

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND CIVIL DEFENCE AUTHORITY

27TH SEPTEMBER 2004

1. REPORTING OF OUTCOMES AGAINST ACTION PLAN OBJECTIVES

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority approve a revised method of reporting of the outcomes contained in Authority approved Action Plans.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to seek Members' approval to a revised method of reporting the outcomes against specific Action Plan objectives.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Authority's Annual General Meeting (AGM) it was agreed that in line with modernisation, the Best Value Performance Review Committee (BVPRC) would be replaced by the concept of a Lead Member responsible for Performance Management. At an initial meeting with officers, the Lead Member, Councillor Lawrence, requested officers to undertake a number of initiatives. One of these initiatives was to produce a report setting out progress against the Authority's approved Action Plans.
- 3.2 Historically, progress against the main Business Planning objectives has been reported verbally to the Policy Planning Forum; outcomes arising from Best Value Reviews (BVRs) have been reported to the BVPRC, while external audit reports from KPMG and those from the Audit Commission have been the subject of separate reports to the Authority. All the objectives referred to in this paragraph can be found in the Authority's annual Business and Best Value Performance Plan.

3.3 In future it is proposed that:-

3.3.1 At the commencement of each financial year, the Executive Committee receive an overview report of the corporate planning process for the year, including confirmation by the Performance and Planning department that all Action Plans have been received.

3.3.2 A quarterly exception report is submitted to the Executive Committee setting out progress against all the objectives approved by the Authority in the current year's Business and Best Value Performance Plan.

3.3.3 Either independently or responding to issues raised specifically by Members, the Lead Member should call for the instigation of 'task and finish' groups in respect of any area where outcomes are believed to be falling short of the expectations of objectives.

3.3.4 The attention of Members is drawn to the electronic provision of all these reports on the Authority's Internet site, by the end of October 2004, to enable any issues to be raised in respect of the reports referred to in 3.3.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

5. **CORPORATE AIMS SUPPORTED**

The principal corporate aims supported by the information in this report are as follows.

11. To continuously modernise and improve the quality of service.

12. To improve channels of communication.

6. **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.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There may be some small increase in claims for Members' expenses arising from additional meetings of the Lead Members with officers and from task and finish groups. This can be met from within existing budgets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Authority Meeting 26th July 2004 – Agenda Item 9
Business and Best Value Performance Plan 2004/2005

F J E SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER