

## Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

**09 October 2017 at 12:30 p.m.**  
**at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham**

**Present:** Councillor Spence (Vice-Chair),  
Councillors Barrie, Booth (substitute), Brackenridge, Hogarth,  
Miks,

**Apologies:**

Councillors Male, Tranter and Young

**Observer:**

Nil

**27/17 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**28/17 Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 04 September 2017**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 04 September 2017, be approved as a correct record.

**29/17 Operational Assessment Improvement Register**

Karen Gowreesunker, Clerk to the Authority and Strategic Enabler Strategic Hub, provided an overview of the report:

Members were asked to note and comment on the contents of the Operational Assessment (OpA) Improvement Register and to note that the Service would utilise its existing planning and performance frameworks to implement and monitor performance in addressing the areas for consideration arising from the OpA process.

Some of the areas for consideration within the Improvement Register were very wide in their scope and it had not been possible in some cases to refine such areas to a specific area or function.

Some areas for consideration related to work which constituted continuous areas for development for the Service and as such, had been recorded as complete for the purposes of this exercise and would not be included within future updates provided to the Committee.

The areas for consideration and subsequent actions would be managed via the 3PT (portfolio, programme, project, task) approach. It was intended that future updates would be provided to the Committee on a six monthly basis over the following 12 to 18 month period.

The Fire Service Inspectorate had been established and it was possible that the outcomes of the OpA and Fire Peer Challenge could form some basis of the initial inspections.

In answer to Members' questions, the following points were raised:

- Area for consideration number 3: As governance for the Service progressed, the future Reformed Fire Authority and the ultimate transfer of governance to the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority would reshape the role of Members. The number of Members would reduce and therefore responsibilities would change. Current arrangements would be reviewed and developed where applicable as part of the future governance model.
- Members would receive training on the future governance model if requested. However, it would not be practicable to provide any training until the details of the governance model was confirmed.
- Area for consideration number 26: The capacity to provide training to the required level was provided in the provision of station based trainers and subject matter advisors. The Distributed Training Model enabled training to be undertaken and for crews to remain operationally available. The model was further facilitated by the provision of hubs at each training location. Work remained ongoing to develop this further.

### 30/17 **Scrutiny Work Programme 2017-18**

The committee noted the work programme for 2017/18.

### 31/17 **Workshop for members on Dispute Resolution process**

Helen Sherlock, Senior Business Partner, People Support Services, provided a presentation on the Service's dispute resolution process as part of a workshop for Members following the request for further information that had been raised at the meeting of the Committee held in September.

Meeting ended at 13.06 hours

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