

# Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 July 2016

## Agenda

Please note that this meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the internet and will be available to view for 24 hours following the meeting. Generally, the public gallery is not filmed, but by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. All recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's protocol on filming and use of social media.

The Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee will meet in Committee Room 2, Shire Hall, Warwick on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 2 p.m.

The agenda will be:

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies**

**(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election or appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with (Standing Order 43).
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

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All public papers are available at [www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/cmis)

Non-pecuniary interests must be declared in accordance with the new Code of Conduct. These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 May 2016**

**2. Public Question Time**

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for members of the public to ask questions on any matters relevant to the business of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Questioners may ask two questions and can speak for up to three minutes each. To be sure of receiving an answer to an appropriate question, please contact Helen Barnsley 5 working days before the meeting. Otherwise, please arrive at least 15 minutes before the start of the meeting and ensure that Council representatives are aware of the matter on which you wish to speak.

**3. Questions to the Portfolio Holders relevant to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for the Committee to put questions to the Leader and Portfolio Holders on any matters relevant to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**4. Work Programme 2015/16**

To consider the Committee's proposed Work Programme and future areas of scrutiny activity.

**5. Fire and Rescue Service Peer Review and Transformation Presentation**

Operational Assessment and Peer Challenge 2013 closure report, and the arrangements for 2016

**6. Project Hub Update and Member Dashboard, Including a Presentation**

To be provided at the meeting - update for the Committee on the progress of the Project Hub and the development of the member dashboard; including a presentation.

**7. Public Property Asset Register**

A report to provide an update to the Committee following the Council resolution to explore the opportunities for cooperation with the district and borough councils and other public bodies to establish a common public property asset register.

## 8. Urgent Matters

At the discretion of the Chair, items may be raised which are considered urgent (please notify Democratic Services in advance of the meeting).

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee has been scheduled for 15 September 2016, commencing at 2:00pm in Committee Room 2.

Jim Graham  
Chief Executive  
Shire Hall  
Warwick

### **Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee** **Membership**

**Councillors:** John Appleton, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Peter Fowler, John Holland, Phillip Morris-Jones (Vice Chair), Bernard Kirton, Keith Kondakor, Chris Saint and Matt Western (Chair).

#### **Portfolio Holders:-**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe – Leader of the Council

Councillor Alan Cockburn – Deputy Leader

Councillor Kam Kaur– Customers

Councillor John Horner – Community Safety

For queries regarding this agenda, please contact:

Helen Barnsley, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01926 412323, e-mail: [helenbarnsley@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:helenbarnsley@warwickshire.gov.uk)

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
held on 18 May 2016**

**Present:**

**Members of the Committee**

Councillors John Appleton, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Peter Fowler,  
Brian Hawkes, Keith Kondakor, Phillip Morris-Jones (Chair for this meeting) Chris Saint,

**Other County Councillors**

John Horner, Portfolio Holder – Community Safety  
Philip Johnson

**Officers**

David Ayton-Hill, Economy & Skills Group Manager  
Helen Barnsley, Democratic Services Officer  
David Carter, Strategic Director, Resources Group  
Andrew Lovegrove, Head of Corporate Financial Services  
Rob Moyney, Assistant Chief Fire Officer  
Paul Williams, Democratic Services Team Leader

**1. General**

Before the meeting started, members wished it noted that their very best wishes be sent to Councillor Western.

Members also welcomed Councillor Brian Hawkes who has replaced Councillor John Holland on the Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC following the full Council meeting held on the 17 May 2016.

**(1) Apologies**

Councillor Bernard Kirton and Councillor Matt Western

**(2) Members' Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Chris Saint declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding Item 6 on the agenda. This was due to his involvement with the LEP.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016**

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016 be signed as a correct record.

**Matters Arising**

Item 6 – WCC Project and Programme Management Update; members of the Committee requested that an update be provided before the next meeting (13 July 2016) regarding the Member Dashboard.

Item 7 – Infrastructure Funding; Councillor Keith Kondakor commented that the information which was provided to members in the form of a Briefing Note (regarding Section 106 funding agreements in District and Borough Councils), should be made available to the public; as the original report had been. It was agreed that this would be taken up with Janet Neale.

The Chair also requested further information regarding the spending of Section 106 monies in areas outside the development area; i.e. neighbouring counties. It was agreed that this would be provided.

Item 8 – Update on the MASH in Warwickshire; members of the Committee requested that an update be provided on the performance management tool and whether it could be married up to the new IT System.

Item 9 – Urgent Matters; following the email received from Anthony Morgan raising concerns on the specific proposal by Warwickshire County Council to build its own training centre, Councillor John Horner confirmed to the Committee that the issue had been discussed at the latest Cabinet meeting. Councillor Horner agreed to check if a response had been sent to Tony Morgan.

Item 9 – Urgent Matters; regarding the issue of sprinkler systems being fitted in all new build, domestic properties; Councillor John Horner stated that this issue was being considered by the Chief Fire Officers Association.

## **2. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions received or presented at the meeting.

## **3. Questions to Cabinet and Portfolio Holders**

Councillor John Appleton raised concerns regarding the Pupil Premium application process and the problems apparently created by IT obstacles. It was noted that parents' failure to register for the Pupil Premium has a direct impact on the funding available for schools. Councillor Chris Saint assured members that work is ongoing to align the IT Systems adding that this included some work with authorities outside of Warwickshire.

## **4. Work Programme 2016/17**

It was confirmed that the presentation on the transformation of the Fire Service over the last 2/3 years will be given at the next meeting; 13 July 2016. This is to be combined with the fire peer review report which is also scheduled for the meeting in July.

Members requested that an item on Business Rate Information is added to the Work Programme.

Members also requested information regarding employment rates across Warwickshire.

## **Resolved**

### **The Resources and Fire and Rescue Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

- 1) Agrees the updated 2016/17 Work Programme**
- 2) Notes the scheduled future meeting dates.**

#### **5. Treasury Management Quarterly Monitoring Report to December 2015**

Andrew Lovegrove, Head of Corporate Financial Services, presented the report to the Committee. It was clarified to members that Table 1 on page 2 of the report should read “property fund” (rather than just “property”).

Members questioned whether investment in property was appropriate, asking whether the money invested could be drawn down at short notice. Andrew Lovegrove confirmed that the investment funds used by the Council have 1 week’s access; if required.

Following a question regarding how the performance of Warwickshire County Council compares to other authorities, Andrew Lovegrove confirmed that analysis could be provided as part of the next Treasury Management Report, which is due to be presented to the Committee in September 2016.

Councillor Nicola Davies sought clarification of the impact from any potential changes to the investment strategy should the United Kingdom leave the European Union (EU) following the referendum in June 2016. Andrew Lovegrove confirmed that the strategy is set by the Council and it was not anticipated that this would change following an exit from the EU.

## **Resolved**

### **The Resources and Fire and Rescue Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes performance on Treasury Management in respect of 2015/16 up to December 2015.**

#### **6. Update on Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) funding opportunities**

David Ayton-Hill, Economy & Skills Group Manager presented an overview of the report to the Committee; confirming that LEPs do not have any funding of their own to support investments; but are vehicles to access Central Government Funds.

It was confirmed to members that the current Local Growth Fund will run until 2020/21 and that as a result Warwickshire County Council has created pipeline projects as part of the Warwickshire Growth Plan, all with the aim of helping economic growth in local areas and which helps identify schemes for the Growth Fund (and/or other funding streams as appropriate). Members were referred to the list of current projects currently being considered in Table 2 at the end of the report. Members noted that the projects showed none of the costs that would be involved; or how any decisions on which projects had been put forward for consideration had been reached by officers, with no member input. It was noted that members felt it

unclear at which point during the process their input would be best received. It was felt that the process lacks transparency.

With regards to the Combined Local Authority, it was confirmed to members that there were currently 3 LEPs across the combined authority area. There would be a Super Strategic Economic Plan in place but this should not affect the current LEP projects across Coventry and Warwickshire.

Councillor Chris Saint confirmed that as a member of the LEP Board he would be raising questions at the next meeting regarding how much input Councils are able to give when deciding which projects are given the go-ahead. Members agreed that they should be given some input into the decision making process and be able to scrutinise decisions made. Members concluded that information was needed on how elected members could assist in preparing material for presentation to the LEP Board.

Members noted that the projects that were progressing appeared to be almost exclusively infrastructure based; and this did not clearly relate to the 10 programme areas presented in the report (5 thematic and 5 geographical). David Ayton-Hill clarified that the Local Growth Fund was only for capital schemes, and the majority of funding was from the Department for Transport, hence the focus on infrastructure schemes. Furthermore, the 10 programme areas reflect the wider Growth Plan, which identifies a range of pipeline projects which then need to be matched to the most appropriate funding stream. Members noted that projects need to be scrutinised before they are approved. Councillor Neil Dirveiks suggested that Adrian Hart, Team Leader - Transport Planning, be invited to give a presentation to the Committee regarding the projects from Table 2 – allowing members to gain an understanding of how each one was prioritised.

Following information from David Ayton-Hill regarding the timescales for the final decisions on each project, Councillor Kondakor requested that an update be provided to members of the Committee, in the form of a summary, at the next meeting in July 2016. It was noted that final decisions are due to be made by the end of May 2016.

Members concluded by noting that all elected members would be interested in receiving much more information regarding LEP projects and in particular, local members who have proposed projects in their areas. Communication from the LEP must improve.

## **Resolved**

### **The Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

- a) Notes the contents of this report**
- b) Requests that further information be brought to the Committee setting out progress with the Local Growth Fund Expressions of Interest.**

### **7. The Impact on the Fire and Rescue Service of it coming under the Home Office and Proposals for Fire and Rescue to come under the Strategic Control of the Police and Crime Commissioner**

Rob Moyney, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, introduced the report to members and highlighted the main points.

- 1) The Bill regarding the proposal for emergency services to collaborate and for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to take over the running of the Fire and Rescue Service if a local case is made, or for a PCC to join a Fire Authority, will be implemented by April 2017.
- 2) There is no clear indication from the Home Office, at this point in time, on the management of the Fire Service; but there is a meeting planned for next week, regarding the move to the Home Office.

It was noted by members that the “Governance” and “Single Employer” models must consult with local people before an Order can be made and that this could be a difficult task. Rob Moyney confirmed that the PCC will initiate any consultation..

Rob Moyney was also able to confirm that governance of the Fire Service would continue to be separate to the governance of the Ambulance Service; however collaborative work would still continue; for example, the shared responsibility for cardiac arrest training.

It was also confirmed that there would be a change to the statutory requirement with regards to a duty on flooding; however this would not change what is currently done across the County.

Assurances were given to members that the budget would continue to allow the Fire Service to use boats, when appropriate, to intervene when there is a risk to life.

Councillor John Horner informed members of the three columns for the setting up of the PCC, as described by Teresa May.

- 1) Accountability
- 2) Capability
- 3) Empowerment

The PCC was directly elected by the people in Warwickshire so will have to have more political accountability. The Fire Service supported the development of the business case created by the PCC following consultation and the results of the consultation are available on the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website. Councillor Horner confirmed that there would be more consultation before any final agreement could be made.

It was also noted by members that a briefing note will be provided after the Home Secretary’s speech which is due next week.

## **Resolved**

**The Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of this report.**



**8. Urgent Matters**

Councillor Peter Fowler requested that the Fatal Four Road Safety Presentation is shown to the Committee. It was agreed that this could be added to the other Fire Service Items on the agenda.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee was confirmed as 13 July 2016 at 2 p.m. in CR2, Shire Hall.

The meeting rose at 15:59 pm.

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Chair

## Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13 July 2016

### Work Programme 2015/16

#### Recommendations

That the Resources and Fire and Rescue Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Agrees the updated 2015/16 Work Programme and makes any additional comments or changes, as required; and
- 2) Notes the scheduled future meeting dates.

#### 1.0 Work Programme

- 1.1 At the Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the remit of the Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee was changed to include Fire and Rescue Service and Libraries, and the name of the committee was changed to *Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee*.

OSC	Remit	Strategic Director	PFH's
Resources & Fire & Rescue (includes Fire & Rescue and Libraries)	Fire & rescue, budget, medium term financial plan, corporate business plan, planning and performance arrangements, finance, property, information technology, facilities management, workforce strategy and development, law and governance, libraries, customer service and communications	Resources Chief Fire Officer	Deputy Leader Community Safety Customers

1.2 The updated Work Programme for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix A and will show the committee what items have been considered and what is still outstanding.

## 2.0 Briefing Notes

2.1 A number of briefing notes have been provided or scheduled to be provided to the committee during 2016/17 as listed in Appendix A.

## 3.0 Dates of Future Meetings

3.1 Future meetings of the Committee have been scheduled for 2pm on the following dates:

- 15 September 2016
- 14 December 2016
- 22 February 2017

## Background papers

None

## Appendices:

Appendix A – Work Programme 2016/17

	Name	Contact details
<b>Report Author</b>	Helen Barnsley	<a href="mailto:helenbarnsley@warwickshire.gov.uk">helenbarnsley@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> 01926 412323
<b>Head of Service</b>	Sarah Duxbury	<a href="mailto:sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk">sarahduxbury@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> 01926 412090
<b>Strategic Director</b>	David Carter	<a href="mailto:davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk">davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> 01926 412564

**Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme 2016/17 – 13 July 2016**

**Appendix A**

**Reports for future meetings**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Report detail</b>	<b>Date of last report</b>	<b>Date of next report</b>
Questions to the Portfolio Holders / Forward Plan decisions	Report which includes Forward Plan decisions relevant to the remit of the Committee – Helen Barnsley	N/A	* Standing item for every meeting
One Organisation Plan	Quarterly Progress report. (note: to include remedial actions in the commentary)	17 March 2016	15 September 2016**
AOB	A presentation to be given to the Committee on the Transformation of the Fire Service over the last 2/3 years. (20 mins plus 10 mins question time)	N/A	13 July 2016 Ade Mallaban and Rachel Barnes
Fire and Rescue Service	Fire Peer Review Report	N/A	13 July 2016 Rob Moyney
Public Property Asset Register	Update report – establishing if there is an appetite for a public property asset register from other public bodies	N/A	13 July 2016 Steve Smith
Treasury Management	Report to present Treasury Outturn 2015/16 – to include a performance analysis of Warwickshire County Council and other authorities as agreed at meeting on 18/05/16	N/A	15 September 2016 Matt Dawson
Update on the development of the MASH in Warwickshire	A report noting the progress of the MASH and a recommendation for a further report in 6 months' time following the implementation of the MASH	17 March 2016	15 September 2016 John Coleman
Business Rates	Business Rates – impact of new proposals and information regarding consultation with those who will be paying the rates.	N/A	TBC

\*\*moved from July meeting in order to coincide with the outturn report

**Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme 2016/17 – 13 July 2016**

**Appendix A**

**Reports Recently Received by the Committee**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Report detail</b>	<b>Date of last report</b>
Work Programme	Updated Work Programme for the Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC 2016/17	18 May 2016
Treasury Management	A report showing the performance information up to December 2015	18 May 2016
Update on LEP Funding Options	Report on the LEP regarding where resources are to be used	18 May 2016
Fire and Rescue Service	A report to explain the changes to the governance arrangements to the Fire and Rescue Service	18 May 2016
One Organisation Plan	Quarterly Progress report (Quarter 3)	17 March 2016
WCC Project and Programme Management Update	A report which provides an update on the project and programme management processes used at WCC and makes recommendations to consider areas for further scrutiny, where appropriate.	17 March 2016
Update on the development of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) in Warwickshire	A report noting the progress of the MASH and a recommendation for a further report in 6 months' time following the implementation of the MASH	17 March 2016
Infrastructure Funding	A report noting the current position relating to developer contributions.	17 March 2016

**Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme 2016/17 – 13 July 2016**

**Appendix A**

**Briefing Notes - Produced**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Briefing Note detail</b>	<b>Date requested</b>	<b>Date circulated</b>
Questions to Portfolio Holders	Question to Treasury - following the Budget on 16/03/2016; when will an impact assessment be carried out.	17 March 2016	23 March 2016
One Organisational Plan	Information re turnover of retained firefighters in relation to employment issues and current number of whole time firefighters.	17 March 2016	8 April 2016
WCC Project and Programme Management	Kenilworth Station to be used as an example of how the new project management system will work.	17 March 2016	27 April 2016
One Organisational Plan	Briefing Note with the latest information with regards to the complaint handling about Social Services	17 March 2016	26 April 2016
One Organisation Plan	Customer Journey Information – delivered on time and to budget. The timetable has slipped due to resourcing and staff availability at service level.	17 March 2016	10 May 2016
Infrastructure Funding	Information referring to the individual District and Borough Councils to be supplied (including information about which application they applied to)	17 March 2016	21 April 2016
AOB	Call rates during the first and last ½ hour of the day at Customer Contact Centre	17 March 2016	26 April 2016

**Briefing Notes – Awaited**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Briefing Note detail</b>	<b>Date requested</b>	<b>Date circulated</b>
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 6	Members requested an updated regarding the member dashboard; Project and Programme Management. (Josephine Millar)	18 May 2016	To be circulated 13 July 2016
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 8	Members requested an update regarding MASH and the IT systems. (John Coleman)	18 May 2016	1 June 2016
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 7	Members requested further information regarding the spending of Section 106 monies in areas outside the development area; i.e. neighbouring counties. (Janet Neale)	18 May 2016	14 June 2016
3 – Questions to Cabinet & Portfolio Holders	Request for a briefing note on the IT obstacles for Pupil Premium applications and how they will be resolved. (Nigel Minns to send through for 12 July 2016)	18 May 2016	<b>Due 12 July 2016</b>
4 – Work Programme	Employment Rates in Warwickshire	18 May 2016	26 May 2016
6 – LEP funding opportunities	Following the final decisions re LEP projects due by the end of May 2016 – members requested an update before the next meeting in July.	18 May 2016	<b>Due 12 July 2016</b>
7 – Fire and Rescue	Home Office is due to make a speech w/c 23 May on Fire and Rescue Service – Briefing Note to be provided to members after the event.	18 May 2016	26 May 2016

**Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme 2016/17 – 13 July 2016**

**Appendix A**

**Actions from 18 May 2016**

<b>Item</b>		<b>Completed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 6	Members requested an updated regarding the member dashboard; Project and Programme Management.		Briefing note and presentation to be given 13 July 2016
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 7	The information provided to members after the last meeting in the form of a Briefing Note – can this be made public?		22 June 2016 – Meeting with Cllr Kondakor
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 7	Members requested further information regarding the spending of Section 106 monies in areas outside the development area; i.e. neighbouring counties.	14 June 2016	
1(3) Matters Arising – Item 8	Members requested an update regarding MASH and the IT systems.	1 June 2016	
3 – Questions to Cabinet and Portfolio Holders	Request for a briefing note on the IT obstacles for Pupil Premium applications and how they will be resolved.		Nigel Minns – due 12 July 2016
4 – Work Programme	Addition of Business Rates to the work programme for 2016/17.		Added to Work Plan
4 – Work Programme	Employment Rates in Warwickshire – Request a Briefing Note from Warwick Observatory with information.	26 May 2016	
5 – Treasury Management	Analysis of the performance of Warwickshire County Council against other local authorities to be included in the next report.		To be included in report at 15 September meeting
6 – LEP funding opportunities	Adrian Hart to be invited to the next meeting/provide a briefing note on the work of the A5 steering group; in relation to S106 monies and the fact there are no LEP projects in the area		Due by 12 July 2016
6 – LEP funding opportunities	Members requested a report from Adrian Hart on the projects for LEP funding – how the decision for each one was made.	Cllr Weston to contact Cllr Johnston	Report to be sent to Communities OSC.
6 – LEP funding opportunities	Following the final decisions re LEP projects due by the end of May 2016 – members requested an update before the next meeting in July.		Briefing Note due by 12 July 2016
7 – Fire and Rescue	Home Office is due to make a speech w/c 23 May on Fire and Rescue Service – Briefing Note to be provided to members after the event.	26 May 2016	
8 – Urgent Matters	Request that members are given the chance to see the Fatal Four Road Safety Presentation. A shorter version would allow members to get a flavour & suggest to local community groups etc. that they request the full version	A shorter version would be preferable	Dave Pemberton to Action

## **Resources and Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**13 July 2016**

### **Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge 2013 Closure Report, and the Arrangements for 2016.**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Committee:

1. Receive, and endorse, the closure of the 2013 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Peer Challenge Action Plan.
2. Receive, and endorse, the proposed arrangements for an Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge in November 2016.

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge process was developed following the abolition of the audit and inspection regime and the national performance framework. The process is central to the shift that has been made to sector-led improvement and greater local accountability.
- 1.2 Fire Peer Challenge is delivered at no direct cost to the receiving Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA), and is managed and delivered by the sector for the sector. It is an opportunity for FRAs to assess themselves across a number of key aspects of service provision and allows FRAs to access independent input to support improvement, focusing on areas the FRA has identified as particularly seeking the input of peers. The ambition of the peer team is to help the FRA respond to its local priorities and risks in its own way and to the greatest effect.



- 1.3 The approach is based on the following principles:
- fire and rescue services are responsible for their own performance
  - stronger local accountability leads to further improvement
  - fire and rescue services have a sense of collective responsibility for performance in the sector as a whole
  - the role of the Local Government Association (LGA) is to help FRAs by providing the necessary support.
- 1.4 A Fire Peer Challenge team is usually led by a Chief Fire Officer, and will include an elected member, a representative of the LGA and a number of senior fire and rescue officers trained to undertake the Fire Peer Challenge process.
- 1.5 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority received an Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge in 2013, with the on-site assessment element taking place November 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. The Fire Peer Challenge team was led by Chief Fire Officer Dave Etheridge of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. This Fire Peer Challenge was the first since the formal conclusion of the investigations and court hearings into the Atherstone-on-Stour fire. One of the key areas that was requested of the Fire Peer Challenge team was to test the operational and organisational confidence of the Service in light of the Authority's progression since the tragedy.
- 1.6 The Fire Peer Challenge team submitted a final report containing 44 recommendations (expressed in the report as 'Areas to Explore'), which was presented to Cabinet in January 2014. These recommendations were formulated into a Fire Peer Challenge Action Plan (see supporting document 1). Monitoring of progress against the Action Plan has been undertaken by the Cross-Party Fire Working Group. At the Cross-Party Fire Working Group meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 Area Commander Dave Pemberton presented a progress update reporting all actions within the plan signed off as complete.
- 1.7 It has been agreed with the LGA that Warwickshire receive another Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge in November 2016. The on-site assessment has been scheduled for November 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Chief Fire Officer Mark Hardingham (Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service) has been appointed as the Fire Peer Challenge team lead. At the time of writing this report the other members of the team are yet to be selected.

- 1.8 The recent shift in responsibility for fire and rescue services to the Home Office has generated discussion over the future of the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge process. The Home Secretary has made it clear that a key element of the impending Fire Reform program will be the introduction of a Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary style inspection and assurance process for fire and rescue services. However, it is the considered opinion of both the Chief Fire Officers Association and the LGA that the organisational learning and self-improvement nature of a Fire Peer Challenge process can co-exist with an independent performance audit process.
- 1.9 A significant element of the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge process is the development and submission of a self-assessment by the receiving fire and rescue service. The self-assessment should provide an honest appraisal of where the receiving fire and rescue service assesses itself against a wide range of Key Areas of Focus (see supporting document 2). Capacity to oversee and co-ordinate the completion of the self-assessment has been secured by the allocation of resource from within Fire and Rescue, and the provision of support from the Resources Directorate.
- 1.10 The Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge process provides an opportunity for the receiving fire and rescue service to suggest specific areas for the Fire Peer Challenge team to provide special focus on. This opportunity, whilst not detracting from scrutiny of the complete range of Key Areas of Focus within the toolkit, enables a self-aware organisation to indicate areas in which specific learning and improvement may be achieved. After due consideration by the senior management team within Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, in collaboration with the Cross-Party Fire Working Group, the areas proposed in section two of this report are presented for the committee's consideration.

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 That the following areas within the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge toolkit are suggested for specific focus by the Fire Peer Challenge team:

### **Operational Response**

- Has the FRA clearly defined, planned and implemented a response strategy linked to its Integrated Risk Management Plan?
- Does the FRA have a robust process for measuring and evaluating the effectiveness and improving performance of its response activities?

### **Financial planning and viability**

- Does the FRA have a financial plan in place to ensure long term viability and is there evidence that it is being implemented successfully?

### **Political and managerial leadership**

- Does the FRA have effective political and managerial leadership and is it a constructive partnership?

### **Governance and decision-making**

- Are effective governance and decision-making arrangements in place to respond to key challenges and manage change, transformation and disinvestment?

### **Organisational capacity**

- Are organisational capacity and resources focused in the right areas in order to deliver the agreed priorities?

## **3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

- 3.1 Work on developing the self-assessment element of the Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge process has already commenced. This will be submitted to the Fire Peer Challenge team 6 weeks before the self-assessment; which has been arranged for November 22<sup>nd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> 2016.

## **Supporting Documents**

1. 2013 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Fire Peer Challenge Action Plan – Final Update, March 2016.
2. Operational Assessment and Fire Peer Challenge Toolkit – Local Government Association.

## **Background Documents**

None

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Dave Pemberton	<a href="mailto:davepemberton@warwickshire.gov.uk">davepemberton@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 423231
Head of Service	DCFO Rob Moyney	<a href="mailto:robmoyney@warwickshire.gov.uk">robmoyney@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 423231
Strategic Director	CFO Andy Hickmott	<a href="mailto:andyhickmott@warwickshire.gov.uk">andyhickmott@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 412267
Portfolio Holder	Councillor John Horner	<a href="mailto:cllhorner@warwickshire.gov.uk">cllhorner@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

Other members:

Councillors John Appleton, Nicola Davies, Neil Dirveiks, Peter Fowler, John Horner, Kam Kaur, Philip Morris-Jones, Matt Western

Members of the Cross-Party Fire Working Group: –

Councillors Sarah Boad, Richard Chattaway, Jenny Fradgely, Mike Gittus, John Holland, Wallace Redford, Howard Roberts,

## **Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**13 July 2016**

### **A Single Public Property Register of Assets**

#### **Recommendation**

1. That the Committee support the contents of this report and comments on the proposals in Section 3.

#### **1.0 Key Issues**

- 1.1 Councillors John Holland and Matt Western proposed a motion at the meeting of Council on 22 March 2016, 'That Warwickshire County Council seeks the cooperation of the District and Borough councils and other public bodies to establish a common public property asset register for Warwickshire to facilitate the delivery of public services across the County'
- 1.2 The resolution at this meeting was for Warwickshire County Council to explore the opportunities for cooperation with the District and Borough councils and other public bodies to establish a common public property asset register for Warwickshire to facilitate the delivery of public services across the County.
- 1.3 This motion was further discussed a Resources Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee "Public Property Asset Register Meeting" of 11 April 2016.
- 1.4 The resolution at this meeting was for Steve Smith, Head of Physical Assets to write to public bodies in Warwickshire to establish if there is an appetite for a Public Property Asset Register.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The notion of a common public sector property register is not new. Steps had already been taken to establish a "Sub-Regional Asset Register", as part of the work undertaken by Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Property Officers Group. Work commenced to provide a combined asset register for public sector assets in the Sub Region in 2010. The purpose of this asset register was to support a West Midlands Property Alliance (WMPA) & Coventry Solihull & Warwickshire Association of Chief Execs (CSWACE) Work Stream - Sub Regional Approach to Assets. At that time the Property Officers Group was made up of property colleagues from:

- Coventry City Council
- Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council
- North Warwickshire Borough Council
- Rugby Borough Council
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- Warwick District Council
- Warwickshire County Council
- Primary Care Trust
- Warwickshire Police

- 2.2 Following an agreement on approach the Asset Register was developed and shared amongst the Group, with a view to identifying opportunities to share use and potentially rationalise the portfolio. It was agreed that Warwickshire County Council should co-ordinate the development of a consistent database. The approach was restrictive, due to lack of resources, particularly within Districts/Boroughs and there was an inconsistency with data formats that proved problematical; but the objective of obtaining a sub-regional asset register was achieved.
- 2.3 Further to the development of the sub regional asset register, it was recognised in 2011 that it would be of benefit if the asset register was available in the form of a geographic map. It was agreed that all sub regional Authorities and other public sector bodies (Police/Health) would contribute to this process.
- 2.4 Warwickshire County Council took the lead on co-ordinating the development of a Sub Regional Map of Assets. In July 2012 this sub regional map was made available to all stakeholders through Atlasweb (WCC's web-based property database). The current process for updating the data is to obtain the current Asset Lists via Open Data listings that are made available on District, Borough, Police and Health websites.
- 2.5 The sub regional map still remains available via Atlasweb today and the supporting data was last updated by Warwickshire County Council in May 2016.
- 2.6 In 2014 Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Transparency Code 2014 made it a mandatory requirement for all Local Authorities to publish a list of assets owned or occupied to Open Data at least annually, with the first submission required by 2nd February 2015. The Transparency Agenda provided a schema for all Local Authorities to complete which identified compulsory and recommended datasets. The Code does not apply to Police and Crime Commissioners, for whom a separate transparency framework applies. As a result of the Transparency Code, all Local Authority Assets are available as open data. Warwickshire County Council, and all Districts and Borough Councils, have published a list of their assets as open data to their own websites and have been required to update this list at least annually since 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015.

- 2.7 A recommendation of the Transparency Code 2014 is that ‘all Local Authorities publish all the information possible on Electronic Property Information Mapping Service’ (E-Pims). E-Pims is the central database of Government Central Civil Estate properties and land. It records the precise location of property, along with information such as landlord details, lease data and usage.
- 2.8 Users are able to find properties on an electronic map, amend their own property details, and use the system to search for vacant space.
- 2.9 Updating property information is mandatory for all:
- government departments
  - non-ministerial departments and their executive agencies
  - arm’s length bodies
  - non-departmental public bodies
  - special health authorities

The following bodies do not have to update their information:

- the NHS (except for special health authorities)
  - public corporations
  - privatised railways
  - Crown Estate
  - Defence Estate (subject to some exceptions)
- 2.10 In May 2016 DCLG opened further consultation on the Transparency Code, Strengthening Local Government Transparency: Consultation on changes to the local government transparency code.
- 2.11 Within this consultation there are proposals to change the way that local authorities record details of their land and property assets. The consultation proposes that ‘the Code be modified to require the annual publication of land and building asset data to E-Pims, rather than to local authority websites’. As a result some of the considered benefits of doing so are:
- access to data on central government land and buildings creating collaboration between central and wider public sector
  - advance information of surplus land before it is disposed of outside of government
  - detailed property searching and mapping, including land registry titles of all land packages and vacant land and property
  - free access for all users - local authorities will not have to establish their own systems at their own cost
  - standardised and consistent data capture, which allows for better estate planning and management between public sector bodies
  - benchmarking capability

Local Authorities have until July 2016 to respond to this latest consultation.

- 2.12 As a result of this latest Transparency Code consultation, as well as developing work to progress a One Public Estate bid for September 2016, the Asset Strategy team on behalf of the Head of Physical Assets, made contact with the District and Boroughs to obtain their views on agreeing to publish asset data to E-Pims, in advance of the proposed changes to the Transparency Agenda.
- 2.13 To date, the response to this request from the Districts and Boroughs has been limited. With one district, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council, so far responding; indicating that they publish their data to E-Pims and that they do so as a result of their membership of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 2.14 In terms of what has been achieved, as a result of the collaborative working with our Public Sector partners we have co-located at the following properties:-
- Warwick Shire Hall – asset owned by WCC
  - Warwick Saltisford (MASH) – asset owned by WCC
  - Stratford Elizabeth House - asset owned by SDC
  - Atherstone Council House - asset owned by NWBC
  - Alcester Globe House – asset owned by SDC
  - Warwick Riverside House – asset owned by WDC
  - Warwickshire Police have a presence at many of WCC’s assets for use by Community Support officers
  - Warwickshire Direct have established hubs at many of WCC’s assets.
- 2.15 If the proposed revisions to the Transparency Code are approved, this would enforce all Local Authorities to publish their asset listings to E-Pims. The benefits of doing so are clear and would enable E-Pims to become the common public property asset register. The Head of Physical Assets will pursue publishing Warwickshire County Councils assets to E-Pims and will encourage other public sector partners within Warwickshire to do so, until such a point that it is mandatory.

### **3.0 Proposal**

- 3.1 The proposal is to build on the work that has already been undertaken; to enable a joined up approach as well as to gain impetus and momentum. That a Warwickshire Forum is explored across the public sector in Warwickshire, to agree an approach to ensuring that all assets lists are published to E-Pims and to enable all asset data within Warwickshire to be shared with other Public Sector Bodies.
- 3.2 It is also proposed that once all Warwickshire Asset Data is available on E-Pims that the Sub Regional Asset Map held on Atlasweb is decommissioned and no longer maintained by Warwickshire County Council.



- 3.3 As a result of sharing asset information on E-Pims the Warwickshire Forum will identify and develop opportunities across the wider public estate and develop an Asset Strategy for Warwickshire.
- 3.4 This Warwickshire Asset Strategy should use the data shared across all public bodies to identify vacant space, surplus land and other opportunities that will enable a co-ordinated approach to be taken. It will:
- Be the driver for delivering projects for the greater public good, rather than for the individual body.
  - Provide a consistent and co-ordinated approach to asset management across Warwickshire
  - Identify opportunities to deliver savings and provide economic growth that enables Warwickshire to prosper

#### 4.0 Timescales

- 4.1 To develop a Warwickshire Forum by October 2016
- 4.2 To report back on progress to the Resources and Fire and Rescue Committee in October 2016
- 4.3 To ensure that all Assets lists are published and made available on E-Pims by December 2016
- 4.4 To develop a Warwickshire Asset Strategy by April 2017

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Rebecca Couch	<a href="mailto:rebeccacouch@warwickshire.gov.uk">rebeccacouch@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01926 412354
Head of Service	Steve Smith	<a href="mailto:stevesmith@warwickshire.gov.uk">stevesmith@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel 01926 412352
Strategic Director	David Carter	<a href="mailto:davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk">davidcarter@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> Tel 01926 412564
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Alan Cockburn	

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s):

Other members: Councillors Appleton, N Davies, Dirveiks, Fowler, Horner, Kaur, Morris-Jones and Western