

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	
date	20 July 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

OPERATIONAL ASSURANCE PROGRESS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To highlight advancements within the Service which underpin Operational Assurance. This embraces all areas associated with Service Delivery, the management of safety and the development of competence amongst staff with an operational undertaking.

2. BACKGROUND

As Members will be aware, the Service was recently scrutinised by the Audit Commission and a Service Assessment Team undertook work in the following areas:-

- a) Risk Analysis, in which we demonstrated an integrated approach to identifying and analysing risks within its geographical area. Risk analysis is our first stage in the Integrated Risk Management Programme from which the Authority derives its Community Safety Plan.
- b) Prevention and Protection Services, in which we demonstrated the Service, had detailed Fire Safety and broader Community Safety Strategies that sought to reduce the number of fires, fire deaths and injuries and in addition the reduction of deaths and injuries appertaining to other Service interventions, for example Road Traffic Collisions.
- c) Operational Preparedness, in which we demonstrated the Service was prepared to deal with all operational incidents which we can reasonably be expected to respond to, working with partners as necessary. This included the provision to staff of suitable instruction, information, training and supervision as detailed within statute.
- d) Call Management and Incident Support, in which the Service demonstrated key arrangements are in place for the receipt of calls, call handling and mobilising and management of resources to support the full range of incidents.
- e) Emergency Response, in which the Service demonstrated clear arrangements are in place for effective intervention of services for all incidents as determined by the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, the Emergency Services Order and the National Framework and in addition by Authority decisions. The Service was determined, overall, to be performing well.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The Service is committed to moving to the next stage, to further enhance these key areas which reduce all associated risk and the maintenance of the highest possible standards around Firefighter safety.
- 3.2 Structural alterations have taken place which has seen this area of Service business move forward. The Response Support section, under the management of an Area Manager which encapsulates the Operational Assurance Manager will be responsible for co-ordinating all underpinning efforts which provides further improvements and the maintenance of Member and Public confidence and reduced risk.
- 3.3 The amended structure within Response also sees a Group Manager responsible for Response staff learning and development. This role will interface significantly with Operational Assurance thus ensuring staff competence and development is progressed in line with strategic goals. This enhanced relationship will see a commissioning role being undertaken by managers within these roles which will direct development more closely to where it is required and further formalise a relationship with the Services Safety Management arrangements.
- 3.4 Response are beginning to move on the generation of Portfolio's of Evidence by all Station based staff. This follows a pilot exercise utilised for all staff in substantive roles and will now be cascaded elsewhere.
- 3.5 The Service is to utilise Vector Command to enhance Incident Command skills with assessment tools built in. Vector is a computer based software facility which is used to simulate scenarios foreseeable in the operational field which allow systems and tactics to be deployed to test and engage current and potential Incident Commanders.
- 3.6 Gold Command development is underway with Strategic Managers attending tailored programmes to enable large scale incidents which require multi-agency participation and co-ordination to be resolved. This move further underpins the new dimension expectation and ensures Strategic Managers are well placed regionally to resolve those incidents which have cross regional and national impacts.
- 3.7 The Service is also incorporating enhanced arrangements which ensures Firefighter staff who "act up" are assessed in an appropriate way and have demonstrated the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to perform the role of Crew Manager to cater for short term deficiencies.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with the detail of the report are to be met within existing budgetary provision.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

Any redirection of human resources to meet the demands of the Service's Operational Assurance programme will be administered by Risk Response in consultation with relevant departments.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial impact assessment has revealed that no specific equalities issues are associated with this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Risks associated with all areas of Service Delivery are monitored and controlled by sophisticated systems and procedures. Failure to control such risks will result in adverse external scrutiny from enforcing authorities.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report be noted and further information should be forthcoming to highlight progress.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

Comprehensive Performance Assessment Audit Reports
Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire & Rescue Authority reports

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

CONTACT OFFICER	
Name :	David Horton Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Tel. No :	0115 967 0880
E-mail :	david.horton@notts-fire.gov.uk