

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To enable the Committee to consider and comment upon the external auditors' (Mazars) regular Audit Progress Report covering the period up to June 2013.
- 1.2 The report will be presented by Gavin Barker, the Authority's Senior Engagement Manager.
- 1.3 The reports are a regular feature on this agenda and are aimed at providing updates of the progress made by our external auditor in meeting and fulfilling their role and responsibilities to the Authority.
- 1.4 It is pleasing to note that the preliminary audit work carried to date on both the Authority's key financial systems and the substantive testing on financial data that forms the basis of the accounts for 2012/13 and the work completed in respect of the Value for Money opinion have both revealed no significant issues at this stage.
- 1.5 The reports also aim to highlight emerging issues and developments that may be of interest to members in their role on the Audit and Governance Committee and includes some high level reference to the recently published report by Sir Ken Knight on efficiency within the fire service which the Authority has presented to members of the full Authority and which it plans to respond to separately.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the attached report.

