

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

11TH JUNE 2007

1. **APPROVAL OF THE WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY'S DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2006/2007**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve the Authority's Draft Annual Report for 2006/2007 which also addresses the ongoing statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 in relation to the issue of Best Value.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted for the Committee to approve the Draft Annual Report on the 2006/2007 financial year and to agree those contents of the Plan aimed at meeting the Authority's duties under Best Value.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Members may recall that at the Fire Authority meeting held on 12th February 2007 a number of changes to the Authority's approach to business planning were agreed and consequently two corporate business documents were approved. Firstly, the three year Corporate Strategy and secondly, the Annual Service Plan. This includes the Integrated Risk Management Action Plan that had been subject to consultation for a period of 12 weeks.
- 3.2 The intention of these changes was to make service delivery the principal driver in the planning process, improve the Authority's ability to target resources and focus on incident reduction activity and to lead to improvements in performance management.
- 3.3 The two documents referred to above are forward looking. It was agreed at the same Authority meeting that there would be a need for an Annual Report to look back at the previous year's progress and

to report the outcomes of the Best Value process, including results against the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs).

3.4 In preparing the attached report, officers have taken the advice of KPMG, the Authority's external auditors. They will continue to certify that the Authority has met its legal duties in respect of Best Value which include the requirements to produce a plan/report that:-

- (i) provides a summary of performance for the previous financial year;
- (ii) includes targets for the next three years against Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs);
- (iii) includes a Code of Practice Statement on workforce matters;
- (iv) shows actual performance in the previous year against BVPIs.

3.5 Approval is sought from the Committee for the attached document set out in Appendix 1. It sets out the Authority's progress for 2006/2007 and also details performance against BVPI and Local Indicator targets in 2006/2007. Following consultation with the Lead Member for Performance Management, it includes proposed targets for subsequent years.

3.6 It also provides an opportunity to report on performance in areas of regional collaboration partnership and against the outcomes of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process as well as a number of other audits undertaken by KPMG.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report, an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken which did not raise issues which required a full Equality Impact Assessment to be completed.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The costs of producing the Annual Report would be accommodated within existing budget provision.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Best Value Performance Plan
Business Plan files
Report to Authority 12th February 2007

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER