
Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee

30 September 2020

Fire and Rescue Service Strategic Performance Report Q1 2020

Report by Chief Fire Officer

Summary

In March 2020, West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) formally adopted a new Performance and Assurance Framework (PAF) which was supported by the Cabinet Member for Fire & Rescue and Communities and the Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee.

The PAF includes monitoring of service performance against 31 core measures that provide strong indication of organisational performance directly aligned to the delivery of the strategic commitments i.e. Integrated Risk Management Plan. This ensures the Service is intelligence- and evidence-led and enables the Service to react early when performance is not to the required level.

Appendix A of the report is the first Quarterly Strategic Performance Report for the purpose of scrutiny of the Executive's approach to performance. It covers the period 1 April 2020 to 30 June 2020.

Focus for Scrutiny

Members of the Committee are invited to consider and comment on the core measures/indicators detailed in Appendix A, designed to provide assurance concerning the delivery of the statutory functions of the Fire Authority.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 West Sussex County Council is the Fire Authority and is responsible for making sure West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service (WSFRS) performs efficiently and in the best interest of the public and communities it serves.
- 1.2 WSFRS was inspected in November 2018 by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS). The full Inspection Report for the service was published on 20 June 2019. The report found that effectiveness of WSFRS "requires improvement", efficiency "requires improvement" and the way it looks after its people is "inadequate".
- 1.3 New scrutiny governance arrangements are now in place through the Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.4 On behalf of residents, committee members are responsible for ensuring that WSFRS delivers excellent services and achieves outcomes as efficiently and effectively as possible. This involves the West Sussex County Council Fire Authority (WSCCFA):
- setting a high-level policy agenda (strategic objectives) for what the WSFRS should do and the outcomes it should achieve
 - setting a budget to fund delivery of the policy agenda
 - securing assurance that the budget is being spent wisely on delivering the policy agenda set by the authority
- 1.5 In order to secure assurance, it is necessary for effective scrutiny to be an integral component of WSCCFA governance arrangements. Scrutiny is there to hold the Cabinet to account concerning the decisions taken relating to WSFRS.
- 1.6 The role of scrutiny is also to contribute to the development of solutions and ideas to support continuous service improvement. The Fire and Rescue Service Scrutiny Committee may need to be flexible in the way it scrutinises the service and the Executive's decisions. On occasions, committee members may wish to 'drill down' on certain specific issues but still at a strategic level with the focus being the interests of all West Sussex residents and businesses.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The proposal information for this item for scrutiny is set out in the attached appendix (listed below). As it is a report dealing with performance management the assessments and implications are not required.

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Chief Fire Officer

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Appendices - Appendix A – Strategic Performance Report Q1 2020

Background papers

None