

LEICESTERSHIRE

FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

Status of Report: Public Agenda Item: 12

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 18th March 2015
Subject: Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2014/15 and Work Plan for 2015/16
Report by: The Solicitor and Monitoring Officer
Author: Jackie Green (Member Services Coordinator)
For: Decision

1. Purpose

This report sets out the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report for 2014/15 for presentation to the Combined Fire Authority's (CFA) Annual Meeting in June 2015; and a proposal for developing the Committee's Work Plan for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

2. Executive Summary

This report sets out the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the 2014/15 Municipal Year; and proposes a new approach to developing the Committee's Work Plan for 2015/16 with more active Member engagement.

3. Report Detail

- 3.1 The CFA re-established the former Scrutiny Panel as a formal Committee in June 2007 in consequence of the review of the CFA's governance arrangements that were approved earlier that year. The Constitution requires that the Committee must report annually to the CFA at the Annual Meeting on its workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate. In addition, the Committee has the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Policy Committee.
- 3.2 It is the practice of the Committee to consider at each meeting progress reports on the implementation of the ongoing projects through the Key Projects Report. On an annual basis the Committee reviews the Health and Safety Statistics. As the CFA's audit committee, the Committee considers all the audit reports prepared by internal and external audit.

- 3.3 Including today the Committee has met on four occasions in the current municipal year (3rd September 2014, 19th November 2014 and 28th January 2015). In addition to reports on the issues mentioned above the Committee has scrutinised and commented on reports concerning the Organisational Change Project; Automatic Fire Alarms; Future Collaboration Arrangements; the Revenue Spending Power for 2015/16 and the Appointment of External Auditors.
- 3.4 During the year no decisions of the Policy Committee have been called in.
- 3.5 Looking forward to the coming Municipal Year it is felt that an increase in Member-engagement with the scrutiny process would enhance the governance arrangements of the CFA. To this end it is suggested that a Working Party of 3 Members (1 from each party) working with the Head of Training, Development & IRMP (Joe Tasker) develop and deliver the Work Plan for the Committee to enhance and direct the Committee's work.

4. Report Implications / Impact

4.1 *Legal (including crime and disorder)*

None.

4.2 *Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)*

The financial implications of the CFA's decisions as they relate to the subject being considered are reviewed as part of each Committee item.

4.3 *Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)*

Effective scrutiny by the Committee adds value to the CFA's good governance arrangements and enhances the quality of the CFA's decision-making processes.

4.4 *Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)*

None.

4.5 *Environmental*

None

4.6 *Impact upon Our Plan Objectives*

None

5. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the Annual Report for submission to the CFA's Annual Meeting.
- b) Establish a Working Party of 3 Members (1 from each party) working with the Head of Training, Development & IRMP to develop and deliver the Committee's Work Plan for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

6. Background Papers

None

7. Appendices

None