

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**2 FEBRUARY, 2015**

**1. CONSULTATION WITH NON-DOMESTIC RATEPAYERS**

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted and any necessary recommendations be made to the Authority at its meeting on 16 February, 2015.

**2 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To consult with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers prior to the setting of the Authority's budget and precept for 2015/2016.

**3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, it is the Authority's usual practice for this Committee to meet with representatives of non-domestic ratepayers prior to the setting of the Authority's budget and precept.
- 3.2 Written notice of this meeting has been given to various organisations that represent the interests of non-domestic ratepayers in the West Midlands and further publicity has been given via the Authority's website.
- 3.3 The following documents have been made available on the Authority's web site as part of the consultation process:-
  - (a) Information on the Authority's Budget 2014/2015.
  - (b) Summary information concerning the Authority's funding options for 2015/2016.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out, as the matters contained in this report will not lead to and do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that each fire authority, as a precepting authority, shall consult with persons or bodies appearing to it to be representative of persons subject to non-domestic rates before it issues the first precept in any financial year.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

N SHARMA  
CLERK AND MONITORING OFFICER