

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 March, 2013

1. **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF METHODS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION
USED AT WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE**

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 1.1 THAT the Committee considers whether scrutiny of the methods of public consultation used by the Service is an appropriate subject for review;
- 1.2 THAT, subject to 1.1 above, the Committee establishes a working group to take forward the review;
- 1.3 THAT, subject to 1.1 and 1.2 above, the Clerk be asked to prepare a scoping document for the review for submission to and approval by the working group.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The Committee is asked to give consideration to the subject of its next scrutiny review.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The terms of reference for the Scrutiny Committee state that it will carry out a minimum of two scrutiny reviews per annum selected by the Committee.
- 3.2 Members of the Authority have recently received presentations at the Policy Planning Forum on the outcome of the public consultation process on the review of the Service's Community Safety Strategy (its Integrated Risk Management Plan). It was reported that, despite a pro-active consultation, with numerous events taking place in each command area, only 0.11% of the community responded.

- 3.3 It has therefore been suggested that the Scrutiny Committee may wish to look in more detail at the methods of consultation used and their effectiveness and investigate the possible reasons for the poor response rate.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required and has not been completed as the matter outlined in the report does not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Consultation plays an important part in the development of the Service's plans. It is important that this consultation is meaningful and effective as the Authority is required to demonstrate, through this consultation, how its plans have been developed.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

NEERAJ SHARMA
CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER

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on behalf of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.