

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

26 March 2018 at 10:30 p.m.
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham

Present: Councillor Tranter (Chair),
Councillors Barrie, Brackenridge, Hogarth, Male, Miks,
Spence

Apologies:

Councillor Young

Observer:

Nil

05/18 **Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

06/18 **Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 26 February 2018**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018, be approved as a correct record.

07/18 **Update on Data Sharing**

Martina Doolan, Data Manager, Data Management provided an overview of the report:

The report provided an update to Members on the progress made in addressing the recommendations arising from the Data Sharing Review (detailed within the Action Plan – Appendix 1).

The Action Plan had been completed with the exception of one outstanding piece of work. This was the audit which was to be

conducted six months after the implementation of the Management of Information Standing Order.

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

- The European Union General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) was being absorbed into common law / legislation and there would be a need to abide to the regulations following Brexit.
- In addressing the main actions identified, it had been agreed that a further audit would be conducted to establish if the Management of Information Standing Order was being adhered to. The audit was due to be conducted six months after the implementation of the standing order. However, with the proposed implementation of the EU GDPR, it was considered that to conduct a review currently would be counterproductive as a full review of policies, procedures, advice and guidance would take place during the preparation period prior to the launch of the EU GDPR in May 2018. As a result, monitoring had been put in place in the meantime.
- It was agreed that the Data Sharing Review was to be approved with the caveat that an update be provided to the Committee regarding the outstanding piece of work in the Action Plan.

The Committee noted the direction of travel in implementing the recommendations made following the review of data sharing.

Resolved that the closedown of the Data Sharing Review, but with one outstanding ongoing piece of work be approved.

Resolved that an update on the outstanding piece of work in the Data Sharing Review (the audit of the Management of Information Standing Order) be reported to the Committee at a future meeting (provisionally September 2018).

08/18 **Dispute Resolution Report**

Helen Sherlock, Senior Business Partner, People Support Services, provided an overview of the report:

The report covered the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017. Six grievances had been received, all of which had been appealed and none upheld.

Three grievances were lodged due to the removal of Continued Professional Development (CPD) payment. This was because under the national agreement there was no appeal process regarding the CDP process. Therefore, the grievance procedure was instigated to appeal issues regarding CDP.

There had been eight disciplinary cases during the period. The details of the eight cases were detailed within the report.

The Committee noted the contents of the dispute resolution report for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017.

Resolved that the contents of the dispute resolution report are submitted to the Joint Consultative Panel.

09/18 **Operational Assessment Improvement Register**

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

The report represented the second update to the Committee of progress against the areas for consideration (the first update having been submitted to the Committee at the October 2017 meeting).

Of the 36 areas for consideration within the Improvement Register:

- 18 areas for consideration required no further action prior to the October 2017 meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and were classed as complete for the purposes of the Improvement Register.

- Five areas for consideration had been addressed since the October Scrutiny Committee and had been classed as completed, requiring no further action for the purposes of the Improvement Register.
- Work was ongoing against 15 areas for consideration. Progress made in these areas was as expected and on target.
- No areas for consideration had been classed as off target.

The Committee noted the progress made in addressing the areas for consideration detailed within the Operational Assessment Improvement Register.

10/18 **Safeside – Update on Transport Funding**

Gary Taylor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, provided an overview of the report:

The report provided an update for Members on progress of actions regarding transport funding for schools following the update provided previously to the Committee in February 2017.

The update in February 2017 had reported that schools outside of Birmingham were struggling to cover transport costs to and from Safeside. As a result, the Service had provided funding support for schools. This had been achieved by utilising approximately £30k from an underspend in the prevention budget, resulting in 41 schools visiting Safeside. However, the approach taken was not necessarily sustainable over the long term.

To address this, Safeside had linked in with social value, and restructured its budgets as the number of schools visiting the facility increased, which had led to Safeside being close to self-funding. As a result, the £30k support had decreased to approximately £21k which was kept as a pump priming mechanism.

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

- The Service had held a procurement exercise to identify a transport provider.
- Further communications regarding the Safeside facility within the Coventry area could be of benefit. Local support from Members would be appreciated.

- Safeside targeted schools via a work programme based on deprivation, and did present a number of challenges.
- Primary schools were targeted by Safeside unless there were specific needs raised regarding a school.

Members noted the update on the progress of actions relating to the Safeside update and transport funding.

11/18 **Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18 – March 2018**

Progress against the work programme was noted by the Committee.

Gary Taylor, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, suggested that consideration should be given to forthcoming scrutiny reviews, in particular reviews of policies before they were implemented.

Work on the transitional change to the Reformed Fire Authority was progressing and a review of the committee structures would be submitted at the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in June 2018. A review of the transitional change could take place approximately six months following the implementation of the Reformed Fire Authority and this could be undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee or independently (with the report shared with the Committee).

Councillor Tranter would meet with Stephen Timmington, Support Officer, Strategic Hub, to consider and produce the annual report of the Scrutiny Committee which was due to be submitted at the June meeting of the Committee.

Meeting ended at 13.28 hours

<p>Contact Officer: Stephen Timmington Strategic Hub West Midlands Fire Service 0121 380 6680</p>
