

17 October 2012

The Members of East Sussex Fire Authority
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Dear East Sussex Fire Authority Member

East Sussex Fire Authority Annual Audit Letter 2011/12

I am pleased to submit my Annual Audit Letter which summarises my 2011/12 audit of East Sussex Fire Authority.

Financial statements and value for money conclusion

On 20 September I presented my Annual Governance Report to the Scrutiny and Audit Panel. This outlined the findings of my audit of the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements and the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. I will not repeat the detailed findings in this letter.

Following the Scrutiny and Audit Panel on 20 September:

- issued an unqualified opinion on the Authority's 2011/12 financial statements included in the Authority's Statement of Accounts;
- concluded that you have made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in your use of resources; and
- certified completion of the audit.

I am pleased to report that the Authority once again produced a sound set of financial statements supported by good working papers. The Authority continues to demonstrate strong financial management and has robust arrangements in place to ensure value for money.

Closing remarks

Whilst the external environment remains a challenging one for all local authorities, East Sussex Fire Authority recognises the scale of the challenges ahead and has plans or is developing plans to help deliver the changes that will be needed in the future.

I have discussed and agreed this letter with the Assistant Chief Officer as well as the Authority Treasurer. I wish to thank senior management, the Scrutiny and Audit Panel and the finance staff for the positive and constructive approach they have taken to my 2011/12 audit.

2011/12 is the final year of my appointment as your Appointed Auditor. I would like to thank the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive Officer, the Assistant Chief Officer, the Treasurer, and the Chair of the Scrutiny and Audit Panel for the constructive and productive working relationship I have enjoyed with you during my appointment. I wish you the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely

Lizzie Peers
Appointed Auditor

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