report

meeting NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

FIRE GATEWAY

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the Fire Gateway website, (www.fire.gov.uk) which allows individuals to access a Home Safety Check online.

2. BACKGROUND

Fire Gateway is a web-portal which has been developed to enable the public to access, and interact with, an array of fire-related services online. It has been funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and developed with the involvement of English Fire and Rescue Services. As well as providing easy online links to local Fire and Rescue Services, the Fire Gateway also has a wide range of fire-related advice and links to useful sites.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 Members of the public can complete an online interactive questionnaire about fire safety in their home to help them plan how to reduce the risk of fire occurring. They can also conduct an online self assessment to discover if they have the attributes required to become a Firefighter. The portal also allows business people to access advice and information on fire safety matters.
- 3.2 Of particular interest to Members is the option of allowing the public to use Fire Gateway to submit requests for services, such as Home Safety Checks and support for dealing with young fire setters, direct to their local Fire and Rescue Service. Care professionals and people with elderly relatives will be able to make applications on behalf of others, thereby assisting fire and rescue services in addressing the needs of those who are most at risk from fire.
- 3.3 The Fire Gateway went on-line at the start of December 2006 and as yet there has been a limited response by members of the public. The access portal has been disseminated and well publicised across many media outlets, attached at Appendix A is Erewash Borough Council's latest information page as an example.
- 3.4 The system used by Fire Gateway requires requesters to submit their full postal address including Postcode. The Gateway's software then allocates requests to individual Fire & Rescue Services mail boxes by Postcode; each mail box has its own unique code which Services can use to access requests.
- 3.5 Within Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service this mail box is accessed by administration staff within the Community and Fire Safety Teams who forward requests to the appropriate District for action. Attached to this report is the actual

Gateway requests page show the range of services available to the public, attached as Appendix B.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fire Gateway is funded by the Department of Communities & Local Government.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no extra burdens with Fire Gateway as members of the Community and Fire Safety Teams receive the requests as part of their regular employment.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The equalities issue arising from this report are not within Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Services control.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the content of this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Appendix A



