

Annual Report 2011/12

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

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

1 Purpose of Report

This report seeks Member approval of the Fire Authority Annual Report 2011/12.

2 Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and approve the Annual Report 2011/12 for publishing on the Service website.

3 Background

Historically, all fire and rescue services were required by The Local Government Act 1999 to prepare and publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, however, deregulated the Best Value regime and removed this requirement. These changes were reported to the Fire Authority in February 2008.

The Fire Authority, at its February 2012 meeting, agreed the Medium Term Corporate Plan 2012 to 2017, which incorporates all elements of service, financial and improvement planning. This is supplemented by a forward-looking annual Service Plan, which came into effect on 1 April 2012. In turn the Service Plan is supported by a backward-looking Annual Report.

Members have previously (February 2012) delegated authority to the Audit and Performance Management Committee to receive the Statement of Accounts at this meeting, and the Committee has already received performance reports regarding the Public Value measures 2011/12.

A summary of the Statement of Accounts and performance measures (including comparisons to previous Integrated Risk Management Plan standards) is presented within the proposed Annual Report.

The Annual Report will be replaced in 2013 with a Statement of Assurance, as required within the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2012.

4 Financial Implications

As a cost-saving measure the Annual Report is no longer published in hard-copy version, unless it is specifically requested in such a format. Historically, the cost incurred to publish a limited number of hard copies was circa £500. There are no costs associated with publicising the Annual Report in electronic format on the Service's website. The previous Annual Report (2010/11) was viewed by 184 visitors to the website.

5 Legal Comment

The Fire and Rescue Service Act 2004 - Section 21, paragraph (7) - places a responsibility on all fire and rescue authorities to have regard to the National Framework in carrying out their functions. The new Framework states that they must publish an annual statement of assurance (paragraph 3.2). No formal guidance has been issued to date regarding the expected style, content and layout of the statement of assurance.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

Officers have considered the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Human Resources 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.

7 Appendix

As the draft Annual Report is a lengthy document it has not been attached as an appendix but can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/sites/alpha.shropshirefire.gov.uk/files/fra/2012-08-29-annual-report-2011-12.pdf>

Paper copies will be available at the meeting.

8 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.