

Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee

04 June 2018 at 12:30 p.m.
at Fire Service Headquarters, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham B7 4HW

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

Apologies: Councillors Brackenridge, Young, Barrie

Observer: Tom Dare, Birmingham Mail

12/18 **Declarations of Interest in contracts or other matters**

There were no declarations of interest.

13/18 **Minutes of the Scrutiny Committee held on 26 March 2018**

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

14/18 **Scrutiny Review of Safeguarding – Scoping**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Gary Taylor, Director Service Delivery, presented a report on the review of safeguarding

The report asked the committee to give consideration to the subject of its next scrutiny review and the scoping document (included with the report as Appendix 1), with a view to initiating a review of safeguarding, and the establishment of a working group.

It was noted that it was good that the safeguarding of adults and especially the elderly was being looked at and reviewed.

Resolved that the committee approved the scoping document and the setting up of the working group to take forward the review of safeguarding.

15/18 **Scrutiny of Positive Action and Firefighter Recruitment**

Area Commander Sarah Warnes, Strategic Enabler People Support Services and Joanne Simmonds, People Support Manager, presented a report on positive action and the recruitment of firefighters.

The report gave an update to Scrutiny Committee on current activity in developing the Fire Services approach to positive action and provided details of the outcomes of recent firefighter recruitment activity.

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

- The committee welcomed the fact that there were more women being recruited.
- It was confirmed that the recruitment candidate groups were now in situ.
- It was confirmed that no one had left the Service once deployed to station.
- The applicants were coming from a wide range of backgrounds, ages, and most were already employed.
- The Diversity Inclusion Cohesion and Equality (DICE) Station Initiative, in which several stations are involved, was being reviewed, and that there are a lot of positive actions being publicised whenever the organisation interacts with local communities via various methods including social media.
- There was a change in Operations Commander for Coventry and Solihull; ACFO Gary Taylor said he would ask the new Operations Commander to arrange a meet and greet with Cllr Miks.

Noted the progress made in relation to the review of positive action and firefighter recruitment.

16/18 **Internal Audit Report – Partnerships**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Gary Taylor presented the report on the internal audit of partnerships.

The report was submitted to Scrutiny Committee Members to note the content of the Internal Audit Report - Partnerships dated 30th April 2018.

Noted the content of the Internal Audit Report - Partnerships, report no FS005, dated 30th April 2018 plus the included Appendix.

17/18 **Analysis of Progress of Quarterly Performance Against The Plan Qtr 4 2017-18**

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Gary Taylor and Area Commander Sarah Warnes, Strategic Enabler People Support Services, Director Service Delivery, presented a report on the organisations performance against 'The Plan'.

This report was submitted to provide an analysis of the organisation's performance against 'The Plan' for 2017/2018.

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

- To try and reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires certain groups of the community are targeted e.g. elderly and vulnerable.
- The data presented in the report can be drilled down to Local Council and Station Area, this information is also included in the Fire Authority briefings sent to members. Coventry have an interactive presentation which can be drilled down.
- It was suggested that it may be useful to have a comparison between the council areas.
- It was noted that in one case there had not been a meeting with the area councillor in the last 18 months.
- It was confirmed that male and female pay was the same across the organisation.
- It was queried whether there should be an amber category for items that had slipped into the red category, outside the tolerance level, but had mitigating circumstances behind it.

Noted

- The status of the Service's key performance indicators in the fourth quarter of 2017/2018 (Appendix 1).
- The progress made in delivering the three strategic priorities contained in 'The Plan' 2017-2020 (Appendix 1).
- The update on the performance information system detailed in section 5 of this report

18/18 **Diversity Inclusion Cohesion Equality Update**

Joanne Simmonds, People Support Manager, presented a report on Diversity Inclusion Cohesion Equality (DICE).

The report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee to review and consider the ongoing progress being made by the Service in advancing DICE. This activity supports our equality objectives as well as our statutory requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty and Equality Act 2010

Noted the progress made by the Service in relation to DICE during the last 6 months.

19/18 **Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee 2017-18**

That the Committee gives consideration to the content and format of its Annual Report 2017/18 for submission to the next full meeting of the Authority.

This report is submitted to Members to seek approval of the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee 2017/18.

The chair said that he had read through the report and was happy with it and asked the committee if they were happy and all agreed.

Resolved the report was agreed.

20/18 **Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017-18 – June 2018**

The Committee noted the Work Programme for the remainder of 2018.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) Gary Taylor commented that the Safeguarding review (agreed under item 14/18) should be added to the Work Programme.

The meeting finished at 13:48pm.

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