

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**10 JUNE 2013**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. **SAFESIDE REVIEW – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report of the Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

RECOMMENDED

- 2.1 That the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Safeside review, as contained within the Appendix, be approved.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report has been prepared to seek approval of the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Safeside facility at Fire Service Headquarters.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The role and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Committee were approved by the Authority at its meeting on 25 June 2012. The terms of reference outline that part of the role of the Scrutiny Committee is to carry out a minimum of two scrutiny reviews per annum selected by the Committee.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 November 2012 agreed to consider the operation of Safeside as part of its work programme. Safeside is a state-of-the-art, scenario based experiential learning centre that inspires visitors to think and act safely.
- 3.3 The Committee established a working group to take forward and gather evidence for the review. This was supported by officers and various witnesses to ensure that the group received relevant information. The group met on 10 January and 15 February 2013. The findings of the Scrutiny Committee are now attached and the recommendations for approval are as follows:-

	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Member</b>
<b>1</b>	That priority continues to be given to the priority groups that the Service is targeting as part of its vision outlined in the Plan under the banner 'Making the West Midlands Safer'.	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
<b>2</b>	That a member of the Authority be designated 'champion' for Safeside to promote the facility and to report regularly to the Authority on activity and progress.	Chair
<b>3</b>	That Section 41 members on the Authority be encouraged to promote and raise awareness of Safeside at their home authorities.	Chair/Section 41 members
<b>4</b>	That further sponsorship and external funding opportunities be investigated to fund the cost of visits to enable offers and discounts to be made to schools (for e.g. by approaching the Authority's insurers and transport providers).	Community Fire Safety supported by Operations Commanders
<b>5</b>	That school governors, headteachers and school fora be approached to raise awareness of Safeside and in particular, year 5 teachers be targeted through a marketing and promotion strategy utilising both Safeside resources, wider West Midlands Fire Service and Fire Authority members as appropriate and by providing briefings for primary and secondary heads fora within the seven districts.	Community Fire Safety/Ops Commanders and Section 41 members in partnership
<b>6</b>	That Community Safety Officers/Firefighters be recommended to visit schools in order to raise awareness of Safeside.	Community Fire Safety supported by Operations Commanders
<b>7</b>	That schools be recommended to consider utilising Pupil Premium to fund visits.	Community Fire Safety/Ops Commanders and Section 41 members in partnership

<b>8</b>	That Section 41 members of the Authority be encouraged to seek views from the schools in their local area by making personal approaches where possible.	Section 41 members
<b>9</b>	That links be established with local Health and Wellbeing Boards, Clinical Commissioning Groups and Safeguarding Boards (both children and adults) to mirror the good practice and success of the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Board Pilot Scheme.	Operations Commanders supported by Community Fire Safety
<b>10</b>	That links be established with the Police to raise awareness of Safeside and encourage visits from appropriate groups to address crime and disorder issues.	Community Fire Safety
<b>11</b>	That links be established with partner agencies, including community leaders, the Youth Service and senior citizens in order to promote the Safeside facility, to widen the user base of the facility and to raise awareness with different audiences.	Community Fire Safety
<b>12</b>	Constituent authorities be asked to investigate levels of attendance and awareness in their own area by placing an item on Safeside on the work programme of an appropriate scrutiny committee.	Section 41 members to liaise with their respective local authorities
<b>13</b>	That more pre-booked sessions for members, parents, staff and local charitable groups be offered and that Safeside continue to be promoted during school holidays.	Community Fire Safety
<b>14</b>	That a separate piece of work be undertaken with regard to how barriers relating to transport can be overcome to enable more visits.	Community Fire Safety

#### 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out as there are no policy changes proposed.

#### 5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### 6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications. It is not anticipated that additional resources will be required to implement the recommendations.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Governance of the Authority 2012/13 Report, 25 June 2012  
The Centre for Public Scrutiny Good Scrutiny Guide

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