

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

JOINT REPORT BY THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER, CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY AND THE FINANCE OFFICER

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment in 2006 recommended that the Authority produces and publish an Annual Report including the summary accounts and an explanation of key financial information designed to be accessible to members of the public.
- 1.2 The Draft Annual Report for 2011/2012 is attached and the Committee is requested to approve this for publication.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Annual Report is a companion document to the Strategic Community Safety Plan 2011 -15, which explains where the Authority is going and how it intends to get there. While it is important to plan for the future it is equally important to report last year's performance and this is what the Annual Report sets out to achieve.
- 2.2 The content of the report includes an introduction with a brief outline of the Authority's vision, direction, plans and measurement of performance. It also highlights performance over the last financial year (2011/2012), including:
 - Detailed performance against national and locally generated performance indicators.
 - A summary of the Authority's Statement of Accounts.
 - Commentary on the Authority's governance arrangements.
 - Details of progress made towards the Authority's goal of reducing CO2 emissions.
- 2.3 It is likely that the format of this report may change in future years to accommodate new requirements under the national Fire Framework to prepare an annual Statement of Assurance. Statutory guidance on the nature of this statement is expected later in 2012 and may also impact on the annual review of governance.

3 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

3.1 The Annual Report 2011/2012 shows that significant progress is being made against long term targets, such as the prevention of fire deaths, of which there were three during the reporting period.

3.2 Other significant points worth noting include the following:

- 175.5 primary fires per 100,000 population were attended compared with 193.3 in the previous year.
- Over 50,000 Home Safety Checks (HSC) were carried out in 2011/12, including 20,048 carried out on our behalf by partners and 18,189 by operational crews. This has contributed to the reduction in the number of injuries and deaths from accidental fires.
- There has been a 12% reduction in the number of accidental dwelling fires attended.

3.3 Copies of The Annual Report 2011/2012 will be available on the Authority's Internet and Intranet at www.twfire.gov.uk. In addition, copies of the report in alternative formats can be made available upon request.

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Currently there are no health and safety implications associated with this report.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

5.1 There are no risk management issues associated with this specific report.

6 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Governance Committee Members are requested to approve the Annual Report 2011/2012.

BACKGROUND PAPER

The undermentioned Background Paper refers to the subject matter of the above report:

- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report 2011/2012.