

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2023

**PROPOSAL REPORT ON FUTURE SCRUTINY OF SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE
SERVICE**

Purpose of report: Recommendation on the future scrutiny of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) by the Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee

Introduction:

1. The Government produced a White Paper 'Reforming our Fire and Rescue Services' for consultation from 18 May 2022 to 26 July 2022. The feedback from this consultation is being brought together and it is hoped that the outcomes are published in the spring of this year. The reform agenda seeks to drive improvement in three key areas:
 - People
 - Professionalism
 - Governance
2. Within the governance section of the White Paper there is a proposal that further work needs to be done to define scrutiny and oversight functions. This paper has been developed to propose a scrutiny process through the Communities, Environment and Highways (CEH) Select Committee. This follows an informal discussion with the Chairs of the Select Committee and Surrey County Council's Monitoring Officer.

Proposal

3. It is proposed that the Select Committee have a 'Fire and Rescue focus' to carry out regular scrutiny of progress against the Service's Improvement Plan, informed by the results of both the 2021/22 Inspection Report and future 2023 Inspection Report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service's (HMICFRS) and performance of the service against its Key Performance Indicators (KPI's).

4. KPI's will include current measures reported to informal cabinet and the County Leadership Team. Additional KPIs, from the existing suite of service KPIs to be agreed with the Select Committee Chairs.
5. Proposed dates for scrutiny meetings:
 - July 2023 – End of Year performance review (previous year) and improvement plan progress update.
 - December 2023 – Mid-Year performance review (current year) and improvement plan progress update.

Conclusions:

6. This proposal is anticipated to meet the requirements of the White Paper and HMICFRS's expectation of regular scrutiny by the Fire and Rescue Authority.

Recommendations:

7. That the Select Committee approves the proposed scrutiny timetable.

Next steps:

Additional KPIs, from the existing suite of service KPIs, to be agreed with the Select Committee Chairs.

Report contact

Dan Quin, Chief Fire Officer, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

Contact details

Email: dan.quin@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers

[GOV.UK – Reforming our Fire and Rescue Service](#)

[HMICFRS: Efficiency, Effectiveness, People 2021/22 – Surrey Fire and Rescue](#)