

GLA36/7.1 Audit and Risk Committee – Report to the Board

17 January 2013

BOARD PAPER REFERENCE – GLA36/7.1 – AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE – REPORT TO THE BOARD

The Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) works on behalf of the Board to check that monies are being properly spent, that systems of management control are effective and that there is proper consideration of risks associated with the Authority's work.

At our January meeting, we welcomed Joanne Young as a new member (to join Nigel Jenney, Paul Bettison and myself) which gives us a full complement of members. We reviewed our Terms of Reference and annual work plan, both of which have been streamlined following the creation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

The ARC checked the timetable for the laying of the GLA Annual Report and Accounts before Parliament to assure ourselves that this is achievable.

Members also held the annual review of ARC effectiveness, following a DEFRA template and taking on board comments from everyone around the table including the Authority chair and our professional advisers. There was a discussion of the approach to risk appetite.

ARC further reviewed the GLA Risk Registers: Business, Fraud and Pensions. The various degrees of probability and impact were probed. These registers are kept 'live' by regular review by the executive and more informally through the staff forum. There was a particular emphasis on checking how decreasing resources was impacting on operations.

Ray Dawson, Chief Operating Officer, reported on the Business Continuity Plan which is being updated to reflect the move to Apex Court and is awaiting input from the onsite management.

The National Audit Office reported on their plans for the annual external audit of the Authority. As usual they raised a series of risks to be tested, some particular to the GLA and some generic. They will be working with Authority staff to provide assurances which will be necessary to ensure the acceptance of our Annual Report and Accounts. Due to efficient working by GLA staff, the NAO was able to reduce its fees slightly.

A cycle of internal audit investigations continues and reports on the three latest were considered: Document retention and storage, Electronic Evidence and Corporate Governance – Bribery Act. Clear (green) assurances were given on the first two and an amber/green assurance was given for the latter. The issue at stake is to ensure that Board members sign the Register of Interest on an annual basis. **Through this report, may I ask all board members to now do so, on receipt of the form which will be sent electronically by the executive?**

Jane Mordue
Chair ARC
11 January 2013