

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	
date	21 July 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) : PROGRESS UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Members on current progress relating to CPA and the future inspection.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 CPA was introduced in to the Fire and Rescue Service in 2005 as a result of the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework. It replaced the previous inspection regime conducted by Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate, and focused on the corporate management of the Service.
- 2.2 Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority were inspected in February 2005 and received a "fair" rating.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 As an outcome of the CPA inspection in 2005, the Service produced an 'action plan' as to how it was going to address the areas raised by the Audit Commission.
- 3.2 During the autumn of 2006, the Service will receive an inspection from its internal auditors as part of CPA 2006. This will focus on three areas :
 - § Use of Resources ;
 - § Direction of Travel ;
 - § Service Assessment.
- 3.3. As part of this process, under the guise of direction of travel, the Service will have to demonstrate how it is progressing against its action plan. In respect of the Community Safety Committee, attached at Appendix A is a breakdown of progress against set objectives.
- 3.4 This update allows Members of the Community Safety Committee to assess how the specific elements of the action plan that relate to their remit are progressing.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific personnel implications arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial impact assessment has revealed no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

CPA 2006 will assess how the Service is progressing against its original benchmark of CPA 2005. In cases where the Secretary of State does feel Services are not making suitable progress, the right of intervention is an option available.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Community Safety Committee note the contents of this report and the progress being made against the actions arising from CPA 2005.

9. BACKGROUNDS PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- § Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 ;
- § Fire & Rescue Services National Framework 2006 – 2008 ;
- § Fire & Rescue Performance Framework 2006/07 (Consultation Document) – Audit Commission ;
- § Fire & Rescue Services, Use of Resources 2006/07 Consultation Key Lines of Enquiry – Audit Commission ;
- § Operational Assurance inspection framework Consultation – DCLG.

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CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

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Nottinghamshire CPA improvement plan November 2005 – June update

THEME 4 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

APPENDIX A

Lead Member - Cllr Sybil Fielding
Project Manager - Neil Colton

Aim - delivery of this improvement plan will ensure that there is robust mechanism manage partnerships across the service.

Key outcomes sought

- The successful management and evaluation of all partnerships
- Improved Members accountability for developing and managing our priorities

Key activities / actions involved

- Development of a corporate policy, procedures and strategy for partnership working rolled out to District level
- Development of a partnership evaluation toolkit
- Development of a partnership register
- Identification of best practice
- Development of a process to ensure that partnership working and partnership funding supports strategic objectives
- Development of a business case for entering into partnerships plus an exit strategy
- Establishment of on-going monitoring and evaluation procedures
- Implementation of partnership working training programme

Partnership opportunities

- § Working regionally or nationally to develop a partnership evaluation toolkit and business case template for entering into new partnerships.
- § Identifying best practice from other fire authorities and/or similar organisations

Links to existing plans/projects

- IRMP, Best Value Review of Partnerships

Route map to improvement

There are many different tasks that we will need to undertake in order for us to achieve our goals in this area. In recognition of this we have devised a route map that clearly identifies the key high-level improvement tasks necessary to undertake achieve over the next 18 months. This route map is not a comprehensive set of activities and these can be found in the detailed task list following the route map within this section.

Position Report

Improvement Plan Action

Progress: 22nd June 2006

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| § Develop corporate policy for partnerships | The service undertook an comprehensive Best Value review of partnership working to assist in devising a clear way forward. The outcomes of this review have resulted in a draft policy being developed. This policy which also includes protocols for partnership engagement is currently being consulted on prior to implementation. |
| § Develop evaluation toolkit to ascertain the benefits of the partnerships to the organisations corporate aims | In conjunction with the development of a partnership policy, a draft evaluation tool kit has also been developed. This is scheduled for consultation during July/August 2006. |
| § Introduce partnership register | Included within the Best Value Review and in conjunction with the partnership policy and process, the need for a partnership register was evident. This is currently in the first stage of implementation which covers identification and classification of all the partnerships the service is currently involved in. |
| § Identify best practice by carrying out research into how other organisations deal with partnerships | The Best Value Review looked at 'best practice' approaches to partnership working. Some of the evidence has formed part of the policy development. This work has also been incorporated into the work around Local Area Agreements. This will ensure that best practice is disseminated to the local delivery groups. |
| § Develop process to ensure partnership working supports strategic objectives | The Services Community Safety Plan (IRMP) is currently being updated for the period 2007-2010. Within this update will be the new Local Area Agreement which will form a key focus for the service objectives in the future. Within the draft policy document is guidance to ensure that the LAA and the services other objectives can be met. |
| § Develop partnership working business case template | A business case template is part of the draft policy and was a finding within the Best Value review. This will be implemented following consultation. |

- § Develop exit strategy so that the organisation can identify the most appropriate way to dissolve partnerships where and when required.

As with other areas of focus the need to develop an exit strategy protocol was a key finding of the review. This was therefore incorporated within the draft policy and will form part of the services future strategy.
- § Develop on going monitoring and evaluation procedures

Monitoring and evaluation will form a key part of the policy. The service will also introduce any targets into its performance management system so that progress can be maintained and any amendments made at the appropriate stage.
- § Implement training programme for all staff

An analysis of the training requirements is underway, which will then form part of a training strategy to ensure all personnel directly involved in partnership working have the appropriate knowledge and skills.
- § Implement new ways of working

The service has recently changed from a district working arrangements to a functional approach. A partnership manager is now a functional role within each of the 3 groups (North, City and South). This is supported by a Group Manager responsible for overseeing the development of our partnerships inline with the new policy and protocols.
- § Ensure appropriate use of funding for partnership working in support of strategic objectives

This is now an integral part of our work with the Local Area Agreement partners. In particular it deals with the use of pump priming cash for stretch targets and pooled funds where available. The Service has realigned its marketing and fundraising role to that of a community safety fundraiser to ensure closer a closer link with the strategic objectives. It is the intention of this realignment to ensure that community safety projects with partners receive appropriate funding from inception.
- § On going review of new arrangements

To be programmed within 12 months of the implementation of the policy and protocols. It will also be part of our overall performance management with regard to LAA and any other partnership. Key targets (as previously with the LPSA) will be part of the services performance management framework.