

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES**

Meeting Held on 20 February 2008

SERVICE REPORT

1. The Authority was informed of Service Activities in the third quarter together with operational and statistical details for the period 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007. The number of incidents had reduced during the quarter and had shown a trend of reducing generally over the year. There had also been a reduction in the number of health and safety incidents. Various items of interest and information have been reported and can be located on the Service's website (www.hwfire.org.uk).

BUDGET PRECEPT 2008/09 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

2. The Revenue and Capital budgets together with the Council Tax Precept for 2008/09 have been agreed. It was noted that the provisional grant settlement received for 2008/09 was disappointing and that despite efficiency savings achieved to date there would be a need to set out an efficiency strategy to demonstrate how continuous improvements can be achieved to ensure funds are available for future service improvements.

REGIONAL FIRE CONTROL

3. The Authority approved the Local Authority Controlled Company Members' Agreement for signature by the Chairman of the Fire and Rescue Authority, subject to the Cost Apportionment Model terms being incorporated appropriately into the Agreement and the fundamental underlying terms remaining the same. This will now enable the Local Authority Controlled Company to deliver and operate the Regional Control Centre that is being established for the West Midlands region by the FiReControl Project.
4. The Authority noted that a financial agreement had been developed which proposed to apportion costs on the basis of population for 2 to 3 years until more robust data sources were available, and that any costs during the transition period would be met by Government funding.

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

5. The Authority noted the progress in developing Local Area Agreements with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Local Strategic Partnerships. It was also noted that the Service had been contributing to the development of the agreements and had been particularly successful in focusing attention on the wider community safety agenda.

ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN

6. The Authority has approved the Asset Management Plan for 2008/09 which provides strategic direction for improving and maintaining the asset base buildings and facilities. It provides an opportunity to review property assets regularly and identifies areas for improvement. The Plan is updated each year to reflect the progress against short and medium term property acquisitions, facilities improvements, refurbishment programmes and disposals.

FLEET STRATEGY

7. The Authority approved the Fleet Strategy and associated capital programme. The Strategy provides an overview of the Service's fleet disposition and requirements over the medium to long term. It outlines the way in which the fleet is maintained and improved to deliver a professional and reliable fleet provision which meets the operational demands of the Service.

CHARTER MARK RESULTS

8. The Authority is pleased to have successfully retained its Charter Mark Standard. The Charter Mark is the Government's national standard for excellence in customer service. Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has held the Charter Mark Badge since 1998.

**PAUL HAYDEN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
MARCH 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).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held on 20 February 2008.