

JOINT WORKING WITH OTHER STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive - Legal and Democratic

Wards Affected

County Wide

Purpose

1. To update the committee on progress.

Financial Implications

2. None.

Background

3. The Committee will be aware that it is possible for the Committee to have joint working arrangements with other Standards Committees. The Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic has been discussing this possibility with Worcester County Council, Shropshire County Council, Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority and the West Mercia Police Authority.

Consideration

4. Members of the Committee at previous meetings have discussed the possibility of a joint committee to hear appeals against the assessment sub-committee's decision not to refer a complaint for investigation.
5. The Committee had noted that it would be difficult to provide this element given the Committee's small membership, but also thought that the review process would be seen as more independent and objective if a joint committee could be established.
6. The Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic has been informed by both Worcestershire and Shropshire County Councils that whilst they wish to proceed with joint training they would not at this stage wish to form a joint committee. West Mercia Police Authority has expressed interest in such an arrangement.
7. The Committee's views are sought, in particular on whether the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic should progress with the West Mercia Police Authority consideration of joint arrangements and whether Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority or any other authority in the West Midlands should be contacted to assess interest in such arrangements

8. The alternative is for Committee not to pursue such joint arrangements at this stage and to seek a review in six months' time in respect of its own local arrangements.

Recommendations

THAT

- (i) the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic, explores joint working arrangements with the West Mercia Police and Hereford and Worcester Fire Authorities;**
- (ii) the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic, explores joint working arrangements with a local authority in the West Midlands region e.g. Wychavon or Malvern District Councils; and**
- (ii) the Committee will review its local arrangements for assessment and review in six months, to enable the Assistant Chief Executive – Legal and Democratic to report on/explore (i) and (ii) above.**