



Dorset Fire Authority

MEETING	Dorset Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	24 September 2014
OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Annual Report 2013/14
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Annual Report provides our communities with an opportunity to review the performance of its Fire Service during the previous year and is published on 30 September each year. DFA have previously agreed that we publish the Annual Report to coincide with the Annual Accounts and Corporate Statement of Assurance and Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Report allows our communities and stakeholders to have a clear view of the performance achieved during the year. The report shows the performance against the Community Safety Plan and covers the year from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. When approved, the Annual Report will be desktop published and placed on our website in a digital format and made available to main libraries in hard copy.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	<p>The Annual Report ensures that our communities have formal notice of performance against the Community Safety Plan. It follows good practice guidance on public reporting issued by CIPFA and the Authority would be subject to possible criticism from its Auditors if the Annual Report was not created and published.</p>
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT <i>Note: If the matrix indicates negative impacts on the community or staff, an equality impact assessment (EIA) will need to be completed.</i>	<p>The Annual Report is published as a web based document, but includes the option to have it published as a hard copy, in alternative formats including in large print and translated into different languages. We also offer support for blind and partially sighted people on request. The document can also be provided on CD or data disk if requested. The Annual Report is made available for placing in main libraries and to our partners if requested.</p>
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	None

RECOMMENDATIONS	It is recommended that Members approve the Annual Report.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None
APPENDICES	A: Draft Annual Report
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	Robert Ford, Head of Corporate Planning Tel: (01305) 252615

1. Introduction

1.1 The Authority's vision and programme for the future is outlined in the Community Safety Plan. The Annual Report describes the previous year's performance, in this case the period between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014. The report describes what we have achieved during the year as well as reporting our performance against local performance indicators.

1.2 We have focused considerable effort to improve safety in Dorset over the last year with reductions in the number of deaths caused by fire and in reducing still further the number of accidental fires in the homes. Where we have needed to respond to an incident in the home, our crews have achieved our response times and arrived within 10 minutes of the call on over 84% of occasions. When you consider the rural nature of the county and our reliance on 'on-call' firefighters, this is an excellent achievement. We have improved safety by:

- ♦ Reducing accidental fires in the home by further strengthening our community safety task teams with the use of volunteers to help deliver over 10,000 home safety checks.
- ♦ Actively supporting the creation of 'SafeWise' a premier regional safety charity for people of all ages.
- ♦ Dealing with the very difficult financial position that all public sector bodies have had to face by working with our colleagues in Wiltshire & Swindon Fire Authority to look at options to strengthen our Fire and Rescue Service.
- ♦ Achieving British Standard 18001 for our health and safety processes, one of the few fire and rescue services to achieve this.
- ♦ Changing the way in which our on-call firefighters respond to calls.
- ♦ Commissioning an exciting initiative to explore new ways in which we could use domestic sprinklers in our prevention activities, helping us to meet the ever evolving needs of Dorset's communities.
- ♦ Continuing with our full range of prevention programmes.

1.3 The Service has also succeeded in improving outcomes across a wide range of indicators throughout the year, and has seen improvements for 2013/14 in the following key corporate indicators:

- ♦ Number of fire related deaths (down to 4).
- ♦ Number of fire related injuries (down to 30).
- ♦ Number of accidental dwelling fires (down to 438).
- ♦ Number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions (down to 362).
- ♦ Attendance times to properties with sleeping risks where the first appliance met the response standard (84.5%).
- ♦ Number of working days lost to sickness for wholetime uniformed staff (down to 8.83) and for all staff (down to 8.73).

- 1.4 This Annual Report is reflective of a very challenging and difficult year. The Annual Report is supported by the Corporate Statement of Assurance and Annual Governance Statement, which detail the governance arrangements in place to effectively manage the Service. Members may be aware that incident data is now available through the website and displayed through our Community Map system and, as a consequence, it is unnecessary to include detailed performance results as in previous years.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 This Annual Report confirms another year of real achievement by DFRS at a time of challenging and difficult financial times. It reflects the considerable efforts made by staff and partners to deliver improved community safety for the residents of Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole.

DARRAN GUNTER

Chief Fire Officer

17 September 2014