

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 MARCH 2013

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

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

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 OpA 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 comprised of a self assessment and was assured by a Peer Challenge. OpA 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 February 2013 is attached as Appendix 1 details the progress made in addressing each AFC. A summary of the Service's performance in addressing the AFC is detailed in 3.5 below.

3.5 Of the 38 AFC identified noted by Scrutiny Committee at its November meeting:

- 14 AFC required no further action prior to November's Scrutiny Committee. These areas are shown with a grey background on the Improvement Register.
- 12 AFC have been addressed since November's Scrutiny Committee and require no further action beyond that shown on the register. These areas are shown with a green background.
- Work is ongoing against 12 AFC. However, progress made in these areas is as expected and such AFC will be addressed in line with Service expectations and are therefore shown as on target. This ongoing work is set out in 'Progress Since September 2012 in Addressing Areas for Consideration' field on the Improvement Register and is shown with an amber background.
- Currently no AFC are off target.

3.6 In accordance with the requirements of OpA the Improvement Register is available on the Service's website. The next Improvement Register update will be provided in November 2013.

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.

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VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

APPENDIX 1

IMPROVEMENT REGISTER FEBRUARY 2013

Please see separately attached document.