

**REPORT OF THE HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY TO THE CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES****MEETING HELD ON 19 DECEMBER 2008**

1. SERVICE REPORT

A total of 2,228 incidents were attended in Quarter 2 compared with Quarter 2 2007-08 where 2,558 incidents were attended. (This includes fires attended, Special Service incidents and False Alarms). The total number of incidents has reduced by 12.86% when compared with Quarter 2 2007-08. The total number of incidents for Quarter 2 2008-09 is 17.87% lower than the four year average for this quarter at 2,714 incidents.

We continue to perform well in excess of our current (LPSA) targets relating to deliberate primary and secondary fires in South Worcestershire, Redditch and Wyre Forest.

Following a serious fire in Kidderminster on 1 July 2007, and an extensive investigation by the Fire and Rescue Service, the decision was taken to prosecute two defendants under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. The hearing has resulted in pleas of guilty against 14 separate charges, including failure to undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment. Sentencing will take place on January 30th where it is also anticipated that the Authority will be awarded its full costs.

Homes were evacuated when a fire engulfed a garage workshop near Leominster town centre. A 200 metre safety cordon was put into operation as crews tackled the blaze and cooled down gas cylinders in the premises to prevent an explosion. Nine appliances attended the incident on Tuesday September 30.

Details of the Performance Statistics, Incident and Injury matters, Interest and Information items that have been reported to the Authority are available on the Service website: www.hwfire.org.uk

2. HEREFORD AND WORCESTER/WARWICKSHIRE JOINT REVIEW

Although a great deal of work had been undertaken to finalise the business case, Officers had not been able to conclude all aspects of the review in order to report to the Authority.

**3. INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009-12
2009/10 ACTION PLAN- RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AMENDMENTS.**

The Authority considered the revised Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2009-12 and the recommendations, following Public Consultation, for amendments to the 2009/10 Action Plan.

The 2009/10 Action Plan proposed six amendments, including the proposal to reduce the Firefighter establishment by 12 posts i.e. one post from each watch at Redditch, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

The Action Plan, as presented, was approved by the Authority.

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4. REGIONAL FIRE CONTROL

The national FireControl project, a key element of the Government's Fire and Resilience Programme, is designed to replace the current 46 Fire and Rescue Service Control rooms with 9 networked regional centres across England, managed by 9 Local Authority Control Centre (LACC) Companies. Hereford and Worcester is due to cutover to the West Midlands Regional Centre in Wolverhampton in June 2011.

The Fire Minister made an announcement in November in relation to the FiReControl Project delivery schedule, advising that the start of the roll-out will be delayed by 9 months and that the complete delivery will be 5 months later than detailed in the current schedule.

The Authority noted the delay to this project announced by CLG, and the risks and benefits associated with the project.

**5. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION (LGA) FIRE & RESCUE
AUTHORITY EQUALITY & DIVERSITY CHARTER**

The Authority Members noted the five point Charter for Equality & Diversity for Fire and Rescue Authority members produced by the LGA, in its role in providing political leadership on the issue of Equality and Diversity, and 22 of the Members present demonstrated their support by signing up to the Charter.

**PAUL HAYDEN
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
HEREFORD & WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

FURTHER INFORMATION

Any person wishing to seek further information on this report should contact: Corporate Support on 01905 368367. 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 19 December 2008.