

REPORT TO THE:	
FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY	
DATE: 30 th June 2008	REFERENCE:

SUBJECT: The Statement of Internal Control for the Financial Year 2007/08
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SUMMARY:
 In order to meet the requirements of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2006, the Authority is obliged to ‘conduct a review at least once in each year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to include a Statement of Internal Control with any Statement of Accounts’. Even though the Statement of Internal Control is contained within the Statement of Accounts it has to be specifically considered by the Authority and signed by the most senior officer - the Chief Fire Officer – and the most senior member- the Chairman of the Authority.

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
More than an Emergency Service		Operational Risk Management	
Trusted & Respected by our customers	Yes	Community Risk Reduction	
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities		Learning & Development	
Managing within Budget	Yes	Service Control	
Allocate Resources to Priorities		Civil Contingencies & Resilience	
Efficiency savings		Finance & Procurement	Yes
Alternative funding & resources		H.R.	
Managing People		ICT	
Risk Reduction Planning		CCMS	
Partnership Working		Transport	
Effective & Empowered People		Health & Safety	
		Premises	
		Sustainability & Environment	
		Welsh Language	
		Legal	
		Governance	Yes
		Equality & Diversity	
		Representative Body Consultation	

COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/IMPLICATIONS:

The Statement of Internal Control (SIC) sets out the internal control environment within the Authority and indicates the effectiveness of those controls. Effective internal controls give assurance that the risk of not achieving policies, aims and objectives are being managed and reduced to a reasonable level. The SIC has to be included in the published Statement of Accounts and helps to indicate good governance within the Authority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Fire and Rescue Authority approves the Statement of Internal Control for the financial year 2007/08, and that the Statement of Internal Control is signed by the Chief Fire Officer and by the Chairman of the Authority.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:

Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2006;
Internal Audit Reports;
The CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2007 (the SORP);
CIPFA Guidance.

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