

Fire Authority Governance Review Proposal

Report of the Monitoring Officer

For further information about this report please contact Anthea Lowe Monitoring Officer on 01952 383 219 Karen Gowreesunker or Assistant Chief Fire Officer on 01743 260 280.

1 Executive Summary

This report sets out a proposal for Fire Authority to initiate a review of its governance arrangements for Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Fire Authority Members are asked to consider the proposed purpose and scope to the review as well as the approach and timeline as set out in the appendix to this report.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Approve the proposal set out in the appendix to this report.
- b) Note specifically the purpose and scope, method, review dependencies and timeline.

3 Background

The Service underwent its HMICFRS Inspection during Spring 2024, with a hot debrief taking place on the 16 August 2024 and the final inspection report expected to be published at the end of November 2024.

Following initial feedback and areas for improvement identified through the HMICFRS Inspection for the Service, the Fire Authority considered its position and its potential areas for improvement, identifying the need for a review of its current arrangements.

The proposal in the appendix sets out the outline for this review and has been informed by members at the Chairs Briefing on 13 November 2024 and Strategic Advisory Group on 28 November 2024.

The proposal sets out the purpose and scope to this review as well as a broad outline of how the review will be undertaken, against a planned timeline.

Members should also note the review dependencies which will be important in being able to complete the review effectively.

4 Conclusions

In summary Fire Authority Members should note the contents of the proposed review of Fire Authority governance arrangements and approve the proposal to enable commencement.

5 Capacity

To enable the progression of this review the Executive Team Supervisor will be managing the delivery of this review working with all stakeholders.

This will require the re allocation of workloads within the Executive Team for the period of the review.

6 Fire Alliance / Collaboration / Partnership Working

There will be opportunities to work across other Fire and Rescue Authorities and Organisations to support our understanding of the approaches to their governance arrangements. This will support the consideration of different options and help to identify any good or best practice.

7 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report; however, the recommendations that result from this review may incur financial impacts and this will be reported into Fire Authority in June 2025.

8 Legal Comment

Any review of governance arrangements for the Fire Authority should ensure that the requirements of the relevant legislation such as the Fire and Rescue Services Act, Local Government legislation, Audit and Finance legislation and regulations are adhered to.

9 Community Safety

There are no community safety impacts arising from this report however, the proposed review will explore the requirements of how the Fire Authority will seek to improve the scrutiny of Service performance across a range of areas including Community Safety.

10 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required.

11 Fire Standard Core Code of Ethics and Human Rights (including Data Protection)

The outcomes of this review whilst not detailed within any Fire Standards will seek to support and assure the Fire Standard for Internal Governance.

12 ICT

There are no ICT impacts arising from this report, however any recommendations resulting from the review may require digital and data development to support reporting processes.

13 Public Value / Service Delivery

The purpose of the proposed review is to ensure that the Fire Authority continues to assure the public value of services delivered to the communities of Shropshire, in the most efficient and effective way possible.

14 Training

There are no training impacts arising from this report however, training and development needs of the Fire Authority will form part of the proposed review.

15 Appendix

Appendix - Proposed Review of Fire Authority Governance Arrangements

16 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.