

## Annual Governance Statement Improvement Plan 2009/10

### Report of the Chief Fire Officer

For further information about this report please contact Paul Raymond, Chief Fire Officer, on 01743 260201 or Andy Johnson on 01743 260287.

### 1 Purpose of Report

This report presents the new 'Annual Governance Statement' (AGS) Improvement Plan 2009/10, formally approved by the Fire Authority on 3 July 2009, and the progress made to date against the improvements contained in that plan.

### 2 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the Fire Authority's AGS Improvement Plan 2009/10; and
- b) Note the progress made against each of the improvements contained in this plan.

### 3 Background

At a meeting on 3 July 2009, the Fire Authority's Final Accounts 2008/09 were signed off by the Chair, the Chief Fire Officer and Treasurer. The Final Accounts contained a statement as to how effective the Authority's various systems of internal control had been in governing the risks to which the Authority is exposed. This is known as the Annual Governance Statement, or the AGS. Areas of the system of internal control that had been identified as requiring improvement were listed in the AGS and an action plan was developed to ensure these improvements are progressed during the coming year (the AGS Improvement Plan).

This Committee is responsible for monitoring the progress the Service makes against the plan.

#### **4 Monitoring progress against the AGS Improvement Plan 2009/10**

A copy of the AGS Improvement Plan 2009/10 is attached as an appendix to this report; progress against each of the planned activities is also included in the appendix. The Committee will receive regular reports on the progress being made against this plan throughout its life.

As is the case with most plans, the activities included within it are often subject to change. This can often be due to changes in the external environment that guides our work, as well as the internal environment that dictates whether we have the capacity to achieve our stated objectives. To ensure there is control over any slippage, the officers responsible for delivering this work must get approval, from the Service's Policy Group, if they require any variations to the current plan. These changes will also be reported to this committee.

#### **5 Progress to date**

Progress is currently on track for six of the seven areas identified for improvement in the plan, with the deadline for completing the seventh likely to be missed. This potential slippage is explained in the box below.

<b>Improvement ID:</b>	4
<b>Improvement required:</b>	The new Asset Management System will be implemented enabling the Service to clearly demonstrate compliance with all relevant standards.
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Andrew Kelcey
<b>Initial target completion date:</b>	August 2009
<b>Progress/reason for slippage:</b>	This project is unlikely to be completed within the deadline date due to capacity issues within the Resources Dept. The SRO (Paul Raymond) is discussing with the Project Manager what action needs to be taken to ensure the project is completed. A new deadline date will be reported to Policy Group, for their approval.
<b>New target completion date:</b>	To be agreed by Policy Group.

## **6 Financial Implications**

Any significant budgetary implications, brought about by the improvements proposed in the plan, have already been considered, either as part of the Fire Authority's Budgetary Planning Process or within each Department's Business Planning process.

## **7 Legal Comment**

The AGS is a legal requirement under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom and must be included in the Fire Authority's Annual Statement of Accounts.

## **8 Equality Impact Assessment**

This report simply reports progress against a previously agreed improvement plan and has no impact on people. It has been assessed against the Service's Brigade Order on Equality Impact Assessments (Personnel 5 Part 2) and this has shown 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.

## **9 Appendix**

Annual Governance Statement Improvement Plan 2009/10

## **10 Background Papers**

Shropshire and Wrekin Fire Authority  
3 July 2009, Paper 12, Annual Governance Statement

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	*