

9 February 2012

Proposed revisions to the Service Priority Targets and publication of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2012 to 2015

Report by the Chief Officer

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1 Summary

- 1.1 The planning process for the 2012 -15 Service Plan involves refreshing our Priority targets. The Service Management Team has developed new targets and these are presented for Members' approval.
- 1.2 The Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2012 to 2015 will be published on 1st April 2012. This Plan will include the new Priorities, and an update of our progress against our objectives from the previous three years.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Priority targets set out in appendix 1 be approved, and included in the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service plan 2012 to 2015.

3 Introduction and background

3.1 Priorities

- 3.1.1 We first published our Priorities in our Service Plan 2009 to 2012. We consider these to be our priority areas for action:

People

Our responsibility is to save lives and to reduce injuries and harm that fires and other incidents cause.

Property

We will promote ways to make all types of property safer and we will enforce fire safety regulations.

Community

By working closely with our partner organisations, we are able to improve our performance and help to deliver a wide range of activities for safer and stronger communities.

Environment

We are determined to reduce the effect of fires and other emergency incidents on the environment, as well as reducing our own carbon footprint.

Resources

We will manage our resources (our staff, buildings, and IT systems) in a cost-effective way and assess activities and any new initiatives to check that our investment in them is worthwhile.

- 3.1.2 Each Priority has targets, which we publish in our Service Plan. Some are directly related to our corporate performance indicators, whilst others are statements which detail the improvements we wish to make. As many of the current targets will expire in March 2012, we have taken the opportunity to review and refresh them. Each Directorate has considered those targets relating to them to ensure that they reflect the key areas of improvement they will focus on over the next three years. We have also taken the opportunity to refresh the overarching statements that support each priority.
- 3.1.3 Service Management Team has agreed new targets for our corporate performance indicators. This work was based on the trends in our performance over the past five to ten years, and comparisons with other Fire and Rescue Services. Those Priority targets which relate to our corporate performance indicators have been replaced with the new targets. Where there are percentage reductions, these are applied from a baseline. The baseline was calculated using a standard methodology as recommended by the Government Office of the South East (GOSE). We took the past five years' data (2006/07 to 2010/11), removed the years with the best and worst performance, and then took the average of the remaining three years.
- 3.1.4 Appendix 1 details the proposed targets for 2012 to 2015. It should be noted that the Priorities will be assessed by the Plain English Campaign before being published in the new Plan, and are therefore subject to wording changes that may be suggested during that process.
- 3.1.5 We plan to provide a commentary on our progress against achieving the Priority targets for 2009 to 2012 in our Annual Report. This will be published in the autumn of 2012, with a report made to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee in September 2012.

3.2 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2012 to 2015

- 3.2.1 Work to prepare the 2012 to 2015 Plan is nearly complete. It will be published at the beginning of April, and will include the Service's 2015 vision statement, which first appeared in last year's Plan. The Plan will also include a short commentary on the progress of each of the ongoing corporate objectives from the current edition of the Plan (2011 to 2014). We have focussed on taking some time to reflect on where we are, what we have achieved, and where we want to go. Because of this, we have not developed any new objectives for the next year. This is a different approach for us. We will invest our time to engage with our staff and people living in our local communities so that they have the opportunity to influence and shape our work and objectives in the future.
- 3.2.2 For the past two years we asked the Plain English Campaign to look at our Plan and make suggestions as to how to make it easier to understand and more accessible. We have achieved 'Crystal Mark' accreditation to date and we will be aiming to get it again this year.

3.3 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service plan 2013 to 2016

- 3.3.1 Work has commenced on the Service Plan for 2013 to 2016. As previously reported, we will be undertaking consultation during the summer. A report will be presented to the Authority in June with information, and asking for approval for our consultation strategy. We will take the opportunity to ensure that we reflect the implications of the new Fire and Rescue Service National Framework for England, which is currently out for consultation.

4 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives

- 4.1 Our Priorities provide a framework for the development of our corporate objectives.

5 Risk analysis

- 5.1 Setting Priorities forms part of the risk management required within the planning process. It is important that these are appropriate to ensure the efficient use of resources.

6 People Impact Assessment

- 6.1 We completed a People Impact Assessment (PIA) for the development and delivery of the Service Plan.
- 6.2 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

7 Resource implications

- 7.1 Human Resources

The work on updating the Priorities and the Service plan objectives falls within the normal workload of the Performance Review Team. However the refresh has required time from SMT members and other managers.

8 Background papers

- 8.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service Plan 2011 to 2015

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.

Appendix 1 – Proposed Service Priority Targets