

Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee

4 June 2018

Business Planning Group Report

Report by Chairman, Business Planning Group

Executive Summary

Each select committee has a Business Planning Group (BPG) to oversee the committee's work programme and prioritise issues for committee consideration. This report provides an update to the Committee of the BPG meeting held on 10 April 2018, setting out the key issues discussed.

Recommendation

The Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and endorse the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19 (attached as Appendix A).

1. Background

1.1 The Business Planning Group (BPG) met on 10 April 2018 with Mr Barrett-Miles and Mr S Oakley in attendance to undertake work planning on behalf of the Committee.

1.2 Issues discussed:

- **Fire and Rescue Service Performance Management** – Following the recommendation made by the Committee at its November 2017 meeting, the BPG considered Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) performance data, as set out in the Operational Performance Report (attached as Appendix B). No issues were referred for scrutiny by the Committee, but the Group emphasised the need for scrutiny of plans to improve recruitment and retention of retained firefighters, when these are forthcoming.

Members also considered the format and scope of performance data the Group would consider at future meetings, and determined that the performance information should focus more on the highlights and strategic priorities in future.

- **Total Performance Monitor (portfolio-specific elements)** – No issues for scrutiny by the Committee or referral to Performance and Finance Select Committee were identified.
- **Sussex Safer Roads Partnership** – The Group agreed for an item to be added to the work programme (provisionally for the

September 2018 meeting). Representatives of the partners would be invited to attend and give evidence. Focus could be on the quality of partnership work and the performance of the partnership compared to neighbouring and comparator authorities.

- **Bus Strategy** – The Group learned of the proposed timeline for work to develop a new approach for supporting non-commercial bus services and community transport, with the new strategy due to be in place by April 2019. The exact timing and objective of ECFSC engagement has yet to be determined.
- **Strategic Planning** – The item was postponed to the September meeting.

2. Work Programme Planning 2018/19

- 2.1 Informed by officers from the relevant service areas, BPG members considered the Work Programme for 2018/19.
- 2.2 The output from this discussion is summarised in the revised work programmes at Appendix A (2018/19)

3. Equality Duty

- 3.1 An Equality Impact Report is not required for this report as it deals with internal matters only.

Andrew Barrett-Miles

Chairman, Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee

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Appendix A - Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee
Work Programme 2018/19

Appendix B – WSFRS Operational Performance Report

Background Papers - None