

Annual Report 2008/09

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Alan Taylor, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260225, Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer Designate, on 01743 260205 or Ged Edwards, Programme Manager, on 01743 260208.

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks Member approval of the proposed contents and format of the Fire Authority Annual Report 2008/09.

2 Recommendations

The Fire Authority is asked to:

- a) Approve the draft contents and format of the proposed Annual Report (as appended); and
- b) Delegate final approval of the Annual Report to the Chair and Chief Fire Officer.

3 Background

Historically all fire and rescue services have been duty bound through the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 to prepare and publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). These requirements have undergone change following the introduction of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Act deregulates the Best Value regime and, as a consequence, removes the requirement to produce a BVPP.

These changes were reported to the Fire Authority on 13 February 2008, with approval given to the creation of two new overarching integrated strategic documents – a forward-looking Corporate Plan and a backward-facing performance report – ‘Annual Report.’

The Corporate Plan which came into effect on 1 April 2009 was agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 5 March 2009. This paper seeks agreement from Members on the contents and format of the Annual Report.

4 Contents of the Annual Report

The Annual Report is essentially a performance document, which contains updates on progress over the previous twelve months. It outlines how the Authority has sought to deliver against its stated aims and objectives (via the Improvement Priorities), progress against the Integrated Risk Management Plan and financial information, including last year's budget spend and the annual efficiency statement.

The Annual Report also includes the outturn of performance data on 2008/09 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's) and a statement certifying compliance with the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters.

5 Format and Promotion of the Annual Report

In order to keep costs to a minimum and ensure maximum exposure to the widest possible audience, officers have reviewed the format of this year's Annual Report and propose to replicate the 2008/09 arrangements. This includes the production of an online version of the document, which will be published on the Authority's website (the website receives over 800,000 page views a year), supplemented by a fold-out branded sleeve/pamphlet that will summarise key aspects from the Annual Report and direct interested persons/parties to the website to view the complete report.

An example of the proposed sleeve/pamphlet will be circulated at the Fire Authority meeting.

6 Financial Implications

The cost of producing and marketing the Annual Report is incorporated into the existing Best Value budget but for comparative purposes the cost of producing 1,000 CD wallets is £708. The cost in 2007/08 of printing 250 BVPP's was £3,000.

7 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications associated with this paper.

8 Equality Impact Assessment

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

9 Appendix

Draft Annual Report 2008/09

10 Background Papers

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority:

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

11 February 2009, Report 12 – Corporate Plan 2009/10

Strategy and Resources Committee 5 March 2009, Report 7 – Fire Authority Corporate Plan 2009/10

Communities and Local Government:

18 March 2008, Fire Services Circular 9/2008 – Best Value Performance Plans for 2007/08

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 Area 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	Programme Office
Name of officers completing (minimum of 2)	Alison Pritchard	Job title	Performance Improvement Officer
Name of Policy/Service/Activity to be assessed	Annual Report	Date of assessment	8 th June 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 Annual Report sets out progress against the strategic aims and priorities the service set out in the 2008/09 Corporate Plan.

The Fire Authority, the service and staff as well as external stakeholders are intended to benefit from the Annual Report.

The outcomes to be achieved from this policy are communicating budget spend, key achievements and improvements the service has delivered during 2008/09.

1 a) Who implements this policy?
Assistant Chief Fire Officer/ Programme Manager.

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

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

The plan is offered in alternative formats on request.

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

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

A questionnaire accompanies the report – no responses received.

area? Is there evidence that this has come from any of these specific groups: race, gender, disability, religion/belief, age, sexual orientation, caring responsibilities?							
3a) Do we have any feedback from managers or frontline staff on this policy?	A questionnaire accompanies the report – no responses received.						
3b) Is there any feedback from voluntary/community organisations?	A questionnaire accompanies the report – no responses received.						
3c) Is there any research / models of practice that may inform SFRS view?	Other plans and policies are accessed to inform our design.						
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) If you have found considerable actions or research this will require you to proceed to a full assessment.							
5) Should the policy now proceed to a full impact assessment?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>N</td> <td>Please detail</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Y	N	Please detail		✓	
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



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Appendix to Report 19 on
Annual Report 2008/09
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire and Rescue Authority
3 July 2009



Annual Report 2008/09

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority



Putting Shropshire's Safety First
www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

If you would like this information in an alternative language or format such as large print or audio please contact us on 01743 260200 or email enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

如果您希望获得这份资料的中文译本或其他各式（例如大字体版本或录音磁带），请与我们联系。电话：01743 260200，或电子邮件：enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

(Chinese)

Jeśli chcieliby państwo otrzymać informacje w innym języku lub formacie, np. w formacie audio lub napisane duża czcionką, prosimy o kontakt pod numer 01743 260200 lub na adres e-mailowy: enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

(Polish)

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਜਾਂ ਰੂਪ ਜਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਕਿ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਜਾਂ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੀ ਟੇਪ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ 01743 260200 ਤੇ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk ਤੇ ਈਮੇਲ ਕਰੋ।

(Punjabi)

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی متبادل زبان یا طریقہ مثلاً بڑے سائیز یا آڈیو میں درکار ہوں تو برائے مہربانی فون نمبر 01743 260200 یا ای میل enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk پر رابطہ کریں

(Urdu)

Haddii aad doonaysid dokumentigan oo ku qoran luqad kale ama qaab kale sida far waaweyn ama maqal ah, fadlan nagala soo xiriir 01743 260200 ama iimayl enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

(Somali)

Os hoffech chi gael y wybodaeth hon mewn iaith neu ar ffurf wahanol fel print bras neu sain cysylltwch â ni ar 01743 260200 neu drwy'r e-bost enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

(Welsh)

The Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) welcomes comments on this Annual Report. Please use the questionnaire sheet at the end of this report or visit our website on www.shropshirefire.gov.uk to print a copy from the PDF version.

Contents

Chairman's and CFO Foreword	4
Corporate Directorates	5
Our Governance	6
Organisational chart	7
About our Service	8
About our Area	9
About our Culture	10
National Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2008.....	11
Integrated Risk Management Plan.....	12
Improvement Priorities	15
Financial Performance – Subject to consideration by the Fire Authority on 3/7/09	16
Annual Efficiency Statement	20
Statement of Contracts Involving a Transfer of Staff	21
Statement on the Code of Corporate Governance	21
Environmental Footprint	21
Appendices.....	22
Performance	23
Response Standards	23
Best Value Performance Indicators Outturn – 2008/09.....	24
Feedback and Monitoring.....	27

Chairman's and CFO Foreword

Welcome to the Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority Annual Report for 2008/09. This Report summarises and sets out our performance and achievements for what has been yet another successful year for the Authority and *your* Fire and Rescue Service. It is a year in which the Audit Commission has for a second consecutive year rated the Authority as providing one of the top performing Fire and Rescue Services in the country.

Serving the communities of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, the Authority's overarching purpose is to save life, protect property and the environment, whilst continuously seeking to reduce risk to deliver our vision of achieving '**A Safer Shropshire.**'

Throughout 2008/09 we have continued to build and develop targeted partnerships at a local, regional and international level that have assisted in the delivery of many new and innovative initiatives resulting in a more developed and professional workforce that have forced down the incidence of fire.

However, despite the Service's sustained commitment, sadly deaths still occur through the incidence of fire within the home and through traffic collisions on Shropshire's roads. Working with partners through the new Local Area Agreements the reduction of risk and protection of vulnerable groups within

our communities is the key priority for the Fire Authority during 2009/10.

We hope you find this report informative and beneficial in describing the work and successes of *your* Fire and Rescue Service.



Stuart West
Chairman
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority



Alan Taylor
Chief Fire Officer
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

Corporate Directorates

Executive Directorate

The Executive Directorate, headed by the Chief Fire Officer, comprises of three teams that collectively provide a core support function to Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority. The directorate is responsible for ensuring that Members of the Fire Authority are able to deliver upon their commitments and principles of effective Corporate Governance as defined within their Code of Corporate Governance which is updated annually.

Community Safety

Community Safety is headed by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer. Supported by a team of managers the directorate consists of almost 500 staff working from the Headquarters in Shrewsbury and at 23 other locations across the County of Shropshire.

The directorate strives to deliver the high quality service the people of Shropshire expect and endeavours to develop as a high performance team.



Resources Directorate

The directorate is structured as two distinct, but closely related teams responsible for ensuring the provision of appropriate resources and supplier support to the Service. The Technical Services Team provides the specialist skills required to manage the range of resources and suppliers used by the Service it also provides procurement and environmental management for the Service.

The Service's workshops provide an in-house maintenance service for vehicles and specialist equipment, managed by the Workshops Manager.



Performance Improvement Directorate

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer heads the Performance Improvement Directorate which comprises of three teams that collectively provide a core support function. The directorate is responsible for the provision and maintenance of a modern and resilient communications and information infrastructure, and the management of risk and performance. The Leonardo Programme is also co-ordinated through this Directorate.



Human Resources, Training and Development Directorate

The Human Resources, Training and Development Directorate, headed by the Assistant Chief Officer, comprises of three specialist support teams. The directorate is responsible for the resourcing, retention, training and development and release of all employees.



Our Governance

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority was established in 1998 following local government reorganisation. Shropshire Council and Telford and Wrekin Council are responsible for the Fire Authority but are independent from it. Representative Members of each council sit on the Fire Authority, which oversees the Service's finances, strategies and operations.



Telford & Wrekin
C O U N C I L

To help carry out the responsibilities of the Fire Authority a number of specific committees and panels have been established, at which members of the public are welcome to attend.

Details on the Fire Authority Members, the constituent Authority's they represent are detailed on the Service website¹, if you would like further information on the Terms of Reference of the various committees, please visit the Service website on the link below:

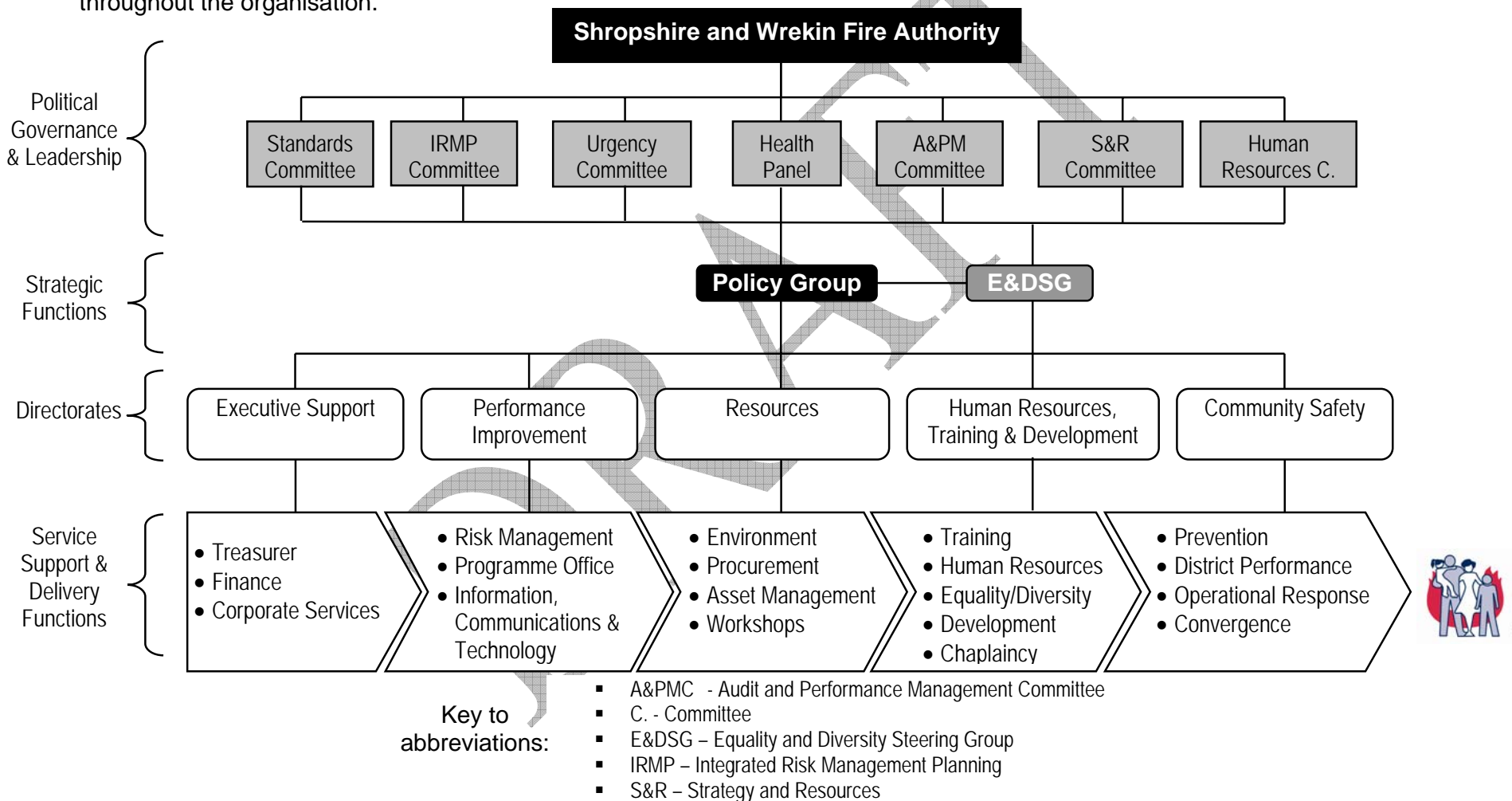
<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/engine/managing-the-service/fire-authority.htm>

¹ There are also non-elected Independent Members of the Standards Committee, for details on this committee please visit the following link:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/docs/cfa/members-handbook/section-3-pdf/05-Standards-Committee.pdf>

Organisational chart

This organisational chart outlines the reporting structure of the Fire Authority, it demonstrates how information is disseminated throughout the organisation.



About our Service

The respective communities of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin vary greatly and as a consequence place very different demands on Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The Service employs 657 members of staff who operate from 23 strategically located sites across Shropshire. The Service has 4 whole-time stations located in Wellington, Shrewsbury, Tweeddale and Telford, 19 retained stations, Service headquarters in Shrewsbury and a training centre in Telford



Strength	Designation	Description
225	Firefighters (wholetime duty system)	Firefighters and officers are included in the strength figure. A shift pattern is worked by watch personnel.
329	Firefighters (retained duty system)	Retained duty system staff are called in when required to attend emergency incidents.
21	Control staff	The control staff work shift arrangements to take emergency calls and dispatch Service resources to incidents.
82	Support service staff	Non-operational staff provide a wide range of technical and specialist support.

Equipment consists of a fleet of approximately 60 operational vehicles and special appliances including aerial ladder platforms, a rescue boat and various pod-based units located at Shrewsbury and Telford

In the fiscal year 2008/09 the Service responded to 6,730 incidents of which 956 were small fires. There were 1,933 calls to fire of which 977 were Primary fires (a fire involving any property of value, for example, a house or a car) and 956 were Secondary fires (a fire which is not a Primary fire). The total number of Road Traffic Collisions was 309 and false alarms (good intent, apparatus and malicious) were 1,876.



About our Area

The county of Shropshire is England's largest inland county occupying approximately 3,490 square kilometres. The English counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Worcester and the Welsh counties of Powys and Clwyd bound the county.

The geographical county of Shropshire is one of England's most beautiful and historic areas with magnificent countryside and market towns such as Ludlow which has in excess of 500 listed buildings. The county is home to Ironbridge Gorge which is universally accepted as the birthplace of the industrial revolution.

The biggest change to the county's administrative boundaries took place in April 1998 when the geographical county of Shropshire was split into the administrative county of Shropshire and the unitary authority of Telford and Wrekin. Shropshire Council replaced the district and borough councils and the county council from April 2009.

The areas covered by Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council are in many ways different.

Shropshire Council covers a large area – some 3,197 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 287,900. The area administered is essentially rural in nature and almost one third is designated as an area of outstanding natural

beauty. Approximately 55% of the population is classed as urban and 45% as rural.

Shropshire has a higher percentage of retired people and lower percentages of children and adults of working age. Because of the rural nature of Shropshire (approximately 80% of land use is agriculture), a higher proportion of residents work in agriculture compared to the national average.

In contrast the area of Telford & Wrekin is among one of the fastest growing local authority areas in Europe. The majority of the population lives in the rapidly growing new town of Telford. Telford was originally designated as a 'New Town' in 1963 and recent decades have seen a remarkable growth in industry, commerce and population in the area, which covers 290 square kilometres. It does retain, however, some concentrated pockets of social deprivation, which are being addressed.

Telford & Wrekin has a population of approximately 161,000 and a significant manufacturing base providing 30% of all jobs in the area.



About our Culture

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is made up of a diverse body of people who want to help others – who want to make a difference in people’s lives, in the community and in society as a whole. We employ people who are strongly committed to, and take pride in the services we deliver.

The Service has always practiced and been praised for its open and supportive culture and was eager to adopt the Government’s Core Values for the Fire and Rescue Service when they were first introduced, seeing it as an opportunity to further improve civility and respect across the Service.

Establishing effective values plays a major part in providing our Service with an image that gives a clear and consistent picture of what we are all about. Our mission ***Saving life, protecting property and the environment and reducing risk within the community*** is about what we do, our values are about how we do it.

To demonstrate the Fire Authority’s commitment to promoting equality and diversity throughout the organisation, level 4 of the Equality Standard for Local Government was achieved in March 2009².

² The Equality Standard for Local Government has been replaced by the Equality Framework for Local Government. Further information on this Framework can be found on:

<http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pagelId=5145192>

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority value:

- Service to the Community
- People
- Improvement
- Diversity



National Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2008

The Audit Commission, the independent government watchdog on the quality of public services, has once again scored Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service as performing “Strongly” following the 2008 audits. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is only one of two Services that maintained this status from the previous year.

The report goes on to praise the Authority in a number of areas:

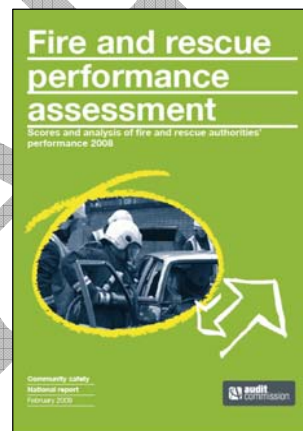
“Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is reducing fire risk for businesses and residents. In 2008 fires in non-domestic properties reduced at a faster rate than in other areas”

“Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service has made a significant contribution to a Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) safer motorcycling campaign which reduced collisions and brought motorbike related road deaths down from ten in 2006/07 to zero in 2007/08”

“Members of Shropshire Fire and Rescue Authority are key contacts in the community and strong ambassadors for the fire service”

To view this report, please visit the Audit Commission website on:

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/InspectionOutput/fireandrescue12feb09REP.pdf>



Fire service	CMA score	Direction of travel		Use of resources		Service assessment	
		2008	Change from 2007	2008	Change from 2007	2008	Change from 2007
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority	Fair	Adaptably	◀◀	3	▶▶	2	▶▶
Cheshire Fire Authority	Good	Well	▶▶	4	▶▶	4	▶▶
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	Good	Adaptably	▶▶	3	▶▶	2	▶▶
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority	Good	Strongly	▶▶	3	▶▶	4	▶▶
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	Weak	Well	▶▶	3	▶▶	2	▶▶
Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Authority	Good	Well	▶▶	3	▶▶	3	▶▶
Suffolk Fire Authority	Fair	Well	▶▶	3	▶▶	3	▶▶
Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority	Good	Well	▶▶	3	▶▶	2	▶▶
Tyne and Wear Fire	Fair	Well	▶▶	4	▶▶	2	▶▶

Integrated Risk Management Plan

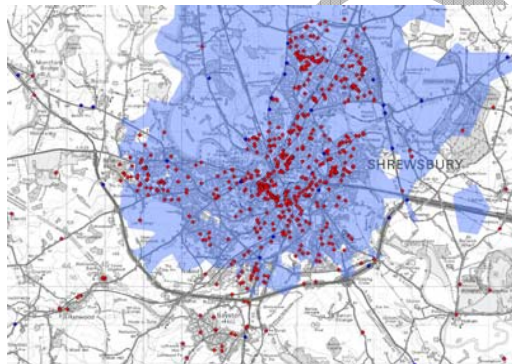
Improvements during 2008/09

Shrewsbury Emergency Cover Review

Previous work, in partnership with Shropshire Ambulance Service, had looked at the possibility of splitting Shrewsbury's current fire station resources between two sites - one to the north and one to the south of Shrewsbury.

With the risk assessment tools now available to the Service, this initial work was further progressed and resulted in the Fire Authority deciding that Shrewsbury is best served if the fire engines stay in their current central location.

As well as ensuring service provision is appropriate, this study will result in the Service incurring reduced costs for the development work that is now progressing at its Shrewsbury fire station and Headquarters site.



Officer Cover Resilience

The Service continues to prepare for and respond to a wide range of potential incidents including Terrorist threats, chemical, biological and radiological incidents, industrial and domestic accidents, collapsed buildings and flooding.

The Fire and Rescue Authority has reviewed and where required made improvements to its officer provision ensuring appropriate incident command and support is available at incidents within Shropshire and at incidents where our staff respond outside of the county.



Financial gains

The changes brought about through IRMP have resulted in reduced costs. The table below shows how the Fire and Rescue Authority has gained more than one million pounds through efficiency savings as a result of the IRMP improvements introduced over the last five years.

Improvement	Cost saving 2004 –2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of XL Cabs onto five stations • Reduced lease and maintenance costs 	£360,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial Appliance Project • 8 fewer Wholetime staff 	£518,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telford Fire Cover Review • Additional CFS and contingency planning work 	£8,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the AFA Response Policy • Reduced RDS turnout costs • Additional Wholetime capacity 	£61,000 £120,000
Total saving	£1,067,000

More details of these investments, improvement activities and outcomes are outlined below.

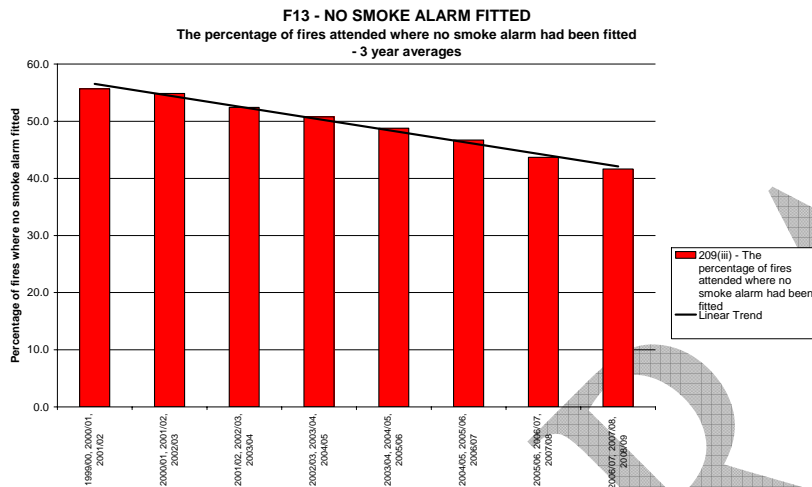
Improvement Activity	Investment 2005—2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of 8 Retained Support Officers 	£324,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased training for all RDS Staff 	£187,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of XL Cab appliances onto all retained stations – increased staffing levels from 11 to 14 	£272,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional funding for RDS to undertake CFS activities 	£100,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finance all RDS Stations for admin, equipment maintenance and cleaning 	£76,000
Total Investment	£959,000

The Fire Authority has invested much of these savings into:

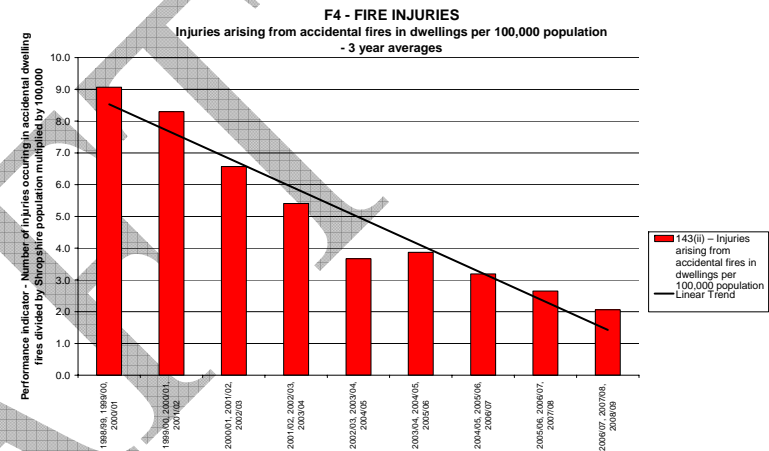
- a) Driving improvement in the Retained Duty System (RDS), to ensure its long term viability; and
- b) Increasing Community Fire Safety (CFS) activity in the more rural areas of Shropshire.

The savings and improvements, detailed over the page, have resulted in reducing the risks as demonstrated in the graphs on this page.

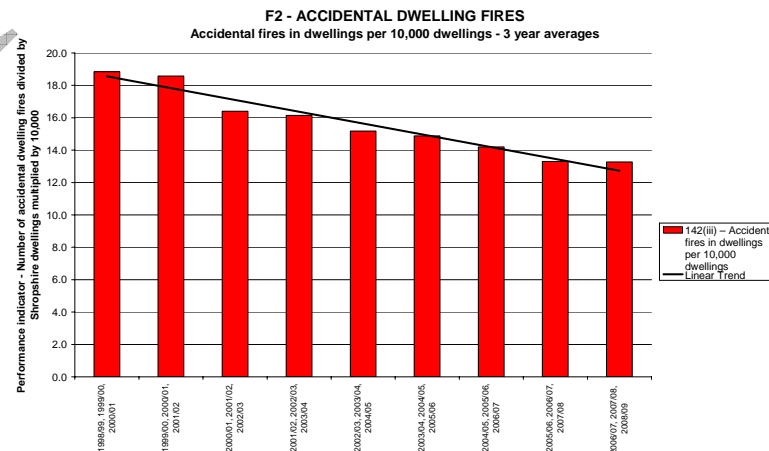
- More smoke alarms fitted



- Fewer fire injuries



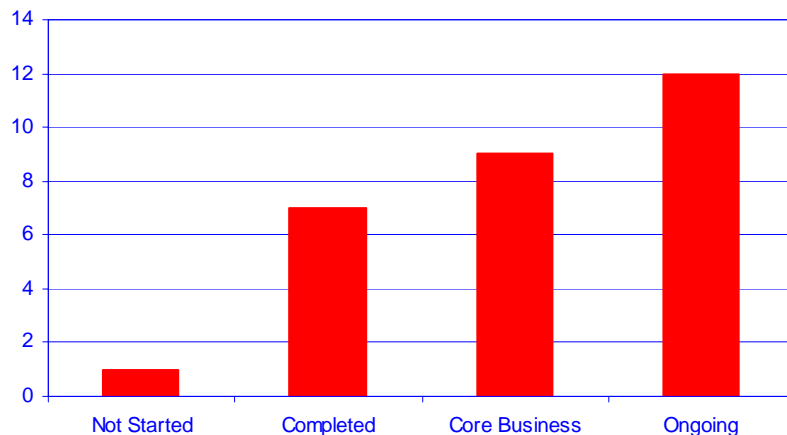
- Fewer accidental house fires



Improvement Priorities

Improvement Priorities are business activities that support the achievement of the Authority's Core Values, Strategic Aims and Objectives. The priorities for 2008 were outlined in the 2008/09 Corporate Plan and are monitored by Senior Officers and Fire Authority Members quarterly.

Progress on the 2008 Improvement Priorities.



The majority of Improvement Priorities are either completed throughout the year or become part of the day to day, or core business of the Service. Some areas of work are more complex and not achievable within 12 months, these are our ongoing workstreams.

Improvements made in 2008

Service to the Community

- Percentage of fires where no smoke alarm is fitted is falling year on year
- Employment of a dedicated fire officer to address issues on fire crime
- Reduction of almost 20% year on year through the work of the Unwanted Fire Signals Officer.

People

- Actions implemented following the results of the Cultural Audit
- Firefighter Development Programme extended to include all operational staff.

Improvement

- Environmental management system implemented (ISO 14001)
- The delivery of a Performance Management system provides accurate and timely management information.

Diversity

- Achievement of Level 4 of the Equality Standard for Local Government
- Positive Action events held in Shropshire, ongoing events planned
- Development of the Corporate Equality Action Plan.

Financial Performance – Subject to consideration by the Fire Authority on 3/7/09

This is a summary of the Fire Authority's Statement of Accounts, and sets out the Authority's financial position for the year ended 31 March 2009. The full statement has been prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, and also the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice, and its publication is required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

For further information, please refer to the full Statement of Accounts which is available on our website on the following link: www.shropshirefire.gov.uk

Our Performance during 2008/09

In February 2008, the Fire Authority approved a revenue budget of £20.035m for 2008/09, and expenditure against this budget was closely monitored throughout the year.

During 2008/09, the Fire Authority has approved transfers to contingency of £548,000, and noted a further £230,000 in April. Actual spend on the revised revenue budget was £18.907m, and resulted in an additional surplus of £350,000.

Some of this year's underspend represents expenditure that has slipped from 2008/09 into 2009/10, and so this will be held in the General Fund balance at the end of the year, and transferred back to the revenue account for use in 2009/10. In addition, the Fire Authority has already approved the use of

some of this year's surplus for schemes commencing in 2009/10.

Unspent balances on the revenue account will be held in the Fire Authority's General Fund balance.

Capital Expenditure

The Fire Authority approved a capital programme totalling £1.025m in 2008/09. In addition, a number of schemes from years prior to 2008/09 were rolled forward for completion.

Schemes prior to 2008/09

A total of £659,000 has been spent on schemes which were approved prior to 2008/09. Six schemes are still to be completed, with estimated completion costs of £184,000.

2008/09 Schemes

A total of £762,000 has been spent on schemes approved in 2008/09, including £667,000 on operational vehicles and equipment, £76,000 on building and training improvements, and £19,000 on small vehicles.

Eight schemes are still to be completed, with estimated completion costs of £168,000.

The Capital Programme for 2009/10

There are three major schemes in the capital programme for 2009/10, the largest one being the refurbishment of the Fire Authority's fire station, workshops and headquarters in

Shrewsbury. The fire appliance rolling programme will also continue, and scheme to replace the Service's personal protective equipment (PPE) will commence in 2009/10.

The Revenue Account

This summarises how much has been spent on services during the year, and how this was funded. Last year's account is also shown for comparative purposes.

Note		2008/09 £'m	2007/08 £'m
	Expenditure		
	Community Fire Safety	2.5	2.2
	Firefighting and Rescue Operations	17.9	17.0
	Emergency Planning and Civil Defence	0.1	0
1	Democratic Costs	0.6	0.6
	Net Cost of Services	21.1	19.8
	Contribution to/(from) Reserves	(0.6)	(0.0)
2	Pension Fund Adjustments	(0.4)	(0.9)
2	Depreciation and Capital Costs	(1.2)	(0.4)
	Amount to be met by Govt Grant and Council Tax	18.9	18.5
3	Government Grant	(7.7)	(7.2)
	Council Tax	(12.3)	(11.9)
	Surplus for the Year	(1.1)	(0.6)

Notes

- 1 The costs of the running the Fire Authority are shown separately from the cost of services provided by the Fire and Rescue Service.
- 2 As we are a local authority, there are a number of costs that should not be passed on to the council tax payer. Adjustments within the account ensure that the costs shown reflect the true cost to the tax payer.
- 3 The Authority received Revenue Support Grant directly from central Government, and National Non Domestic Rates which are collected nationally and distributed back to local authorities based on population.
- 4 Council tax is set by the Authority to fund expenditure which is not covered by government grant. The Band D council tax for 2008/09 was set at £78.39

The Balance Sheet

This shows the financial position of the Fire Authority as at 31 March 2008. Last year's balance sheet is also shown for comparative purposes.

Note		2008/09 £'m	2007/08 £'m
	Long Term Assets - buildings & vehicles	24.1	24.0
	Debtors – money owed to the Authority	1.1	0.8
	Creditors – money owed by the Authority	(2.0)	(1.8)
	Borrowing – to fund long term assets	(5.8)	(5.6)
	Investments – cash in hand at year end	4.8	5.4
	Provisions – money provided for future years	(0.1)	(0.1)
1	Money owed to pensioners in future years:	(139.6)	(108.4)
	Less Fire Pension Reserve	136.1	105.6
	Less Local Government Pension Reserve	3.5	2.8
	Total Assets	22.1	22.7
	Assets are funded by:		
2	Long Term Asset Reserve	17.8	18.9
	Reserves – money set aside for specific purposes	2.7	2.2
	General Reserve – money set aside for general risks	.5	1.0
	General Fund Balance	1.1	0.6
	Total Funding	22.1	22.7

Notes

- 1 The Authority is required to show the total value of future pensions that it is committed to as at the balance sheet date. These will be met from future revenues, which are represented by reserves in the balance sheet.
- 2 This reserve reflects the difference between the cost of fixed assets consumed and the capital financing set aside to pay for them. A substantial amount of our assets were transferred from Shropshire County Council in 1998, when the Fire Authority was established.

The Year Ahead

A number of national, regional and local developments within the Fire Service are likely to have a significant impact on the Fire Authority during the coming year.

- **Retained Firefighters & the Part-Time Workers Regulations**

Firefighters on the Retained Duty System are claiming access to the Firemen's Pension Scheme, equality on sick pay, and additional duty payments under the above regulations. In January 2006, the House of Lords granted a re hearing at the firefighters' Employment Tribunal, which declared that retained firefighters were engaged in broadly similar work as wholtime firefighters.

There will be potential pension costs to the Fire Authority relating to the financial periods between July 2000 and April 2006, as a large proportion of the Fire Authority's employees are retained firefighters. There may also be other salary related costs. Following an updated risk assessment of the possible impact of this case on the Fire Authority's revenue budget, a proportion of the total expected cost is currently held in the Pensions and Other Staff Issues Reserve.

- **West Midlands Regional Management Board**

The Fire Authority will continue to work with partners, both on a local and regional level, most notably as part of the West Midlands Regional Management Board (WMRMB).

WMRMB was formed in April 2004, with the aim of delivering the Government's agenda of reform and modernisation of the fire and rescue service of the West Midlands. The Board continues to work towards the delivery of improved efficiencies and enhanced operational resilience across the West Midlands region, through a portfolio of regional projects and activities.

- **Shrewsbury Headquarters Project**

The major single project in the next three year period is the refurbishment of the Authority's facilities currently housed at St Michaels Street, Shrewsbury. The Authority has put in place policies to maximise internally generated funds and thereby minimise

external borrowings and the associated financial burdens.

The Authority is also aware of the complexity of the project, the need to ensure continuity of service, and the opportunities for ensuring efficiency, and has therefore planned to invest up to £100,000 in optimising new ways of delivering services through the project.

- **FiReControl Local Authority Controlled Company**

The national FiReControl project is working towards the migration of fire and rescue control functions into nine regional control centres. In the West Midlands region, it is proposed that the regional control centre will become operational for Shropshire in February 2011.

The West Midlands Fire and Rescue Services Regional Control Centre Company was incorporated in February 2007, and will be responsible for managing the regional control centre when it becomes operational.

No transactions have taken place between the Authority and the Company in 2008/09.

Annual Efficiency Statement

The Annual Efficiency Statement is the formal quantification of the Fire Authority's policies for Best Value.

The Fire Authority regards the objective of providing value for money as a key part of its culture and two of its policies reflect this:

- The ambition that service developments should take into account the amount of funding available from efficiencies.
- An open approach to delivery of the Government target for efficiencies for the Fire Service as a whole.

Although the target is acknowledged as a national average, and not all authorities will be able to make it, the Fire Authority takes the view that it should aim to deliver its average share, and, if higher efficiencies are achievable, to deliver these as well. The current situation is set out opposite.

The £290,000 achieved in 2008/09 has meant that the Authority has more than achieved the National Disaggregation.

On-going efficiencies

	2005/08 £000	2008/09 £000
2004/05 Final	167	
2005/06 Final	203	
2006/07 Final	318	
2007/08 Final	252	
2008/09 Final		290
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	940	290
National Target Disaggregation	930	275

Statement of Contracts Involving a Transfer of Staff

The Local Government Act 1999 requires all Best Value authorities to provide a statement of contracts involving a transfer of staff. Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority has not been party to any contracts, involving a transfer of staff to or from the Authority during 2008/09.

Statement on the Code of Corporate Governance

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority is committed to the principles of effective corporate government and has, therefore, adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, this can be viewed on the Services website on the link below:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/docs/policies-and-strategies/2006-code-of-corporate-governance.pdf>

Environmental Footprint

How much do we impact on the environment?

We use an overall assessment of our environmental impact which assesses the impact of all of our activities and allocates a value to them. This measurement forms part of an Environmental Management System which is registered to the ISO14001:2004 international standard.

The current value is 849, a reduction over 12 months from 925, which has been achieved mainly through changes to our training activities. While these figures are not comparable with any other organisation they do show that our overall negative impact is reducing. It is our target to further reduce this figure to less than 840 by April 2010.

For further information on the Service's environmental initiatives please visit the link below:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/engine/brigade-resources/technical-services/environmental-management.htm>

Appendices

Performance

Appendix A demonstrates performance against the life risk response standards

Appendix B shows our outturn performance for the 2008/09 year.

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Performance

Response Standards

The table below demonstrates performance against the life risk response standards.

Risk Areas	Life Risk Fires		Road Traffic Collisions			Water Rescue Incidents			
	Minimum of 5 firefighters in:	Minimum of 8 firefighters in:	Minimum of 5 firefighters in:	Minimum of 8 firefighters and Rescue Pump in:	Rescue Tender arrives within:	High	Medium	Low	Swift Water Rescue Crew & Boat
High	10 minutes	13 minutes	10 minutes	13 minutes	30 minutes	Nearest available appliances:			
Medium	15 minutes	18 minutes	15 minutes	18 minutes	30 minutes	10 minutes ³	15 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes
Low	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	30 minutes				
Target 2008/09	85%	85%	77%	77%	85%	80%	N/A	80%	85%
Performance	88.89%	75.22%	65.63%	71.88%	70.37%	27%	N/A	100%	74%

³ Various processes are being verified and water rescue strategies are being considered to help improve performance within the Service. This has now resulted in a water safety provision strategy which will be implemented by December 2009.

Best Value Performance Indicators Outturn – 2008/09⁴

BVPI Detail	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
BVPI 2a Equality Standard fro Local Government The level of the Equality Standard for Local Government to which the Authority conforms	3	4
BVPI 2b The duty to promote Race Equality The quality of an Authority's Race Equality Scheme and the improvements resulting from its application.	94.7%	95%
BVPI 8 Undisputed Invoices. The % of undisputed invoices which were paid in 30 days	99.12%	99.12%
BVPI 11a Top 5% of earners		
(i) The % of top 5% of earners that are women	11.77%	5.88%
(ii) The % of top 5% of earners from black and ethnic communities	5.88%	5.88%
(iii) The % of top 5% of staff who have a disability	5.88%	11.76%
BVPI 12 Sickness Absence		
(i) The proportion of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence by wholetime uniformed staff	8.0	5.16
(ii) The proportion of working days/shifts lost to sickness absence by all staff	8.1	6.79
BVPI 15 Ill Health retirements		
(i) Wholetime fire-fighter ill-health retirements as a % of the total workforce	0.43%	0.00%
(ii) Control and non-uniformed ill-health retirements as a % of the total workforce	0.00%	0.00%
BVPI 16a % of Employees with a Disability		
(i) Wholetime and Retained duty system employees with a disability	7.50%	1.03%
(ii) Control and non-uniformed employees with a disability	9.25%	4.33%
BVPI 16b % of the economically active population (aged 18-64) in the authority area who have a disability.	14.39%	
BVPI 17a % of uniformed staff from ethnic minority communities	2.0%	1.00%
BVPI 17b % of economically active population (aged 18-54 representing uniformed staffing age) from ethnic minority communities in the fire and rescue service area.	2.85%	

⁴ Subject to verification by Communities and Local Government

BVPI Detail	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
BVPI 142 Number of primary fires and accidental dwelling fires		
(ii) No of calls to fire attended: primary fires per 10,000 population	23.5	21.63
(iii) No of calls to fire attended: accidental fires in dwellings per 10,000 dwellings	11.5	14.3
BVPI 143 Number of fire deaths and Injuries		
(i) No of deaths arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	0.22	0.66
(ii) No of injuries (excluding precautionary checks) arising from accidental fires in dwellings per 100,000 population	2.5	2.43
BVPI 144 Accidental dwelling fires confined to room of origin The % of accidental fires in dwellings confined to room to origin	95.50%	95.61%
BVPI 146 Calls to Malicious False Alarms		
(i) Not attended	0.67	0.72
(ii) Attended	0.25	0.20
BVPI 149 False Alarms caused by Automatic Fire Detection		
(i) False alarms caused by automatic fire detection per 1,000 non-domestic properties	61.0	45.65
(ii) No of those properties as recorded in 149(i) with more than one attendance	14.5	8.33
(iii) % of false alarm calls caused by automatic fire detection which are to a non-domestic property with more than one attendance.	75%	74.18%
BVPI 150 Expenditure per head of population. Expenditure per head of population on the provision of fire and rescue services	£44.26	£44.26

BVPI Detail	2008/09 Target	2008/09 Actual
BVPI 206 Deliberate Fires		
(i) Primary (excluding Vehicles)	4.0	3.53
(ii) Primary (in vehicles)	4.9	4.07
(iii) Secondary (excluding vehicles)	22.0	14.16
(iv) Secondary (in vehicles)	0.09	0.09
BVPI 207 Fires in non-domestic properties	12.0	13.41
BVPI 208 Escaping unharmed from Accidental Dwelling Fires without assistance	98.50%	97.30%
BVPI 209 Smoke Alarms		
(i) Activated	46%	45.9%
(ii) Not activated	14%	12.3%
(iii) None Fitted	40.0%	41.8%
BVPI 210 % of Women Firefighters	4.4%	1.95%

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Feedback and Monitoring

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority very much welcome any comments you wish to make about this Annual Report as this will help us to improve the service we provide.

Please feel free to complete this form or telephone the Programme Office on 01743 260200 if you need any assistance or wish to discuss anything in more detail.

If you would like to make any comments about the Annual Report please do so below continuing on a separate page if necessary. If you would like a response, please make sure you include your name and address.

Section 1: About this plan

1. Do you think this Annual Report is easy to read?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Do not know

2. Do you think it is important to publish this information?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Do not know

3. Does the Annual Report explain effectively how the Service has performed and what targets have been set?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Do not know

4. Has the Annual Report left you better informed about the Fire Authority and the Services it provides?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree Do not know

Comments:

Please include your name, address and telephone number here:

Please return to:

The Programme Office
Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service
FREEPOST SY1046
Brigade HQ Reception
St Michaels Street
Shrewsbury
SY1 3BR

Please see over for monitoring information.



Section 2: About you

Please note we ask for this information primarily to help inform our register of where vulnerable groups live and where risk is highest.

Your Post Code: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Gender: Male/Female*

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

Yes/No*

I would describe my ethnic/cultural origin as:

White

- British
- English
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Any other, please state: _____

- Irish
- Any other white background, please state: _____

Mixed

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Other mixed background, please state: _____

Asian or Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Other Asian background, please state: _____

Black or Black British

- Caribbean
- African
- Other Black background, please state: _____

Chinese or other Ethnic Group

- Chinese
- Other, please state: _____

Religion:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Sikh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buddhist | <input type="checkbox"/> Hindu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish | <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian (including Catholic, Church of England, Protestant and all other Christian denominations) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please state: _____ | |

Sexual Orientation:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay woman/lesbian | <input type="checkbox"/> Gay man |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual | <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual/straight |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

*Please delete as appropriate

Data Protection Act:

The information or data which you have supplied on this form will be used for reporting purposes and compiling statistics. By completing this information you will be giving your explicit consent to processing of data contained or referred to on it, including information which may be considered to be sensitive personal data.

Fire Safety message to be included here.

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Shropshire
Fire and Rescue Service

In Shropshire somebody will be left devastated today

**Don't let it be you!
Don't leave cooking unattended**

For Free Smoke Alarms and a Home Fire Safety Check 01743 260298

Brigade Headquarters
St Michael's Street
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY1 2HJ

Telephone: 01743 260 200
Website: www.shropshirefire.gov.uk
Email: enquiries@shropshirefire.gov.uk

Community Fire Safety
Telephone: 01743 260 260

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority



Putting Shropshire's Safety First
www.shropshirefire.gov.uk