

## Performance Plan 2007/08

### Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Steve Worrall, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, on 01742 260204.

### 1 Purpose of Report

To advise Members of the statutory obligation set out in the Local Government Act 1999 that requires fire and rescue authorities to prepare and publish an annual Performance Plan by no later than the end of June each year.

### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to consider and approve:

- a) The proposed draft plan for 2007/08;
- b) The proposed targets, as set out in Appendix C of the document; and
- c) That officers have the authority to make any minor changes to ensure that the Plan is correct and up-to-date.

### 3 Background

The Local Government Act 1999 requires fire and rescue authorities to prepare an annual Performance Plan.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM)<sup>1</sup> Circular 09/2004 gives guidance on Best Value and Performance Improvement for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England. Other Circulars, namely Fire Service Circulars 58-2004 and 13-2005 provide further guidance on addressing the findings arising from Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). The Performance Plan 2006 – 08 satisfies the requirements of this prescribed guidance.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has now been renamed the department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)



The Fire Authority at its meeting on 8 February 2006 agreed to the proposed content of the two-year Performance Plan. The 2007/08 Performance Plan complements this Plan and further provides an update on the Direction of Travel and Performance Target sections.

The Fire Authority's Strategy and Resources Committee has been consulted upon, and set the Performance targets within, the attached Plan. The Service's Policy Group has agreed the format of the individual department Business Plans. The Fire Authority's Audit and Performance Management Committee will continue to monitor the targets and objectives within these plans.

#### **4 Corporate Aims and Objectives**

A review of the Fire Authority's existing corporate aims and objectives took place at a recent workshop and it was agreed that these are still current.

#### **5 Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) Targets**

The targets included in the tables on the attached document under Appendix C have been drafted using guidance published by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). This approach enabled Members, at the Strategy and Resources Committee on 24 May 2007, to set challenging targets based on placing the Fire Authority as the best performer, or as a minimum, within the top 25 per cent of all English fire authorities for each given indicator.

#### **6 Improvement Planning Process**

The Fire Authority's Performance Plan 2007/08 acts as the overarching strategic plan. The 2005/06 Performance Plan also acted as the CPA improvement plan. Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority was commended for its approach to this process and will continue to monitor the requirements through this 2007/08 Performance Plan and through the associated departmental Business Plans.

#### **7 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

#### **8 Legal Comment**

The Fire Authority is required to prepare an annual Performance Plan under the Local Government Act 1999. If the Fire Authority follows the proposals set out in this report, it will have met its obligations.



## 9 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and have determined that there are no discriminatory practices or differential impacts upon specific groups arising from this report. An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has not, therefore, been completed.

## 10 Appendix

Draft Performance Plan 2007/08

## 11 Background Papers

### Office of the Deputy Prime Minister:

Fire Service Circulars 58-2004 and 13-2005

### Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority:

14 February 2007, Report 18, Performance Plan 2007/08 and minutes

Audit and Performance Management Committee  
29 March 2007, Report 9, Draft Improvement Priorities for Inclusion in the Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08 and minutes

Strategy and Resources Committee  
24 May 2007, Paper 9, Performance Plan 2007/08 and minutes.

Implications of all of the following have been considered and, where they are significant (i.e. marked with an asterisk), the implications are detailed within the report itself.

Balanced Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	
Capacity		Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act		National Framework	
Comprehensive Performance Assessment	*	Operational Assurance	
Efficiency Savings		Retained	
Environmental		Risk and Insurance	
Financial		Staff	
Fire Control/Fire Link		Strategic Planning	*
Information, Communications and Technology		West Midlands Regional Management Board	
Freedom of Information / Data Protection / Environmental Information		Equality Impact Assessment	

