

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

30 SEPTEMBER 2019

1. MEMBER STATION VISITS

Report of the Clerk

RECOMMENDED

THAT Members approve the schedule of station visits and an agreed approach to enabling effective feedback from visits into the Service, as a key component to member engagement.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To set out an annual schedule of stations visits for members of the Authority to support members in their roles.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Authority Constitution requires all members to be actively aware of issues inside and outside of the Authority, relevant to the provision of fire and rescue services in order to fulfil a community leadership and representative function, working as necessary in partnership with other local organisations, in order to effectively promote the safety and well-being of the whole community of the West Midlands.

3.2 In addition, the Constitution also requires as part of visits and conferences, that members undertake at least 2 station visits per year.

3.2 Members should meet this requirement through the delivery of committee roles and through engagement with stations and communities in their local areas. To support this responsibility, a schedule of station visits has been prepared as set out in Appendix 1.

3.3 These visits have been aligned to take place after station and command area performance meetings on a quarterly

Ref. AU/KG/Sept2019

basis, providing members with the ability to meet the widest compliment of staff and managers from across their area over a 12 month period.

- 3.4 Members will continue to receive quarterly newsletters informing them of progress and performance aligned to their command area. These newsletters will continue to support awareness of local performance.
- 3.5 Each station visit will enable members to engage with their local stations in supporting the achievement of the Authority's corporate strategy, The Plan, through:
 - Meeting with staff on stations within their local area to understand local performance and progress in delivering services
 - Supporting community engagement regarding the activity of stations to increase community awareness regarding local prevention, protection and response services.
 - Supporting the development of local partnerships between the Service and their local authorities and local community partnerships, to enable an increasingly effective approach to targeting vulnerable people.
- 3.6 Members should engage directly with station commanders and/or operational commanders to vary any of the arrangements set out in the Visit Schedule in Appendix 1.
- 3.7 Feedback from these sessions into the Service will be provided on a thematic basis supported by a clear evidence base.
- 3.8 Member attendance at these visits will form part of reporting back into their local authorities
- 3.8 Themes identified from these visits will be analysed quarterly and will support members in the determination of the Authority's scrutiny programme, which incorporates a maximum of 2 reviews per year.
- 3.9 Themes will also be fed into the Strategic Enabling Team on a quarterly basis.

Ref. AU/KG/Sept2019

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

This report supports the delivery of the role of elected members on the Fire Authority as set out in the Fire Authority's constitution Article 2.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no environmental implications

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Non applicable

The contact officer for this report is Karen Gowreesunker, Clerk to the Authority, telephone number 0121 380 6638

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CLERK TO AUTHORITY

Ref. AU/KG/Sept2019