

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 JUNE 2018

1. INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT - PARTNERSHIPS

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Scrutiny Committee note the content of the Internal Audit Report - Partnerships, Report no FS005, dated 30th April 2018 attached as an Appendix.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to Scrutiny Committee Members to note the content of the Internal Audit Report - Partnerships dated 30th April 2018.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 During 2015 Scrutiny Committee conducted scrutiny of Partnerships activity resulting in a scrutiny report being issued in October 2015.

3.2 As a result of the recommendations of the scrutiny report partnerships processes and structures were reviewed during 2016.

3.3 The outcome of the partnerships review resulted in a restructure of partnership teams from being based on commands to become a central HQ based team. Recruitment to the new roles took place during the late summer and autumn of 2016.

3.4 In May 2017 the Partnerships team published the "Partnerships Governance Framework" that supports

partnerships activity across the organisation

- 3.5 In Feb 2018 Sandwell Audit conducted an audit of the process for managing partnership arrangements.
- 3.6 The audit concluded that there is **satisfactory assurance** over the adequacy of the controls reviewed as part of the process to mitigate risks to an acceptable level.

The audit identified two **significant** issues where improvements could be made, arising from the following:

- The process for completing quality assurance checks has been developed, but the reviews are not currently being undertaken.
 - As a minimum, an Initial Equality Impact Assessment (IEIA) should be undertaken. Currently, no IEIAs are being completed.
- 3.7 The audit identified 3 issues that **Merit Attention** arising from the following
- The quality assurance checklist should be updated to include the following:
 - verify if the IEIA was undertaken
 - verify if an EIA or Privacy Impact Assessment was undertaken (where necessary)
 - The assurance map should be updated to reflect the latest position of the risk.
 - Consideration should be given to including the continued viability of the partnership database in the respective corporate risk.
- 3.8 The appended report provides the findings of the audit and contains the management response to the improvements and recommendations.

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

Appendix – Internal Audit Report - Partnerships, Report no FS005, dated 30th April 2018

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PHIL LOACH
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER