

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE AUTHORITY	
date	11th June 2004	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICE AGREEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is intended to inform Members of the successful inclusion of the Fire Safety Target within Nottingham City Council's Local Public Service Agreement with Government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As Members will be aware a Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) is an agreement between an individual 'First Tier' local authority and the Government, under the auspices of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).
- 2.2 From the very beginning of the LPSA process it has always been the Service's intention to successfully negotiate with both Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council to ensure that a countywide Fire Safety Target would be included in each Authority's LPSA. During the Service's initial negotiations with the ODPM the possibility of a countywide target was discussed. The ODPM were always encouraging of the Service's approach and clearly indicated that a countywide approach was seen as an example of good practice.
- 2.3 Members will recall that in April 2003 Nottinghamshire County Council and the ODPM successfully agreed the County's LPSA. The Fire Safety Target was one of the 12 targets that form part of the County's LPSA that will run from April 2003 through to March 2006. In parallel to this work the Service has been working with the City Council to ensure the inclusion of the Fire Safety Target in City's LPSA. This work has been successful with the Fire Safety Target forming one of the 13 targets included in the City's LPSA presented to Government.
- 2.4 The Fire Safety Target included in the City's LPSA is the identical pan-county target that forms part of the County's LPSA. This target aims to reduce the number of deaths and injuries resulting from accidental dwelling fires across the whole county.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 Following extensive negotiations it is pleasing to report to Members that agreement has been reached between Nottingham City Council and ODPM with the City's LPSA forming part of phase 9 of the Government's LPSA programme which will run from November 2003 until October 2006.
- 3.2 The Fire Safety target is now one of the few in the Country to be in the position of having all constituent authorities in a countywide partnership. Members will clearly recognise the importance of the Fire Safety Target, with it's potential to significantly improve the life chances of the most 'at risk' groups within our community, by accelerating the reduction in suffering from injuries and deaths caused by accidental dwelling fires.
- 3.3 Government has recognised that it is important that there is an incentive for delivering improved performance. To this end Government has agreed that if authorities are successful across all LPSA targets they will receive a maximum of 2.5% of the their base budgets in Performance Reward Grant (PRG). The PRG will be clearly related to performance for each individual target contained within the LPSA and will be paid in proportion to success down to 60% of initial target. If authorities fail to achieve a minimum of 60% for a particular target they will not receive any PRG for that target.
- 3.4 The issue surrounding the amount of PRG the Service will receive upon successful completion of the Fire Safety Target still has to be concluded with the City Council. A further report will be brought before Members when this issue has been resolved.
- 3.5 In conclusion with this pan-county Fire Safety target the Service has an excellent opportunity to improve the life chances and well being of individuals within our community who would have been at risk of injury or in the more extreme cases even death from fire in their homes.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The issue of the Performance Reward Grant will be subject to a further report to the Authority.

5 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no Personnel Implications arising from this report.

6 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IMPLICATIONS

The successful outcome of the Fire Safety Target will substantially enhance the well-being and life chances of the community served by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and will address both sustainability and the wider determinants of health by accessing and engaging those who are most at risk within our community.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) has set a target of reducing deaths in accidental dwelling fires by 20% by 2010. This is a challenging target and only by successfully engaging with the community and delivering community safety initiatives will the Service achieve this target.
- 7.2 The Service's involvement with the LPSA Fire Safety Target has the potential to deliver significant financial reward through the Performance Reward Grant that the ODPM awards to authorities for achieving the agreed targets.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Members note the contents of the report and welcome the inclusion of the Fire Safety Target in Nottingham City Council's LPSA.

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER