

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

# FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK 2006/07 – SERVICE ASSESSMENT

### 1 Purpose of Report

Members are requested to note that officers have completed and submitted the required Operational Assurance Self Assessment sought by the Audit Commission. The Self Assessment forms one element of the recently introduced Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2006/07

### 2 Recommendations

Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

### 3 Background

To assess performance of fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) the Audit Commission has introduced the Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2006/07. The Framework recognises that FRAs are currently in the process of improvement planning and that the early signs of improvement are only now starting to emerge. The Framework is, therefore, designed to be proportionate and measure the scale and sustainability of this improvement.

The Commission states that the Framework will be proportionate and will focus on improvements made against the fire and rescue Comprehensive Performance Assessments and will measure the service as experienced by the community.

The approach to measuring improvement and performance in FRAs will be through a performance framework with three elements:

- **A use of resources assessment.** This will assess the FRA across a broad range of financial issues and provide a scored assessment, including whether the FRA is providing value for money.



- An assessment of improvement, or deterioration, in performance measured through a **scored direction of travel assessment**. The assessment will be outcome focused and draw together all assessments on the FRA.
- A **scored service assessment**, which will have an emphasis on service delivery and include an operational assessment of the quality of service delivery.

## 4 Scored Service Assessment

The objective of the Audit Commission's fire and rescue service assessment is to take a broad outcome based view of an FRA's performance in delivering the fire and rescue service, as defined in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. The assessment focuses on service delivery and looks at the effectiveness of the service as experienced by recipients of the service. The service assessment for 2006/07 is constructed from two elements:

- the operational assessment of service delivery; and
- the performance information element.

These two elements will be scored separately and the scores will be brought together to determine the overall fire and rescue service assessment score.

The Audit Commission requires FRAs to produce and submit a Self Assessment against a toolkit developed by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) covering five key areas of Operational Service Delivery.

- Risk Analysis
- Prevention and Protection
- Operational Preparedness
- Call Management and Incident Support
- Emergency Response

FRAs have been given six weeks to complete the self assessment and this Fire Authority's assessment was submitted to the DCLG by the deadline of Thursday, 17 August.

A copy of the submitted assessment is available for viewing at:

<http://www.shropshirefire.gov.uk/Management/performance-planning/fire-and-rescue-performance-framework.htm>

The next stage of the process now involves a review of the assessment and confirmation of the basis upon which the Service's judgements have been made. This will be carried out by field teams made up of Fire Service professionals seconded to the DCLG. The team visiting Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is programmed to carry out this review during the week commencing **16 October 2006**.

The purpose of the overall process is to provide FRAs and stakeholders with assurance concerning service delivery and is designed to assist authorities with improvement planning to enhance service provision. The final score derived will link into the broader 2006-07 Performance Framework developed by the Audit Commission.



## 5 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## 6 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## 7 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

## 8 Background Papers

Audit Commission Fire and Rescue Performance Framework 2006/07  
Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority Self Assessment covering five key areas of  
Operational Service Delivery

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.

Balance Score Card		Integrated Risk Management Planning	*
Business Continuity Planning		Legal	*
Capacity	*	Member Involvement	*
Civil Contingencies Act	*	National Framework	*
Comprehensive Performance Assessment	*	Operational Assurance	*
Equality and Diversity		Retained	*
Efficiency Savings		Risk and Insurance	*
Environmental		Staff	*
Financial	*	Strategic Planning	*
Fire Control/Fire Link	*	West Midlands Regional Management Board	*

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.

---

