

**WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

1. **LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT – BIRMINGHAM 2004-2007**

Report of the Chief Fire Officer.

RECOMMENDED

THAT the success of meeting the fire reduction targets included in Birmingham's second Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA2) and concerns surrounding the distribution of the performance reward grant are noted.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to acknowledge the success of achieving the fire reduction targets set in LPSA2 (2004-2007) and to outline the concerns surrounding the distribution of the performance reward grant.

3. **BACKGROUND**

3.1 Following the successful involvement in Birmingham's first Local Public Service Agreement 2001-2004 (LPSA1), fire reduction was included as a target in LPSA2.

3.2 £815k of the £2.3m performance reward grant from the LPSA1 was reinvested under the governance of the Birmingham Fire Reduction Partnership to help meet the fire reduction targets in LPSA2. 20% of the grant was top sliced to meet City Council costs and the remainder invested in other community safety interventions including funding of the constituency community safety coordinators and local interventions.

3.3 The targets set reflected the Authority's priorities for fire reduction: accidental dwelling fires, arson in buildings other than dwellings and vehicle arson. The reductions achieved were significant and exceeded the targets.

### 3.4

	<b>Baseline 2003-2004</b>	<b>Target 2004-07 3 year average</b>	<b>Outturn 2004-07 3 year average</b>	<b>Outturn 2006-07</b>
Accidental dwelling	1171	1112	985	883
Arson vehicles	1725	1361	1062	802
Arson buildings	393	353	271	257

3.5 The achievement of these targets will realise a second performance reward grant estimated to be £2.65m. West Midlands Fire Service would like to see a significant proportion of this grant reinvested in further fire reduction interventions and also used to support the Safeside project at the new Fire Service Headquarters.

3.6 Due to the current lack of clarity surrounding the new Local Area Agreement funding process which involves pooled funding, it is unclear at present how funds will be allocated. Further guidance is expected from government in the autumn.

## 4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. The matters contained in this report will not lead to or do not relate 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**

Securing £815k of the performance reward grant from the LPSA1 allowed a range of interventions to be implemented in support of the Brigade's core activity (see Appendix 1). Failure to realise funding from the LPSA2 performance reward grant would curtail these and other planned interventions in 2008-2009 and beyond.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Strategic Partnership Second  
Generation Local Public Service Agreement – *BSP and BCC August 2005*

Developing Future Arrangements for Local area Agreements – *CLG  
February 2007*

F. J. E. SHEEHAN  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

**MAJOR INTERVENTIONS FUNDED BY THE LPSA1 PERFORMANCE  
REWARD GRANT 2005-08** (Total funding £815k)

Birmingham Fire Reduction Partnership Manager Post

Fire Analyst Post

Community Fire Advocate Posts

Cube-it (abandoned vehicle removal scheme)

Fire Intervention Reparation and Education (youth project)

Securing of open land at various sites to prevent vehicle arson

Eaga project (Home Safety Checks in high risk communities)

SPARX (arson prevention youth theatre production)

Keep Your Business in Business (arson prevention publication)

Provision of a fire suppression system in a high risk premise