

Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee

14 November 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 consideration by the Committee. This report provides an update to the Committee of the BPG meeting held on 27 September 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 27 September 2018 with Mr Barrett-Miles, Mr Jones and Mr S Oakley, in attendance to undertake work planning on behalf of the Committee.
- 1.2 Among the issues discussed:
 - **Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) Performance Management-** Members were given an overview of the latest 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, in line with the recommendation arising from the meeting of the full Committee on 21 September, the Group appointed a Task and Finish Group (TFG) to look at improving the recruitment and retention of retained firefighters, and then the response time standards. Simon Oakley (as Chairman), and Michael Jones were both appointed to the Group, with officers instructed to approach the remaining members of the Committee seeking volunteers for the remaining seats.

Members also requested that the Wellbeing Action Plan be shared with Committee members. This will form part of the People and Culture Strategy that will be scrutinised by the Committee at the 14 January 2019 meeting.

The BPG also agreed that the Retention and Recruitment of Retained Firefighters would be scrutinised by the Committee at

its meeting on 6 December, with the hope that the TFG could meet once before then.

- **Application of Highways S106 Money to Highways Projects** – Members learnt that the County Council were taking a more standardised approach to allocation of funding for Highways Projects. Draft priorities would be drawn up and assessed and their progression determined at the beginning of each year. Member engagement would also be encouraged for prioritising any Community Highways Schemes.

The BPG observed that members should be involved in the process of securing S106 schemes for funding. No further issues for scrutiny were identified. The Group requested an item on the March 2019 agenda, on developer contributions.

- **Annual Sustainability Report 2017/18** – Members considered the annual report and its five key indicators of Carbon, Energy, Water, Waste and Travel. Last year saw a 17% reduction in emissions and the County Council had recently signed up to a new Emissions Reduction Pledge 2020. A new Sustainability Strategy was expected to be formulated in 2019 and an item was provisionally added to the March 2019 agenda, to preview the draft.

The BPG queried the successes of the current strategy and the impact of the ceasing of feed-in tariffs. No further issues for scrutiny were identified.

- **Corporate Risk Profile / Risk Management** – Members considered the Corporate Risk Register and Risk Management Strategy, any could not identify any issues to merit this becoming a standing item in future. No further issues for scrutiny.

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 programme at Appendix A (2018/19) which reflects any subsequent decisions or alterations made since the meeting.

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