

Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 11th October 2019

Agenda No:

Title of Report:	Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) Action Plan Progress Report.
Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee that the Internal Audit recommendations made in relation to the independent investigation of GFRS have been / are being addressed.
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee reviews and considers the actions taken to address the recommendations made and progress to date.
Officer (s) Contact:	<p>Theresa Mortimer: Head of Audit Risk Assurance, Area Finance Team and Insurance Services. Tel: 01452 328883 Theresa.Mortimer@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Paul Blacker: Director of Finance. Tel: 01452 328999 Paul.Blacker@gloucestershire.gov.uk</p>
Key Risks	Failure to deliver an effective corporate governance framework prevents GFRS and the Council in directing and controlling its resources effectively and efficiently, to enable their priorities and objectives to be met.
Background	<p>On 15th June 2018 a letter of complaint was sent by email to the Leader of the Council. There were three strands to the complaint, one concerned the sale of a GFRS owned vehicle and the former Chief Fire Officer's (CFO) involvement in the process. The other two concerns were regarding staffing issues.</p> <p>It was agreed that Internal Audit would investigate the sale of the vehicle and Human Resources (HR) would review the remaining two concerns, which are included within the management review of culture.</p> <p>Shortly after commencing the investigation, numerous whistleblowing allegations and Freedom of Information requests in respect of other concerns relating to GFRS governance arrangements, procedures, systems and processes were received.</p> <p>As a result, following Internal Audit review, research, analysis and interviews with key stakeholders including relevant GFRS Officers, Internal Audit co-ordinated the findings and made a number of GFRS-specific and council-wide/cross-cutting recommendations to undertake detailed reviews/audits within each area to determine the level of risk.</p> <p>These reviews/audits are outlined in the Action Plan presented to the Audit and Governance Committee on 12th October 2018. Progress updates against each review/audit included within the Action Plan is provided to the Audit and Governance Committee.</p>