

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

26TH SEPTEMBER 2005

**1. BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S SECOND GENERATION
LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Authority notes the establishment of Birmingham City Council's Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) as set out in the report.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is submitted to inform the Authority that the LPSA2 has been agreed and to give an overview of its benefits to West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The fire reduction targets set as part of Birmingham City Council's first Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA1) have been achieved. For achieving these targets (which were to enhance the reduction in fire deaths and accidental dwelling fires beyond the Brigade target) Performance Reward Grant (PRG) of £2.3m was awarded to the City.
- 3.2 Whilst a proportion of the PRG has been top sliced by Birmingham City Council and other money used to fund general community safety activity, a significant amount has been allocated specifically for fire reduction activity. For each of the next two years all Districts of the Birmingham Council have been allocated £30k for local fire reduction activity. Similarly £414k has been allocated for each of the next two years for targeted City wide fire reduction activity. The Birmingham Fire Reduction Partnership (BFRP) has been established to ensure that this money is used effectively and focussed on achieving the LPSA2 targets. A fire service officer has been seconded to manage the BFRP and this post has been funded from the PRG.

- 3.3 Birmingham City Council's LPSA2 has now been agreed with Government and is in the process of being signed off by Ministers. Fire reduction is one of the themes within the agreement and the fire reduction targets fall into three areas:

- Accidental dwelling fires
- Vehicle Arson
- Arson in buildings other than dwellings

The agreement and signing of the LPSA2 will see a pump priming grant of up to £120k being awarded to supplement fire reduction activity within the Birmingham area.

- 3.4 Officers are confident that with the work of the BFRP and the organisation's strong focus on prevention based activity, the targets set can be achieved. Successful achievement will lead to a further PRG being awarded.
- 3.5 LPSAs are an integral part of Local Area Agreements (LAA) and as Birmingham City Council is one of the 2006 pilots, West Midlands Fire Service will be in a strong position to participate and influence the development of the LAA.
- 3.6 The knowledge gained from involvement in the LPSA process is now being used to support Borough Commanders influence the development of LPSAs in other local authorities.

4. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

Fire reduction activity will seek to target those most at risk from fire, as identified in the West Midlands Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan and Fire Safety Circular 46/2004.

5. **CORPORATE AIMS SUPPORTED**

The principal corporate aims supported by the information in this report are as follows.

3. Reducing risk in the community.
4. Working in partnership with communities, other agencies and the Government.
15. Being an influential Fire Authority.

6. **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.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Performance Reward Grant (PRG) does not represent direct grant funding to this Authority. However, approximately £800k PRG will be allocated by Birmingham City Council for fire reduction activity over the next two years, which should have a significant impact on some key target areas affecting the Brigade.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Birmingham City Council & Birmingham Strategic Partnership – Second Generation Local Public Service Agreement April 2005 – March 2008.

Birmingham Fire Reduction Partnership – A Strategy for Reducing Fires in the City 2005-2007.

Fire Safety Circular 46/2004

F. J. E. SHEEHAN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER