

Scrutiny Committee Proposal

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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1 Executive Summary

This report seeks feedback from the Fire Authority in relation to the development of a Scrutiny Committee and the attached Terms of Reference.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority are asked to:

- a) approve the creation of a Scrutiny Committee
- b) provide feedback on the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Committee, attached as an appendix to this report.

3 Background

In line with expectations set out in the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2018, Sections 3.12 and 3.13, the Fire Authority will establish a Scrutiny Committee to support in achieving its strategic objectives and ensuring that its policy and budgetary framework is followed and developed to reflect the changing needs and demands in meeting its statutory obligations.

4 Purpose of the Scrutiny Committee

The overall purpose of the Committee will be to provide oversight and assurance that Chief Fire Officer and Senior Management Team are making appropriate and effective decisions that are aligned with the Fire Authority's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and any other areas of Fire Authority Strategy.

The main purpose of the Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Inform Policy Development – provide, where appropriate, a political steer before a decision is taken/implanted.
- Hold Officer and the Service to Account – the Committee may call in decisions for scrutiny before they are implemented and may call upon officers to respond to enquiries.
- Hold the Authority to account – the Committee may call-in decisions for scrutiny before they are implemented, may examine decisions that have already been implemented and may call upon relevant members to respond to enquires.
- Conduct reviews into specific issues – the Committee may identify matters that it wishes to conduct reviews into and call the relevant officers and members to assist it in carrying out those reviews.

In carrying out its role the Scrutiny Committee may look at operational and strategic issues.

The Terms of Reference are attached as an appendix to this report.

5 Conclusions

The development of a Scrutiny Committee enables focused scrutiny of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Services strategic objectives to ensure that the service it provides meets the needs of the communities of Shropshire. The Fire Authority are therefore asked to approve the creation of a Scrutiny Committee and provide feedback on the attached Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Committee.

6 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report. The scrutiny Committee will not have any decision-making powers.

7 Communications

There are no communications impacts arising from this report. The areas for scrutiny and the associated outcomes of the Scrutiny Committee will be communicated to all stakeholders.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report. An e-EQIA is not, therefore, required. EQIA's will be considered for areas identified for scrutiny by the committee.

9 Appendix

Appendix: DRAFT Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

10 Background Papers

Fire and rescue national framework for England:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england--2>