

## report

meeting	<b>NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>	
	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	
date	<b>20 April 2007</b>	agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

### BEACON PARTNER STATUS

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the external recognition that the County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council, Emergency Planning Departments have recently received through the Beacon Scheme and the contribution made by the Service.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Beacon Scheme is unique amongst award schemes in that winning an accolade for excellence within your own Authority. The Scheme was set up to help all authorities achieve high standards across the full range of services. The aim is to raise standards by promoting best practice and providing opportunities for authorities to aspire to be the best, to learn from the best and work with the best.
- 2.2 Obtaining Beacon status is a prestigious and sought after achievement, one of the most important elements of gaining the award is the opportunity to work with other authorities and provide a catalyst for improvement. Authorities can either make a single or dual application, on this occasion the County Council joined forces with Newark and Sherwood District Council.
- 2.3 To be successful the applicant has to prove that it has a good working relationship with its partners. Any organisation that contributes to the success of an applicant will be able to call themselves a 'Beacon Partner'

#### 3. REPORT

- 3.1 The County Council formally applied to the scheme in June 2006. A specialist panel met early in October and the authority's application passed the short-listing stage.
- 3.2 In November the County Council and Newark and Sherwood hosted a half day visit at Kelham Hall for the panel to meet partner organisations. Members of the Fire Service Emergency Planning Team were interviewed by the panel to hear about commitment to partnership working and explore issues in an open and transparent manner. Following a successful visit the County and District were put forward to the finalist stage.

- 3.3 Following the visit, the panel rated the council's "excellent" in the area of partnership working. In January the authorities were invited to make a final presentation to members of the panel where they focused on best practice and answered questions from earlier feedback. In their presentation the authorities wrote 'Joint working is key to our emergency planning'. This application is made with full recognition and support of the active partnership between ourselves and other category 1 & 2 responder organisations and the voluntary agencies, who are dedicated to ensuring an integrated, in-depth emergency planning service for Nottinghamshire'.
- 3.4 As there were no areas of weakness following the visit, after the final presentation the Authorities were considered to be 'outstanding'.
- 3.5 On 20 March 2007 representatives from both authorities were invited to London where they received formal recognition of Beacon status in the area of Emergency Planning. The Fire and Rescue Service as a partner to both the Nottinghamshire County Council and Newark and Sherwood District Council Emergency Planning Teams is now formally recognised as a 'Beacon Partner'
- 3.6 Being a 'Beacon Partner' entitles the Fire and Rescue Service to use the official 'Beacon Partnership' logo on its stationary and other promotional literature.
- 3.7 Another important aspect of being a Beacon authority is the requirement to share best practice with other authorities. As part of this success Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services will be asked to take part in a number of activities.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications attached to this report, however there may be some costs incurred during visits to other authorities. These costs can be absorbed into existing budgets.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct personnel implications attached to this report.

#### **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

There are no direct Equalities issues arising from this report which cannot be adequately controlled by our existing frameworks.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Business Continuity and Risk Management are an important requirement of the Civil Contingencies Act. As a 'Beacon Partner' in the area of Emergency Planning the Service can demonstrate a commitment to sharing best practice and working closely with an outstanding authority.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members acknowledge the contribution made by Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service to the Emergency Planning Forum.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION**

None.

Frank Swann  
**CHIEF FIRE OFFICER**

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