

## HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

### REPORT OF THE HEREFORD AND WORCESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY TO HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL 20 JULY 2012

#### Chief Fire Officer's Service Report

##### **Operational Activity**

The total incident numbers for Quarter 3 in 2011/2012 showed a decrease on the same quarter last year. The number of special service incidents attended and the number of false alarms attended have both decreased compared with the same quarter last year. This has led to the lowest Quarter 3 total number of incidents attended in the last five years.

The total number of fires has increased from 516 in Quarter 3 2010-11 to 555 in Quarter 3 2011-12. The increase in the total number of fires is mainly due to a 57.8% increase in secondary fires in Quarter 3 2011-12 compared with Quarter 3 2010-11 which has outweighed a significant decrease in the number of chimney fires attended when compared with the same Quarter last year. The number of primary fires remained the same as for quarter 3 2010/11 namely 277.

There have been increases in the number of secondary fires in both October and December when compared with the same quarter last year. The summer increase in secondary fires has lasted longer into October than in the previous year and the number of secondary fires attended in October represents the highest monthly October figure in the last eight years.

The number of Special Service incidents has decreased in Quarter 3 2011-12 compared with the same quarter last year with 379 incidents attended in Quarter 3 2011-12 compared with 599 in Quarter 3 2010-2011.

##### **Please Note:**

**Primary Fires** – broadly those involving buildings and structures and other property such as vehicles, storage, plant and machinery, fires involving casualties, rescues or escape, fires where significant fire and rescue resources are employed.

**Secondary fires** – broadly those involving derelict buildings, or vehicles, single buildings under demolition, fires confined to chimneys, other outdoor fires such as those involving grassland, gardens and fences, refuse and refuse containers.

##### **Exercise Olympus**

On 17 and 18 March 2012 a major exercise was conducted at the Fire Service College at Moreton in Marsh. The exercise involved a simulated major building collapse and explosion with trapped casualties. This required the attendance of a number of

resources including fire appliances from across the Service and also the (USAR) Urban Search and Rescue Team and USAR teams from a number of other Fire and Rescue Services alongside other emergency services.

As in a genuine emergency, local fire crews were first to arrive at the scene, followed by ambulance crews, further fire crews and appliances and also Urban Search and Rescue Teams and equipment from both the local areas and South Wales and Merseyside. Shropshire and Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Services also participated. The exercise was made as realistic as possible and the excellent facilities at the Fire College allowed for the creation of a building collapse and a series of fire and other incidents. This was a unique opportunity to experience first-hand a multi-agency response to a large scale emergency incident.

A team of our own observers evaluated the exercise whilst observers from the National Resilience Assurance Team also attended.

### **Appointment of Treasurer (Section 151 Officer)**

The Authority approved the appointment of Mr Martin Rehorn, Director of Finance and Assets as Treasurer to the Authority (Section 151 Officer).

### **Budget and Precept 2012/13 and Medium Term Financial Strategy**

The Authority approved the Capital Budget and Programme, the Statement of Prudential Code Indicators, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2012/13, the Revenue Budget, the Council Tax Requirement and noted the Medium Term Financial Forecast.

### **Pay Policy Statement**

As required by Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, (openness and accountability in local pay), the authority approved a pay policy statement and supporting information for publication on the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service's website before 1 April 2012.

### **Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan – Action Plan 2012/13**

The Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2009/12 has now expired. Currently a National Framework is being consulted on and, in the absence of an adopted National Framework, it is considered pertinent to adopt a further one year Action Plan which will remain in place until the new National Framework was agreed.

The Authority agreed that the following areas would be covered by the proposed IRMP Action Plan:

- delivering the outcomes of the 2011/12 review of Community Safety which seeks to identify methods for targeting the Service's resources more effectively in this area;

- to implement the agreed changes that resulted from the review of the current operational training strategy and provision;
- the 2011/12 Action Plan identified specific elements of fire cover within the Service including resources, which would be reviewed in 2011/12. In 2012/13 fire cover would be reviewed across the remainder of the Service;
- to continue to develop further opportunities to consolidate the collaboration with Shropshire and Wrekin Fire & Rescue Authority; and
- to review the provision of road traffic collision equipment across the Service and seek to implement any appropriate changes in order to improve the service provided to the community.

### **Standards Report**

The Authority authorised the Clerk to liaise with Herefordshire and Worcestershire Councils and in consultation with the Standards Committee to develop a common Code of Conduct for approval at its meeting on 20 June 2012. It was also agreed that a new Standards Panel be established to replace the current Standards Committee and the Clerk was authorised to prepare the relevant draft terms of reference and framework for addressing future Code of Conduct Complaints and any necessary investigations for consideration at the Authority meeting on 20 June 2012. The Clerk was also authorised to commence the appointments process for a minimum of three independent members for resolving allegations of breaches of the new Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the current standards regime would remain in place until the commencement of the new regime under the Localism Act i.e. 1 July 2012.

**Brigadier Peter Jones, CBE**

**Vice-Chairman**

**Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority**

### **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](http://www.hwfire.org.uk)).

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Agenda and papers of the meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority held 15 February 2012