

---

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

26<sup>th</sup> October 2005

---

### West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (WMFRA)– Arrangements for Night -Time Fire Cover

(note: Councillors Foster, Matchet and Mulhall (the Council' s 3 representatives on WMFRA) and Robert Hulland (Assistant Chief Fire Officer) will attend the meeting)

#### 1. Background information

A copy of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority's Integrated Risk Management Action Plan April 2005 – March 2006 is attached to this note. This includes details of the new night-time cover arrangements and the rationale for these. The arrangements were revised slightly after a public consultation process.

Information about the number of fire appliances in the West Midlands is shown on page 7. The information relevant to Coventry is as follows:

There are 4 Coventry fire stations (Binley, Canley, Coventry, Foleshill)

Previous (pre-September 2005) fire engine provision from midnight to 8 a.m.:-

Binley	2
Canley	1
Coventry	2
Foleshill	2

Provision from midnight to 8 a.m. under arrangements originally proposed:-

Binley	2
Canley	1
Coventry	1
Foleshill	1

Provision from midnight to 8 a.m. under revised arrangements – in place since September 2005:-

Binley	2
Canley	1
Coventry	1
Foleshill	2 (pending further analysis – decision will be reviewed when next Integrated Risk Management Plan is produced)

## **2. Information Requested by Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee**

The Committee have asked WMFRA:

- to provide full details of how night-time fire cover arrangements for Coventry are intended to work if all appliances are already in use, particularly as Coventry is on the periphery of the West Midlands and therefore is a long way from other fire stations in the area. There have been instances when Warwickshire fire appliances have been called in to attend fires in Coventry.
- now that the new arrangements have been in place for some weeks, to indicate how satisfied they are that there are sufficient fire appliances to provide overnight fire protection in Coventry. This is in the light of the apparently greater number of fires over the last few months (both before and since the new cover arrangements were introduced) and the fact that on at least one occasion recently an appliance took 24 minutes to reach the scene of a fire.

Corinne Steele  
Scrutiny Co-ordinator

css/wpdocs/scrutiny/2005-6/scruco/fire appliances note 261005