

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

14 DECEMBER 2009

1. **PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2009/2010 OPERATIONAL INDICATORS UP TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Committee note the performance against the operational indicators set out in the Authority's 2009/10 Annual Service Plan up to and including 30 September 2009.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to inform the Committee of any exceptions in the performance of the Brigade against the operational performance indicators contained in the Authority's Annual Service Plan.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Lead Members for performance management were briefed about the contents of this report at one of their regular meetings on 9 November 2009.
- 3.2 There have been 903 accidental dwelling fires in the first six months of the year. This is a successful 4.2% reduction on 2008/09 figures against a 4% reduction target and has contributed to there being 21.3% less injuries caused by accidental fires in dwellings.
- 3.3 There have been 328 accidental fires in non-domestic premises in the first six months of the year. Business Safety Officers from Fire Safety are now working more closely with operational fire crews to carry out business hot-strikes, promote 'Keep Your Business in Business' and enforce where appropriate.

- 3.4 In line with a trend highlighted in the Fire Authority report on performance up to 31 July 2009, there have been 151 arson fires in non-domestic premises in the first six months of the year, compared to 144 in the same period last year; this is an increase of 5%.
- 3.5 The types of property which have seen an increase are retail premises and single shops. Arson incidents in these properties have doubled from 21 (April to September 2008) to 42 (April to September 2009). There has been no such increase in accidental fires in single shops – the figures remained around 60 in both six month periods. There is no one particular location of activity for arson fires in shops. Sandwell and Walsall have seen the greatest increases in such activity but the numbers are relatively low. Only one of the shops that had an arson fire in 2008 was unoccupied compared with 6 of the shops in 2009.
- 3.6 Of the non-domestic properties that experienced an arson fire in 2008, 19% were unused or unoccupied compared to 30% of such properties in 2009. A wide variety of types of property were involved, but there has been a noticeable increase in arson fires in unoccupied pubs. There is no one focus of activity for arson fires in unoccupied pubs however Coventry and Wolverhampton have seen the greatest increase in such fires.
- 3.7 To counter the effects of arson in unoccupied properties, Operations Commanders have worked to become engaged with empty property clearance schemes in partnership with their respective Local Housing Authorities.
- 3.8 Despite a rise in the number of arson fires in non-domestic properties, our prevention advice coupled with successful intervention by operational crews has kept the fire damage from the majority of such fires to less than 10 square metres, which is the size of a small room. Approximately one third of these fires (46 in number) caused either no damage, or less than 1 square metre of fire damage.
- 3.9 The number of arson fires has exceeded the target by 9%. This is believed to be due to an increase in waste accumulating from business premises affected by the economic downturn and the build up to bonfire night. Historically, there is a reduction in such fires between December and February. In addition, we are seeking approval to introduce a number of new community cycle teams across the West Midlands to combat this trend.

- 3.10 The Performance Indicator for Home Fire Safety Checks (HFSC) is depicted as not meeting the target of 20,000 by 53. This small shortfall is due to a number of reports awaiting processing.
- 3.11 For the year 2009/10 funding has been provided to allow 40,000 HFSCs to be undertaken. Any additional HFSCs will be externally funded. Expenditure on smoke alarms has risen above the profiled level but is due to stations purchasing alarms in anticipation of autumn and winter campaigns. No re-profiling of budgets is necessary as a result of this expenditure.
- 3.12 The Lead Members for performance management were briefed about the contents of this report at one of their regular meetings on 9 November 2009.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report will not lead to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The course of action recommended in this report does not raise issues which should be drawn to the attention of the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The level of response, protection and prevention resources required to achieve the targets for the operational indicators shown in Appendix 1 were considered as part of the Authority's 2009/10 budget setting process, which established a total budget requirement of £116.985m. Actual total expenditure to 30 September 2009 was £57.407m. Based on Best Value Accounting Code of Practice, the estimated cost of staff engaged on prevention work, including an element for watch based firefighters for 2009/10, was £19.3m.
- 6.2 The cost of delivering the services which contribute to the performance achievements comprise goods such as smoke alarms and staff time. The staff time includes those staff who are solely engaged in prevention work and watch based staff that provide emergency response as well as prevention services.

- 6.3 The full year budget for smoke alarms and other supporting materials in 2009/10 is £0.425m. Actual expenditure as at 30 September 2009 was £0.269m. The forecast expenditure for 2009/2010 is in line with the full year budget.
- 6.4 The Arson Task Force, a partnership between West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Police, offers free information and guidance to businesses. A budget of £87k was established for 2009/10, actual spend as at 30 September 2009 was £35k. The forecast expenditure for 2009/2010 is in line with the full year budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual Report 2008/2009

Corporate Strategy 2009/2011

Minutes for Performance Management Meeting 9 November 2009

Authority Report 27 September 2004

VIJ RANDENIYA
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report includes data to the end of September 2009.

The following indicators are improving and are meeting the target:

- Accidental fires in dwellings
- Injuries in accidental dwelling fires
- Deaths in accidental dwelling fires
- Arson fires in dwellings
- Arson vehicle fires
- Malicious calls received
- Malicious calls attended
- False alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in dwellings
- The percentage of dwelling fires where a working smoke alarm was fitted

The following indicators are not on target but are improving:


- Accidental fire in non-domestic premises

The following indicators are not yet meeting the target:


- Arson fires in non-domestic premises
- Arson rubbish fires
- False alarms due to automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises
- The number of HFSCs

INDICATOR DATA


PI 1 - The number of accidental fires in dwellings

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 1,959 | 1,867 | 1,792 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 150 | 157 | 151 | 150 |


PI 2 - The number of Injuries from accidental fires in dwellings

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 137 | 123 | 118 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 9 | 10 | 10 | 8 |


PI 3 - The number of deaths from accidental fires in dwellings

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 8 | 12 | 12 | 6 |
| | | | |  |


PI 4 - The number of arson fires in dwellings

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 558 | 487 | 477 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 48 | 39 | 38 | 33 |


PI 5 - The number of accidental fires in non-domestic premises

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 689 | 643 | 611 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 63 | 57 | 54 | 55 |


PI 6 - The number of arson fires in non-domestic premises

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 293 | 242 | 242 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 26 | 24 | 24 | 25 |


PI 7 - The number of arson vehicle fires

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 1,578 | 1,377 | 1,377 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 135 | 115 | 115 | 102 |


PI 8 - The number of arson rubbish fires

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/10 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Yearly | 5,645 | 4,565 | 4,337 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 511 | 390 | 370 | 427 |


PI 9 - The number of malicious false alarm calls received by the Brigade

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 5,130 | 4,882 | 4,784 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 471 | 478 | 468 | 382 |


PI 10 - The number of malicious false alarm calls attended by the Brigade

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 2,158 | 1,864 | 1,734 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 198 | 175 | 162 | 148 |


PI 11 - The number of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 6,886 | 6,275 | 5,899 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 597 | 526 | 494 | 552 |


PI 12 - The number of false alarm calls due to automatic fire alarms in dwellings

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 4,265 | 4,203 | 4,140 |  |
| Average Monthly Year to date – April to September | 377 | 353 | 347 | 265 |

PI 13 - The percentage of Dwelling Fires where a working Smoke Alarm was Fitted

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual 2009/2010 |
|--------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 41.5% | 59.8% | 62% | 64% |
| | | | |  |

PI 14 - The number of HFSCs conducted by the Brigade

| | 2007/2008 | 2008/2009 | Target 2009/2010 | Actual to End September 2009 |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|---|
| Yearly | 48,383 | 45,993 | 40,000 | 19,947 |
| | | | |  |