

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

28 May 2013

1. FINDINGS OF THE SAFESIDE REVIEW

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committee consider and approve the findings of the Safeside review contained within the attached report.
- 2.2 That the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair and/or Vice-Chair, amend the report to include any recommendations or comments made by the Scrutiny Committee to ensure accuracy and clarity.
- 2.3 That on the completion of 2.2 above, the Monitoring Officer make the necessary arrangements and submit the findings of the Safeside Review for consideration and approval by the Executive Committee at its meeting to be held on 10 June 2013.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report has been prepared to outline to the Committee the findings of the scrutiny review of the Safeside facility at Fire Service Headquarters. The final report will be considered for approval by the Executive Committee.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The role and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Committee were approved by the Authority at its meeting on 25 June 2012. The terms of reference outline that part of the role of the Scrutiny Committee is to carry out a minimum of two scrutiny reviews per annum selected by the Committee. Such reviews will be member-led and evidence based and will produce SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely) recommendations.

- 3.2 The Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 November 2012 agreed to consider the operation of Safeside as part of its work programme and asked for a report to be presented at the next meeting. Safeside is a state-of-the-art, scenario based experiential learning centre that inspires visitors to think and act safely.
- 3.2 In determining the appropriateness of this area for scrutiny, members applied the prioritisation tool that was introduced to them in their initial training provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny on 7 November 2012 and determined that the scrutiny of the Safeside facility was a high priority and therefore should be included in the Committee's work programme.
- 3.3 In order to be effective, every Scrutiny Review must be properly managed to make sure that the review achieves its aims and has measurable outcomes. One of the most important ways to make sure that a review goes well is to ensure that it is well defined at the outset. This way the review is less likely to get sidetracked or be overambitious in what it hopes to tackle.
- 3.4 The scoping template had been developed based on researching a number of scoping documents used by other organisations. It has been designed to help members to focus on the purpose of the review, and exactly what is to be achieved and contained suggestions on the objectives, approach methodology and outcomes for the review of Safeside that had been developed for the Scrutiny Committee by officers. This was presented as a discussion document for members to review and consider at the meeting arranged for 10 December 2012 where further input and views were sought.
- 3.5 The Committee subsequently established a working group to take forward and gather evidence for the review. This was supported by officers and various witnesses to ensure that the group received relevant information. The group met on 10 January and 15 February 2013. The findings and recommendations of the working group are now attached for consideration by the Committee.

4. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as there are no policy changes proposed.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications. It is not anticipated that additional resources will be required to implement the recommendations.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Governance of the Authority 2012/13 Report, 25 June 2012
The Centre for Public Scrutiny Good Scrutiny Guide

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