

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES  
Meeting Held on 13 December 2007**

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**SERVICE REPORT**

1. The Authority was informed of Service Activities in the second quarter of 2007 together with operational activity for the period 1 July to 30 September 2007. The extreme weather conditions had increased incidents during the summer and false alarms from automatic electrical alarm systems had also increased with a large number of these as a consequence of thunderstorms. Details of the performance statistics which includes incident statistics, attendance at traffic collisions, incidents and injuries were noted. Various items of interest and information have been reported to the Authority and can be found on the Service's website ([www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).

**INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (IRMP) ACTION PLAN  
2008/09 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK**

2. A draft IRMP Action Plan had been agreed at the previous Authority meeting on 11 June 2007. The plan set out strategic objectives for Service improvement, to reduce risk and improve community safety. This was then subject of an internal and external consultation process in accordance with the Government's adopted code of practice for consultations. Feedback from the consultation resulted in a number of proposed amendments. These proposals were accepted by the Authority and an amended final plan was adopted for 2008/09.

**BUDGET PREPARATION**

3. The Authority noted the current situation regarding the budget requirements for 2008/09 in accordance with the Medium Term Finance Strategy, and also noted that based on certain precept increases over the next three years, there would be budget gaps. Meetings with government officials had been arranged to discuss these issues.

**REGIONAL FIRE CONTROL AND FIRELINK UPDATE**

4. The Authority considered the draft Members Agreement for the Local Authority Controlled Company (LACC) required to deliver and operate the West Midlands Regional Fire Control Centre. It was agreed that consideration of the draft Members Agreement would be deferred until the cost apportionment model between the various Fire and Rescue Authorities who will be signing up to the Agreement had been finalised.

## **JOINT SERVICE REVIEW – WARWICKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE UPDATE**

5. At its last meeting, the Authority established a Joint Member/Officer Review Group to consider options for Service improvements and efficiencies through closer working with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service. Due to additional and immediate workload following the tragic fire at Atherstone-on-Stour in Warwickshire it was agreed that the joint Member/Officer work should be suspended and that the Chairman and Chief Fire Officer maintain liaison with Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service.

## **FLOODING UPDATE**

6. Following the summer flooding events during 2007 the Authority requested that a scrutiny be carried out to review the Authority's involvement in the recent flooding incidents. The Authority agreed to terms of reference for the Best Value Policy and Performance Committee review of the Fire Authority's contribution during the major flooding events during 2007. The outcome of the review will be considered at the Best Value Policy and Performance Committee in March 2008.

**PAUL HAYDEN  
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY  
JANUARY 2008**

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Any person wishing to seek further information on this report should contact Committee Services on 0845 12 24454.  
Further information on the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Fire and Rescue Service can also be found on the Internet at ([www.hwfire.org.uk](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 13 December, 2007.