

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

15 MARCH 2010

1. **'THE PLAN' 2010–2013**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee approve the three year document entitled 'The Plan' 2010–2013.

2. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report is submitted to seek the Committee's approval of the 'The Plan' 2010–2013 which sets the strategic direction for the West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) attached at Appendix 1.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework (FRSNF) sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service. It outlines the outcomes Government expects to see delivered by Fire and Rescue Authorities across a range of functions. It also requires each Fire and Rescue Authority to produce a publicly available plan covering at least a three year time span, which is regularly reviewed and revised to reflect up to date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes.

3.2 The Plan fulfils the requirements of the FRSNF, it sets out in a series of outcomes the difference that will be made for the people of the West Midlands and others through:

- the services that are provided;
- the way that the WMFS is run, and
- the way in which it is intended to achieve the outcomes by identifying priority areas of work which are detailed in a set of strategic statements. A previous version of the statements was included in the report that was considered by the Authority on the 15th February 2010.

- 3.3 The Plan incorporates the outcomes from the recent consultation on the priorities and budget proposals for the Service which involved Authority Members, the public and other stakeholders.
- 3.4 The format of the document has changed considerably from those of previous years. The reasons for this were explained in the paper of 15th February 2010. Consequently the name of the planning document has been changed from the Corporate Strategy to 'The Plan'.
- 3.5 The document will be the subject of periodic reviews during the financial year to ensure that the content is valid and relevant having regard for any new or changing influences. This will ensure that the targeting of resources is undertaken in the most effective and efficient way to deliver the key priorities and objectives. To enable the document to be revised as necessary it will be maintained in an electronic format. A small number of paper documents will be produced at the start of the financial year to ensure that staff and other stakeholders are aware of the existence of the document, the paper document will make reference to the electronic version.
- 3.5 Any significant revision to 'The Plan' will be reported to the Authority through the existing reporting arrangements.
- 3.6 The use of an electronic format document will reduce both the production costs and the consumption of raw materials in line with the organisation's Value for Money and Environmental strategies.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report a full Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. No significant issues were identified.

Overall The Plan sets out how the organisation intends to deliver a risk based service which is informed by vulnerability. The Plan will be made available in different languages and formats should this be required.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The FRSNF is given statutory power by reference to it in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the content of this report. However, it is important to note that the budget setting process has been a key factor in determining the key priorities and services that will be delivered by the Authority.
- 6.2 Budget presentations at the Policy Planning Seminars on 14 December 2009 and 25 January 2010, combined with the budget report approved by the Authority on 15 February 2010, highlighted anticipated budget shortfalls for the Authority from 2011/2012 arising predominantly from Central Government Grant reductions. Consequently, the content of the 2010/2013 Plan will need to be considered alongside any funding adjustments and the periodic reviews will assess if any service areas need to be modified, reduced or stopped in the event of funding reductions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

Fire and Rescue Services National Framework 2008–2011

West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority minutes, minute No. 3/10

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER