provides the internal audit service to the Combined Authority. They operate within an Internal Audit Charter that is predominantly based on the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
- 2.4 The Combined Authority's External Auditors are Grant Thornton.
- 2.5 All of the business, agendas and reports of the Combined Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee are published on their [website](#) and therefore are publicly available to members of the Council's Audit and Risk Committee.

2.6 At its last meeting held on 19 January 2018 it conducted the following business:

A briefing from the New Director of Finance
External Audit Plan
Internal Audit Update
Strategic Risk Register
Arms Length Companies Checklist
Delivery of Devolution 1 and Devolution 2 Update
Cyber Security Presentation

2.7 The Combined Authority has identified the following as their strategic risks:

Stakeholder and Political Relations
Financial Assumptions of the Devolution Deals
Delivery
Resources
Leadership Team
Commerciality
Reputation
Governance
Information Security
Health and Safety
External Factors

3.0 Progress, options, discussion

3.1 A regular report on any relevant issues dealt with by the West Midlands Combined Authority's Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee, that relates to the assurance the Council can obtain, will continue to be presented to the committee.

4.0 Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report. (GE/27022018/A)

5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report. (TS/23022018/Y)

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no equalities implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 None