

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**MEETING: 14 JUNE 2010**

SUBJECT: NORTH TYNESIDE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the Authority's success in achieving the stretch target contained within North Tyneside's Local Area Agreement which will, it is anticipated, attract reward grant as a result.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that, in April 2007, North Tyneside Council entered into a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with central government and the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership. The agreement covered a period of three years and was structured around four key topics which, in turn, were underpinned by ten stretch targets aimed at improving the lives of North Tyneside residents. The four key topics were:

- Children and young people
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities and older people
- Economic Development

- 2.2 Success in achieving the stretch targets would attract a performance reward grant, which could be used to re-invest in further initiatives to improve the lives of those residing in North Tyneside.

- 2.3 Following some determined work on the part of officers of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service this Authority was successful in having a fire related stretch target adopted as one of the ten targets referred to above. This target encapsulated a commitment to reduce deliberate anti-social behaviour fires within North Tyneside and it supported the Safer and Stronger Communities agenda.

3 PROVISIONAL REWARD GRANT

- 3.1 Over the three-year period of the agreement that ended in March 2010 the majority of the stretch targets contained within the LAA were achieved. As a result North Tyneside Council is anticipating that it will receive reward grant of approximately £4,395,000. Given that Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service achieved the specific stretch target for which it was responsible it will, as a consequence, receive a proportion of the grant reward.

- 3.2 In accordance with the reward grant distribution formula agreed by the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership in April 2007, this Authority can expect to receive approximately £344,000 in recognition of the successful work that has led to a reduction in the number of deliberate anti-social behaviour fires in North Tyneside.
- 3.3 No formal notification has yet been received in respect of how the grant will be paid but it is expected that the reward grant will be allocated in two segments, with fifty percent of the grant being paid by the end of the 2010/2011 fiscal year with the remaining fifty percent being paid in the 2011/2012 fiscal year.
- 3.4 Finally, it is also anticipated that the funding will be made available on a fifty percent revenue and fifty percent capital basis.

4 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

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

5 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Currently there are no firm details as to the method of payment of the Authority's portion of the reward grant or the exact timeline with regard to receiving the payment.
- 6.2 Furthermore, there is a possibility that this funding may not materialise as a consequence of the government's intention to reduce public spending by £6.2 billion in the current financial year.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Authority is recommended to:
- a) Note the content of the report, and
 - b) receive further reports as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The undermentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

- North Tyneside Strategic Partnership – Local Area Agreement April 2007 – March 2010