

## Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11

### 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 01743 260204.

### 1 Purpose of Report

This report advises Members of the recently released Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11.

### 2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to note the contents of the appended National Framework document.

### 3 Background

During the latter part of 2007 Government published the consultation document - *Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11*, seeking responses by 6 February 2008.

Government's response to the consultation feedback was recently published (20 May 2008) and may be viewed at the Community and Local Government's (CLG) website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/nationalframeworkresponse>

The new Framework (as appended) sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service, which has statutory force under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. The Act places a duty on the Secretary of State to consult on any changes to the National Framework.

The consultation exercise ran for 12 weeks and received 47 responses, one of which was from this Authority. CLG state that responses were generally positive and that Fire Authorities have welcomed the move to a three-year document which ties in with their budgetary cycles, as well as the streamlined structure – reducing from nine to four chapters.

Many of the comments made in response to the draft Framework consultation have been incorporated in to the final version. The Framework is divided into four chapters:

**Chapter 1 – Prevention, Protection and Response** – covers the core business of Fire and Rescue Authorities in analysing risks and taking action to meet and mitigate the effect of those risks.

**Chapter 2 – Resilience** – covers the delivery of the key resilience programmes and the actions authorities need to take to ensure they are fully equipped to meet the demands of the resilience agenda.

**Chapter 3 – Diversity and Workforce** – covers the importance of mainstreaming diversity in all levels of the Fire and Rescue Service and workforce development, training and health and safety.

**Chapter 4 – Governance and Improvement** – covers institutions in place to support the delivery of Fire and Rescue Authority business, the new Local Government White Paper framework including Local Area Agreements, Performance Assessment and Finance.

## **4 Impact upon Fire Authority**

The draft Framework was considered in December 2007, with its requirements incorporated into the development and implementation of the Fire Authority's new Corporate Plan 2008/09, which was published in April 2008.

Analysis of the new Framework is currently underway to assess any changes necessary to the current Corporate Plan to ensure the Authority continues to deliver Government's priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service. Any major changes arising will be reported to the Strategy and Recourses Committee.

## **5 Financial Implications**

There are no known additional financial implications arising from this report. Where as a result of the analysis undertaken (as discussed in section 4 above) additional implications are identified, any budgetary issues will be reported to the Strategy and Recourses Committee.

## 6 Legal Comment

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 stipulates that Fire and Rescue Authorities - *'must have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions'* (Part 3, Section 21 (7)).

## 7 Equality Impact Assessment

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

## 8 Appendix

Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008/11.

## 9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.

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 Improvement	Department/ Section	
Name of officer	Steve Worrall	Job title	ACFO
Name of Policy/Service to be assessed	Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-11	Date of assessment	28 May 2008
New or existing policy	E		

1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy/service	The Framework (as appended) sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service, which has statutory force under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.
2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy/service?	<p>The Framework's objectives are set out within four chapters:</p> <p><b>Chapter 1 – Prevention, Protection and Response</b> – covers the core business of Fire and Rescue Authorities in analysing risks and taking action to meet and mitigate the effect of those risks.</p> <p><b>Chapter 2 – Resilience</b> – covers the delivery of the key resilience programmes and the actions authorities need to take to ensure they are fully equipped to meet the demands of the resilience agenda.</p> <p><b>Chapter 3 – Diversity and Workforce</b> – covers the importance of mainstreaming diversity in all levels of the Fire and Rescue Service and workforce development, training and health and safety.</p> <p><b>Chapter 4 – Governance and Improvement</b> – covers institutions in place to support the delivery of Fire and Rescue Authority business, the new Local Government White Paper framework including Local Area Agreements, Performance Assessment and Finance.</p>
3. Who is intended to benefit from the policy/service and in what way?	<p>The Fire and Rescue National Framework sets out the Government's priorities and objectives for the Fire and Rescue Service. It does this by making clear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Government's expectations for the Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>• what Fire and Rescue Authorities are expected to do; and</li> <li>• the support the Government will provide in helping them to meet these objectives.</li> </ul>

	The Framework is a strategic plan which outlines the outcomes the Government expects to see delivered by Fire and Rescue Authorities and Regional Management Boards across the range of their functions. The Framework is a foundation on which to build local solutions. Giving Fire and Rescue Authorities the flexibility they need to meet the specific needs of their local communities, which remain at the heart of the government's approach.	
4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/service?	Three of the key priorities for this National Framework are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of an enhanced resilience capability</li> <li>• Fire and Rescue Authorities taking ownership and successfully implementing the Equality and Diversity Strategy; and</li> <li>• That in a tighter fiscal climate, Fire and Rescue Authorities meet public expectations of a modern, efficient and effective Public Service.</li> </ul>	
5. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the policy/service?	The main stakeholders are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government (CLG)</li> <li>• Fire Authority</li> <li>• Fire and Rescue Service</li> <li>• Regional Management Board</li> </ul>	
6. Who implements the policy/service and who is responsible for this?	Fire Authority, via the Corporate Plan.	
7. Are there any concerns that this policy/service could have a differential impact on the following groups and what existing evidence do you have for this? Yes or No, please detail in boxes below.		
8. Age	Y	<del>N</del>
9. Disability	Y	<del>N</del>
10. Gender	Y	<del>N</del>
11. Race	Y	<del>N</del>
12. Religion or belief	Y	<del>N</del>
13. Sexual orientation	Y	<del>N</del>
14. Dependant/caring responsibilities	Y	<del>N</del>
<p>Equality and Diversity is key priority for delivery within the Framework. Government state that Fire and Rescue Authorities need to take ownership of and implement the Equality and Diversity Strategy in order to reduce the impact of fire on the diverse communities they serve, to continue to build community engagement, and to ensure an efficient and effective balance in their recruitment and deployment of a retained and wholetime workforce. Government will consider how nationally supported initiatives can build on local positive action events, outreach work and awareness raising to help change the profile of the workforce by encouraging people from all sections of the community to consider a career in the Service.</p> <p>Adherence to the Framework will potentially create a <u>positive</u> differential impact on the groups listed left.</p>		

15. Could the differential impact identified in 7-14 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy/service?	≠	<b>N</b>	No, subject to the Framework being implemented there should be no <u>negative</u> adverse impact.
16. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group or another reason?	≠	<b>N</b>	No, subject to the Framework being implemented there should be no <u>negative</u> adverse impact.
17. Have you consulted those who are likely to be affected by the policy/service?	<b>Y</b>	<del><b>N</b></del>	The Framework has been widely consulted upon by Government, with the responses published at: <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/nationalframeworkresponse">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/nationalframeworkresponse</a>
18. Should the policy proceed to a full impact assessment.	≠	<b>N</b>	Not necessary
19. Date by which full impact assessment to be completed	N/A		
20. Reason for non completion	As set out above		

**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.**

Assessing person	Steve Worrall, ACFO	Date	28 May 2008
Line Manager	Alan Taylor, CFO	Date	29 May 2009
Please note that this impact assessment will be scrutinised by the Equality and Diversity Officer.			