

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2013

**1. OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT – IMPROVEMENT REGISTER
PROGRESS UPDATE**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Committee notes the progress made in addressing the areas for consideration (AFC) detailed on the Operational Assessment (OpA) Improvement Register.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to provide Members with an update on progress made in addressing the AFC arising out of the Service's recent OpA which are detailed on the Improvement Register attached as Appendix 1.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Members will recall that in the spring and summer of 2012 the Service volunteered to take part in the OpA process. OpA is the fire sectors own improvement tool and comprises of a self assessment and peer challenge process. It is designed to provide an understanding of the Service's performance across the range of its core activity and to provide assurance to both Corporate Board and Authority Members as to the efficiency and effectiveness of the Service and to identify opportunities for improvement.
- 3.2 Following on from the submission of its self assessment in May 2012, the Service received its Peer Challenge in July 2012. The Peer Challenge was undertaken by external experts. The purpose of Peer Challenge is primarily threefold:
- to provide an independent assurance of performance;
 - to identify good practice which could be adopted across the fire sector; and

- support Service improvement through the identification of AFC.

3.3 The Peer Challenge Team detailed their findings in the West Midlands Fire Service OpA Peer Challenge report which was presented to the Fire Authority on 24 September 2012. This report highlighted 38 AFC which the Service agreed to address. It was confirmed at this meeting that the Service would utilise an Improvement Register to monitor Service performance in addressing the AFC raised in OpA and that regular performance updates would be provided to Scrutiny Committee.

3.4 The first OpA Improvement Register was presented to the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 November 2012. The OpA Improvement Register update for the period ending October 2013 is attached as Appendix 1 and details the progress made in addressing each AFC.

3.5 A summary of the Service's performance in addressing the AFC is detailed below:-

- 14 AFC required no further action prior to the November 2012 Scrutiny Committee. These areas are shown with a grey background on the Improvement Register.
- 12 AFC were noted as completed or requiring no further action by Scrutiny Committee on 8 April 2013. These are shown with a green background.
- Following Scrutiny Committee on the 8 April, actions against 12 AFC remained outstanding. Of these, five have been completed. The progress made in implementing the remaining seven areas is shown on the Improvement Register and all are expected to meet their targeted date for implementation. These AFC are shown with amber background.

3.6 In accordance with the requirements of OpA the Improvement Register is available on the Service's website.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matter contained within this report do not relate to policy change.

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**

There are no direct financial implications associated with undertaking a self assessment or receiving a Peer Challenge.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

West Midlands Fire Service Operational Assessment Peer Challenge Report, August 2012.

Fire Authority Report, Agenda item 14, Operational Assessment Peer Challenge Report, 24 September 2012.

Scrutiny Committee Report, Agenda item 6, Operational Assessment Improvement Register, 5 November 2012.

Scrutiny Committee Report, Agenda item 5, Operational Assessment Improvement Register, 8 April 2013.

The contact name for this report is Phil Loach, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 0121 380 6909.

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX 1

IMPROVEMENT REGISTER OCTOBER 2013

Please see separately attached document.