

Fire Authority Improvement Priorities 2009/10

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260225 or Ged Edwards, Programme Manager, on 01743 260208.

1 Purpose of Report

To provide members with the opportunity to comment on the Draft 2009/10 Improvement Priorities.

2 Recommendations

The Strategy and Resources Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of this report and
- b) Provide comments as appropriate.

3 Background

In 2008/09 following the enactment of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and subsequent changes to Best Value legislation the Fire Authority produced a Corporate Plan supplemented with an Annual Report.

The Fire Authority at its July 2008 meeting further endorsed, as part of its Integrated Strategic Planning process, the publication of these documents for 2009/10.

The Improvement Priorities along with the strategic aims and objectives will form the basis of the Corporate Plan.

4 Fire Authority Aims and Objectives

Officers, at Strategic Planning workshops held between October and December 2008, have considered and reviewed the existing aims and objectives of the Fire Authority. It will be recommended to the Fire Authority in February that they remain unchanged for 2009/10.

The proposed Draft Improvement Priorities is appended to this report for consideration by Members, the information is still under review by officers and will be presented in the form of a Draft Corporate Plan to the Fire Authority at its February 2009 meeting.

5 Financial Implications

There is provision within the budget for production of the document proposed.

6 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

An Initial Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached to this report.

8 Appendix

Draft Improvement Priorities 2009/10

9 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority:

13 February 2008, Report 15 – Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2008/09

11 June 2008, Report 9 – Annual Report 2007/08

16 July 2008, Report 16 – Integrated Strategic Planning Process 2009/10

17 December 2008, Report 10 – Integrated Risk Management Planning, Members Working Group Update.

Department for Communities and Local Government

Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, available from:
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2007/ukpga_20070028_en_1

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities, Statutory Guidance, available from:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/885397.pdf>

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	*



Directorate	Performance	Department/ Section	Programme Office
Name of officers completing (minimum of 2)	Ged Edwards Alison Pritchard	Job title	Programme Manager Perf Imp Officer
Name of Policy/Service/Activity to be assessed	2009/10 Improvement Priorities	Date of assessment	12 January 2009
New or existing policy	N/E		

1) Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy/service/activity (referred to as policy in document) and also consider the following:

- What are the key performance indicators?
- Who is intended to benefit or be affected by it? (is this positive or negative)
- What outcomes do you want to achieve from this policy?

The Corporate Plan is an internal publication documenting to all personnel the aims, objectives and purpose of the Fire Authority. It further details the Improvement Priorities as developed in the Strategic Planning Workshops held between October and December 2008.

All personnel will be made aware of the Improvement Priorities via the Corporate Plan and its related Directorate Plans.

1 a) Who implements this policy?

The Improvement Priorities and supporting documents/reports are co-ordinated and monitored through the Programme Office.

2) How does your current policy meet the needs around age, disability, race, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation and caring responsibilities?

None

Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? E.g. physical or other.

2a) Where do you think improvements could be made?

The process is reviewed annually through the Strategic Planning process.

2b) Have issues of equality been identified in this area of service delivery by SFRS?

No

3) Have we had any specific feedback or complaints on this area?

We consult annually on our Performance Documents no negative comments have been received concerning the Improvement Priorities externally.

<p>Is there evidence that this has come from any of these specific groups: race, gender, disability, religion/belief, age, sexual orientation, caring responsibilities?</p>	<p>We consulted personnel via The Pink and an electronic survey. Responses were presented at the October Strategic Planning workshop and informed decision making.</p> <p>No</p>		
<p>3a) Do we have any feedback from managers or frontline staff on this policy?</p>	<p>Yes – personnel were asked for comments via The Pink and through an electronic survey. Responses were presented at the October Strategic Planning workshop.</p>		
<p>3b) Is there any feedback from voluntary/community organisations?</p>	<p>Voluntary and Community organisations are included on the circulation list when consulting on our Performance documents.</p>		
<p>3c) Is there any research / models of practice that may inform SFRS view?</p>	<p>SFRS always draws on best practice when considering its plans.</p>		
<p>4) Detail the Actions / Improvement areas you have identified, or the need for further research. (These must be put onto the Action and Improvements Form FB 367 for consideration by Steering Group)</p> <p>If you have found considerable actions or research this will require you to proceed to a full assessment.</p>			
<p>5) Should the policy now proceed to a full impact assessment?</p>	Y	N	Please detail

I am satisfied that this policy has been successfully impact assessed. I understand the Impact Assessment of this policy is a statutory obligation and that, as owners of this policy, we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this process.

Line Manager		Date	
Please note that this impact assessment will be scrutinised by the Equality and Diversity Officer.			

Appendix D

Equality Impact Assessment Actions and Improvements Form

When you have completed the Equality Impact Assessment a number of actions or improvement areas will have been identified, it is important that these are captured and put into normal work activities. In some cases there maybe a few small actions required in other cases you will need to process to a full impact assessment, you will need to complete this form for both of these situations when you identify actions that need completing, or have identified that future investigation will require specific resources that need to be put into the business planning process.

This form is to allow you to record the outcome from your impact assessments so that the actions or improvements can be carried out by your Department and monitored and in some cases approved by the Equality and Diversity Steering Group. Please ensure that this form is given to your line manager for discussion at your team or one to one meetings for incorporation into individual work plans.

Directorate:	Department:
Brigade Order/activity that has identified need, issue/objective:	EQIA No:

Action	Comments inc. Details of Consultations required/carried out	Resources / Finances allocated to this objective/target	How will this be monitored to ensure it is effective	Responsible for this action	Due Date	Progress

Head of Department		Date completed	
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This form must be sent to Management Support when completed for monitoring and/or consideration by the Equality & Diversity Steering Group

