

Council – 5th December 2017
Recommendation from Cabinet
31st October 2017

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet held at 2.00 pm on Tuesday, 31 October 2017

Present:

Members: Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
Councillor A Khan (Deputy Chair)
Councillor F Abbott
Councillor L Bigham
Councillor K Caan
Councillor K Maton
Councillor J Mutton
Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor E Ruane

Deputy Cabinet Members: Councillor R Ali
Councillor B Kaur
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor C Thomas

Non-Voting Opposition Members: Councillor A Andrews
Councillor G Ridley

Other Members: Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor R Brown
Councillor J Clifford
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor S Walsh

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's M Reeves (Chief Executive), N Hart

People G Quinton (Deputy Chief Executive (People)), J Gregg,
G Kell, P Smith

Place M Yardley (Deputy Chief Executive (Place)), B Hastie,
J Newman, M Salmon

Apologies: Councillor J Innes
Councillor P Akhtar
Councillor D Welsh

Public Business

69. Governance of the West Midlands Fire Service

The Cabinet considered a report of the Chief Executive that would also be considered by the Council at its meeting on 5th December 2017, which consulted constituent authorities on the now prepared Governance review and scheme for the proposed governance model of the West Midlands Fire Service (under the Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority) prior to going out for formal public consultation.

The Governance Review, detailed in Appendix A to the report, provided a review of existing governance arrangements and functions, this included the proposed new model under the Mayoral combined authority.

The Scheme, set out in Appendix B to the report, detailed the roles, accountabilities, and powers required by each individual /body in the proposed governance model.

Following constituent authority consultation on the Governance Review and Scheme, the Scheme must enter a formal public consultation in adherence to Section 112 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

The Government would use these documents and the results of the consultation to approve the model and create an order to amend existing legislation, in order to confer the necessary powers on the Mayoral West Midland Combined Authority to carry out the functions currently exercised by the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

The timetable for the proposals, set out in a table in the report, indicated that the WMFRA functions would finally transfer to the WMCA in November/ December 2018. Work was currently underway to implement a Reformed Fire Authority as an interim measure until WMFRA functions were transferred to and assumed by the Mayoral Combined Authority.

The Cabinet:

- 1) Agreed that proposed arrangements for West Midlands Fire Service should include the West Midland Combined Authority Fire Service budget being ring fenced for Fire Service functions.
- 2) Approved the prepared Governance Review and Scheme.
- 3) Agreed to move forward to public consultation for the scheme and proposed governance model.
- 4) Delegated authority as required to the Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the Governance Review and Scheme on completion of the Local Authority approval process and prior to public consultation.

- 5) Recommended that the Council approve recommendations 1, 2 and 3 above at its Council meeting on 5th December 2017.
- 6) Agreed to support/lead on the public consultation in the City of Coventry region on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 7) Noted the timeline of governance route to Mayoral West Midlands Combined Authority.

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to:

- 1) Approve the prepared Governance Review and Scheme.**
- 2) Agree to move forward to public consultation for the scheme and proposed governance model.**
- 3) Delegate authority as required to the Chief Executive to make minor amendments to the Governance Review and Scheme on completion of the Local Authority approval process and prior to public consultation.**