Partnership Review Committee
Monday, 1 December 2008 at 7.00pm
Committee Room, Swanspool House, Doddington Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 1BP

1. Apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of interest.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting (circulated in the Council Minute book 4 November)


5. Wellingborough Education Project

6. Any other items that the Chairman decides are urgent.

Enclosed

Lyn Martin-Bennison,
Chief Executive

Date issued: 21 November 2008

Membership: Councillor Harrington (Chairman), Councillor G Lawman (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Bass, R Bell, Bigley, Blackwell, Graves, Patel and Shram
1 Improving Your Fire and Rescue Service

Only by knowing your views can we be sure that the Fire and Rescue Service we provide is meeting all of your needs and expectations.

Please take a few moments of your time to read this summary document and then complete and return the accompanying questionnaire, in the prepaid envelope provided. Responses should be forwarded to us by 9 February 2009.

Following a strategic review conducted within Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, the Draft Strategic Plan 2009-2012 sets out the service strategy for the next three years. It details the incremental approach to making Northamptonshire a safer, freer and more prosperous county.

The Draft Strategic Plan 2009 – 2012, full document is quite large, so we have produced this information sheet, to provide you with key aspects of work completed so far, and information on the priorities for 2009/10, to enable you to comment without reading the main document in full.

However, if you would like to see the draft plan in its entirety, including all of the supporting actions, you can access the document via www.northamptonshire.gov.uk or telephone 01604 797030 to obtain a copy.

Strategic Objectives.
2 Our Aims & Objectives
The strategic aims of the service are underpinned by three key objectives, each with a number of priorities, as shown on the previous page. The actions contained within the draft plan have been identified to deliver on these priorities. The adoption of a three-year plan allows the service to plan and prioritise with the available resources and budgets, while making collaboration with other Fire and Rescue Services (FRS) and key partners more viable.

3 Focus on risks from fire and other emergencies.
The proposed plan provides a more detailed view of risks, incidents and activities that occurred during 2007/08. Focus has been maintained on Life Risk (Those incidents with the potential to cause harm or loss of life), Built Environmental Risks ( Dwelling Fires, School Fires, Other Building fires, Flooding incidents and Chemical Incidents) and Other Risks (Vehicle Fires, Deliberate Fires, Incidents involving alcohol or drugs and False Alarms).

3.1 Strategic Objective 1: Enhance our preventative, protective and intervention work within our communities
The service will continue to work hard to drive down all fires, with an emphasis of reducing the number of accidental fire related injuries and deaths. In 2007/08 28.7% of fire related deaths occurred in accidental dwelling fires, 50 people received injuries from fire showing a 13.64% increase from the previous year, however it remains a decrease of 38.2% from 2005/06.

By working with the Casualty Reduction Partnership, we have seen a 25% reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Northamptonshire’s roads since 1999.

Property fires continue to decline (514 last year compared to over 600 in 2001/02) the biggest contributory factor being smoke alarm ownership, which has increased by 14.3% over the past year. This has been enabled by the provision of free Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC’s) targeting high-risk and vulnerable members of the community. Since commencing this initiative the service has completed over 11,800
IRMP Summary Consultation Document 2009

HFSC visits (up to end January 2008).

Request a Home Fire Safety Check
For information on how to arrange a free Home Fire Safety Check, please call 0800 389 9950 or email safetycheck@northantsfire.org.uk.

We have promoted sprinkler systems in non-domestic premises, educating agencies in their use.

We will continue to work with partners to reduce the number of deliberate fires in the county, targeting areas of high risk. E.g. Schools and unsecured properties, this work have been supported by additional training provided to our staff in fire investigation.

Through a joint partnership with Northamptonshire Police, the Arson Task Force (ATF) continues to drive down arson, this in addition to various initiatives, such as, Young Fire-fighters scheme and street football, we have contributed to a reduction of incidences of ant social behaviour in the community.

By working in partnership with borough and district councils the service will expand its Young Fire-fighter schemes.

In 2008 we completed a full review of the Standards of Operational Response (SOR); these have now been accepted by the fire authority and are being applied to the county.

Over the next 3 years we aim to reduce the number of fires in domestic and non-domestic properties, to continue to reduce incidences of arson and reduce all unwanted fire signals.

- Reducing avoidable injuries.
- Delivering community safety initiatives.
- Enhancing the availability of our operational personnel.
- Ensuring effective and efficient response to meet the range of incidents expected to be encountered.
- Implementing the national Firelink project to enhance radio communications.

3.2 Strategic Objective 2: Maximise capacity providing value for money
The service will continue to develop opportunities for efficiency improvement through maximising partnership working, improving budget and resource management, and preparing the organisation for the implementation of the regional control centre.

We have generated capacity and economic savings through collaborative working and will continue to seek opportunities to work with other FRS within the East Midlands Region, to improve capacity and efficiency.

The service has now embedded attendance management procedures and aims to reduce staff sickness absence by 20% by 2010 (against 2005/06 baseline).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To maximise capacity providing value for money. over the next three years;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The service will review the cost effectiveness and value for money supplied by all departments and implement improvement actions where necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The service will conduct a review of its charging policy for special services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The service will develop a funding strategy aimed at improving access to external sources of funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3 Strategic Objective 3: Develop a competent workforce, living our values

The Integrated Personal Development System (IPDS) for people and organisational management has provided a fresh approach to workforce development for fire and rescue authorities. Northants FRS will continue to use IPDS to develop its workforce competency ensuring the safety and welfare of our staff.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To develop a competent workforce, living our values over the next three years we aim;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• To have suitably qualified staff available to support our succession plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All eligible staff has a completed personal appraisal development programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To reach level five of the Local Government Equality Standard by 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• To have a workforce that better reflects the community we serve.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4 Our Performance

The service monitors the effectiveness of its actions through a wide range of performance measures. The following chart indicates service performance in some key categories. The green arrows (🍃) indicate a performance
improvement. The red arrows (↗) indicate a rise, for which plans are in place to address.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>2007/2008</th>
<th>2006/07 Vs 2007/08</th>
<th>2007/08 Vs 7 Yr Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Dwelling Fire Injuries</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Dwelling Fire Deaths</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidental Dwelling Fires</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Fires</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Fires</td>
<td>1704</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliberate Secondary Vehicle Fires</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Deliberate Fires</td>
<td>2420</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Traffic Collisions (RTC’s)</td>
<td>638</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Services</td>
<td>1036</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic Fire Alarms</td>
<td>2681</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoax Calls</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>·</td>
<td>·</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Your Views

Please take a few moments of your time to complete and return the accompanying questionnaire, in the prepaid envelope provided. Responses should be forwarded to us by 9 February 2009.

Only by knowing your views can we be sure that the Fire and Rescue Service we provide is meeting all of your needs and expectations.

If you would like to see the draft plan in its entirety, you can obtain a copy from:

Northamptonshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service
Service Headquarters
Moulton Way
Northampton
Northamptonshire
NN3 6XJ
(01604) 797030
Web: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk
Email service.improvement@northantsfire.org.uk