

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY REPORT

20 FEBRUARY 2017

1. **SAFESIDE REVIEW: RESPONSE TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Scrutiny Committee note the update on the progress of actions relating to the Safeside update (submitted to the Committee 14 November 2016)

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to Scrutiny Committee Members to note the progress and outcomes of the actions that were raised as a result of the update on Safeside which was submitted to the Committee on 14 November 2016.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Following an update to the Scrutiny Committee in relation to transport funding for Safeside, a number of actions were requested by Members:

- Press briefing to be prepared for Members to use to promote Safeside;
- Safeside logo to be circulated for use on promoting Safeside on Twitter;
- Number of schools in each Local Authority Area who have not visited Safeside over the last two years;
- Safeside Prospectus to be circulated to Members.

3.2 Three actions have been resolved and attached to this report (Appendices 1, 2 and 3). The fourth action, the circulation of the Safeside Prospectus, remains outstanding. It will be

forwarded to Members following review and reprint in March 2017. Current booking information can be found on the West Midlands Fire Service website (www.wmfs.net) where schools can submit a booking enquiry.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required. The matters contained in this report will not lead to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Scrutiny Committee Update – Safeside Transport Funding
(November 2016)

The contact name for this report is Gary Taylor (Assistant Chief Fire Officer), telephone number 0121 380 6006

PHIL LOACH
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Press Briefing for Members

WMFS has invested in two experiential learning centres which provides schools and organisations with an innovative way to raise awareness of current safety issues under Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education and Citizenship within the National Curriculum to children, young people and adults.

At Eastside groups of visitors are taken through a range of risk scenarios within our full sized Street Scene including: house, double decker bus, train, fire appliance, building society, shop, car, canal, court room, police station, alleyway, a health centre, internet café and an ambulance.

Each of the scenarios has a range of key safety messages and utilises a number of educational styles and a variety of equipment and materials to make the experience interactive and memorable to ensure the messages will be retained by our visitors.

Safeside at Handsworth is based on a working Community Fire Station and works closely with the Station to deliver our key priorities of 'Keeping West Midlands Safer, Stronger and Healthier' with a focus on fire safety and the work of West Midlands Fire Service. Children have the opportunity to visit the Fire Station and wear a Fire Kit.

Since the opening in 2008, over 65,000 visitors have been inspired to think and act safely and here are some comments from the visitors from Safeside....

“Very detailed and informative” “A lovely organised day”
“A lovely day – thank you!” “Very pleasant and accommodating
with a child with autism”

And the Children said..... “It was brilliant! Thank You!”

If you would like more information please view www.wmfs.net or contact Safeside@wmfs.net

School Attendance at Safeside (Eastside or Handsworth)

The overview provides a list of the number of schools who have not attended WMFS Safeside since 2014.

Local Authority	Number of schools not attended
Coventry	103
Birmingham	380
Dudley	20
Sandwell	113
Solihull	77
Walsall	98
Wolverhampton	73

Details are recorded up to 31 December 2016. Updated figures will be available in April 2017.

Images for Social Media Use

