

**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

**MEETING: 3 NOVEMBER 2008**

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**SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008**

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

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment in 2006 recommended that the Authority produce and publish an Annual Report including the summary accounts and an explanation of key financial information designed to be understandable by members of the public.
- 1.2 To this end the Annual Report for 2007/2008 was published on 30 September 2008 following consultation with the Audit Commission and Sunderland City Council, and a copy is attached for the information of Members.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Annual Report is a companion document to the Strategic Plan 2008 -13, 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 (2007/2008), including:
- Detailed performance against national and locally generated performance indicators.
  - A summary of the Authority's Statement of Accounts.
  - Commentary on the Authority's Statement of Internal Control.
  - Details of the Audit Commission's findings including a report from their last update on the progress made since the last Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

**3 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS**

- 3.1 The Annual Report 2008 shows that significant progress is being made against long term targets, such as the prevention of fire deaths, which currently averages 4.77 deaths per year.

3.2 Other significant points worth noting include the following:

- There was an average of 4.05 injuries in accidental fires per 100,000 population, compared with 5.57 in the previous year.
- Over 33,500 Home Fire Risk Assessments (HFRA) were carried out, which has contributed to the reduction in the number of injuries and deaths from accidental fires.
- There has been a 14% reduction in the number of fire calls attended.
- All BVPI's relating to responding to emergencies are on track to meet the 2011 targets.

3.3 Copies of The Annual Report 2007/2008 are available on request from the Chief Fire Officer and it has been published on the Authority's Internet and Intranet at [www.twfire.gov.uk](http://www.twfire.gov.uk). In addition, copies of the report will be sent to a range of individual parties and key stakeholders.

#### **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 The Authority is requested to approve the Annual Report 2007/2008.

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#### **BACKGROUND PAPER**

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

- Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Annual Report 2007/2008.