

Governance and Transformation Committee

8 October 2018

Review Scope

- Developing the proposed role of the Mayoral Fire Committee
- Key references:
 - Governance Review
 - Draft Order
 - WMCA Constitution (future)

<https://wmfs.sharepoint.com/sites/WMCAWMFSJointImplementationTeam/Shared%20Documents/General/Future%20GovernanceV3.mp4>

Clarifying Role and Responsibilities – draft Order

Draft Order

Section 4 (3): *The Mayor may arrange for a committee of the WMCA (“the Mayoral Fire Committee”) to advise the mayor on the exercise of fire and rescue functions.*

Section 4 (4): *The Mayor may not make any arrangement under section 107D(3) of the LDEDC Act 2009 (functions of mayors: general) that authorises the exercise of any excluded function.*

Section 6: *excluded Fire and Rescue functions*

Section 7: Delegation of functions to the Chief Fire Officer 7.—(1) The following functions are exercisable only by the Chief Fire Officer in relation to the fire and rescue service

The order clearly sets out the role of the Mayor and the CFO and those functions which cannot be delegated (excluded fire and rescue functions)

The order clearly sets out the role of the MFC as 'to advise the Mayor'.

CFO role summarised – draft Order

Only the CFO can exercise the following:

- Operational and technical leadership of the Service
- Specialist operational and technical advice to the Mayor
- All staff related decisions: including structure, recruitment, development and dismissal
- The management of assets, finances, reserves
- The management of trade union relations
- The preparation of the IRMP, budget and the services strategic priorities and objectives
- The functions of the WMCA relating to fire and rescue legislation
- Accountable to the Mayor for performance of the Service – fire functions

Role of Mayor – draft Order

The Mayor is accountable for exercising all fire and rescue functions including:

- Section 13, 15 and 16 arrangements
- Appointing or dismissing the CFO
- Holding the CFO to account for the management of the fire service
- Approving the IRMP, statement of assurance, all plans relating to the strategic direction of the service to ensure the WMCA is able to continue to perform its fire and rescue related functions

Role of the Mayoral Fire Committee

Draft Order:

- Section 4 (3) defines the role of the committee is to 'advise' the Mayor on the exercise of functions
- The committee is not a decision making committee but has 'voting' rights
- There is no scrutiny or audit role for the committee
- Elected, co-opted and PCC members

The Governance Review defined the following roles:

- Enable leadership for the Service and Mayoral priorities - section 41
- Enabling regional and national fire representation – LGA local government relationships
- Engage with and influence government policy on behalf of the Mayor - lobbying
- Enable the development of collaboration, partnerships and services to the community

Considerations for role of MFC

Following cessation of the Fire Authority how will MFC support Service and Mayoral priorities?

- Bridging gaps between current WMCA and WMFRA governance framework
- Providing Section 41 leadership – representing local communities
- Supporting WMCA committees in taking on ‘fire’ responsibilities

Delivering roles which follow the intention of the Order and rationale for reform as set out in the governance review

Considerations for role of MFC

How will the MFC represent/support the Mayor in regional and national government relationships?

- Engage with and influence government policy on behalf of the Mayor, i.e. lobbying

How will 'voting powers' work?

MFC is not a decision making committee but consider gaps in constitution.

Determining allowances

Considerations for role of MFC

How can the MFC support transition period?

- During transition – governance and transformation - supporting WMCA committees and Chairs?
- Basis for existence of G&T role post transfer (within MFC)?

Approach to engaging and advising Mayor?

- Advising on?
- How? Established meetings, periodic reporting to Mayor
- Efficient and effective model, reducing bureaucracy

Next steps...

- Feedback from today used to inform ongoing work
- **November G&T** – options and proposals regarding role of MFC
- **12th Nov/10th Dec**
- **10th Dec PPF**
- **Jan 2019 WMCA**