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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Not relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities of a review into the effectiveness of the Business and Community Safety Forum		

Business and Community Safety Forum – Review

Issued by:

Richard Twyman

Fire and Rescue Service Development Division

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
London Fire Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

Summary

This circular informs Fire and Rescue Authorities of a review into the effectiveness of the Business and Community Safety Forum

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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Business and Community Safety Forum (BCSF) was established in October 2003 to provide strategic advice to Ministers on a range of fire related issues, and engagement with, and input from, the wider (non Fire and Rescue Service practitioner) community, reflective of today's FRS role in:
- Prevention – community fire safety
 - Tackling crime; and
 - Promoting social cohesion and neighbourhood renewal.
- 1.2 The BCSF was set up to provide a more effective means for the stakeholders to engage in and contribute to the modernisation of the fire service including **business, industry, community representatives and those with wider fire and general safety interests.**
- 1.3 Its current Terms of Reference are: *To give strategic advice to Ministers on those matters on which Ministers request advice and on any other matters relating to the work of the fire and rescue service so as to ensure that Ministers take full account of the views of the service's customers and other stakeholders when they make decisions on the development and implementation of policy.*
- 1.4 With the BCSF now having been in place for six years it is timely to consider its effectiveness in delivering the purpose for which it was established.

2.0 Review Terms of Reference

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference for the review are:

(a) Review the effectiveness of the BCSF in providing

- Strategic advice on the development and implementation of policy, and
- Engagement with business, industry, community representatives and those with wider fire and general safety interests

(b) Make proposals on any changes necessary to achieve effective strategic advice and engagement

(c) Review the BCSF's membership and Terms of Reference in the light of (b)

Not in scope – to review the wider institutional framework.

3.0 Timetable

- 3.1 The review is commencing immediately with the aim of having outcomes in February.

4.0 **Comments welcome**

- 4.1 Although Fire and Rescue Authorities are not being asked formally for comment we would welcome views on the work of the BCSF; and how, based on their local experience, the stakeholders described in paragraph 1.2 might best be engaged with on the development and implementation of Fire and Rescue Service policy.
- 4.2 Any comments should be sent to me by Monday 21 December.

Richard Twyman

Fire and Rescue Service Development Division