

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	
date	19 October 2007	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

INFORMATION FOR MEMBER CHAMPIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present a draft information bulletin specifically for Member Champions.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Member champions were introduced in July 2006 as part of the revised governance arrangements. This initiative allows for members to;

- Foster engagement between local communities and the Service
- Act as an advocate for the Authority, promoting effective communication and positive working relationships with local Councils and amongst partners stakeholders and community groups
- Provide a source of community intelligence and feedback to the Authority
- Promote the positive work undertaken by the Authority
- Provide positive support to Officers in driving forward the Authority's agenda in the community

2.2 The establishment of the Champions initiative has been seen as an opportunity for improved decision making; to gain a better understanding of local issues and to promote the work of the Service.

3. REPORT

3.1 To equip Members with relevant information about the areas they are championing a 'model' set of fact sheets have been included for consideration by the Committee. The fact sheets are intending to present Members with relevant information for their role as Champions within a specific district.

3.2 As Members have to assimilate a tremendous range of information about a variety of subjects it is expected that these fact sheets will provide key information about the community, the challenges the Service faces and the activities or initiatives currently being undertaken to make the community safer.

3.3 It is proposed that the fact sheets should reviewed and updated once a quarter so that Members can have up to date information available to them. A great deal of the information will only be available annually as it will form part of nationally agreed reporting. However other information such as local initiatives and some statistics will change.

3.4 The draft fact sheet for Member Champion has included information on the following aspects of the district;

- The partnerships currently in operation within the area
- The latest published crime statistics per 10,000 population
- A short synopsis of statistics for the issue e.g. Road Traffic Collisions
- The key statistics showing any trend
- Recent education activities undertaken by the Service
- Contact details for Service personnel dedicated to the area
- Useful websites

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Once the format of the fact sheets has been agreed it is expected that updating the information will be easy to achieve. The fact sheets will be produced and circulated in house and this unlikely to cost more than £35 for each quarterly update.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

A full equality impact assessment has not been undertaken with regard to this report. An initial impact assessment for the proposed information sheets revealed no specific equalities issues.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

By acting as champions for the Fire and Rescue Service, Members will ensure that the Service priority areas are represented with those in the local community. If Members are not provided with 'current information at hand' opportunities to influence change or promote the service could be missed.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Members consider the usefulness of the 'Information Sheets' and commission the production for all Authority Members.

8.2 That Members suggest any additions or changes to the documents as necessary.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

CONTACT OFFICER	
Name :	Martin Smart Assistant Chief Fire Officer
Tel. No :	0115 967 0880
E-mail :	martin.smart@notts-fire.gov.uk

THIS IS A DRAFT



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Bassetlaw Key Performance Figures

Date: 21 September 2007

Councillor S Fielding

NFRS is currently engaged in the following partnerships in the Bassetlaw Area:

- Local Strategic Partnership Hub Group
- Community Safety Joint Strategic Group
- Bassetlaw Community Safety Group
- Joint Tasking and Co-Ordination Group
- Manton Alliance
- Neighbourhood Management Groups



Below shows how Bassetlaw's crime rate measures against the national average. Crime statistics are per 1,000 of the population within the local authority area.

	Bassetlaw District Council	English average
Population	111,000	--
Theft from a vehicle offences	11	7.6
Burglary dwelling offences	4.9	4.3
Sexual offences	0.9	0.9
Households	47,000	--
Theft of a m.v. offences	4.3	2.9
Robbery offences	0.4	1.2
Violence against the person	20.1	16.7

Current Key Issues for the Fire and Rescue Service in Bassetlaw April to August 2007:

Primary Fires

“Primary Fires are ones where an insurance value can be attached to the item. A Primary fire involves property, or non derelict vehicles, and/or casualties. Fires can be deliberate or accidental”

- There have been 1,364 Primary Fires in Nottinghamshire so far this year.
- 207 of these (15%) occurred in Bassetlaw.
- This is double the amount that has occurred in Newark and Sherwood in the same period.
- Compared to same period last year Nottinghamshire has seen a fall of 131.
- Bassetlaw is the only district in the North that has seen a rise compared to the same period last year (18).

Accidental Dwelling Fires

“One of the key types of Primary fires are accidental dwelling fires, or accidental fires in the home. In 2005 82% of dwelling fires were reported nationally as being ‘accidental’ (as reported by CLG in the document ‘Fire Statistics UK, 2005)”

- There have been 240 Accidental Dwelling Fires in Nottinghamshire so far this year.
- 29 of these (12%) occurred in Bassetlaw.
- Again nearly double the amount that has occurred in Newark/Sherwood in the same period.
- Compared to the same period last year, Nottinghamshire has seen a drop of 58 (nearly 20%).
- Bassetlaw has seen an increase of 7 compared to the same period last year (30% increase).

On a positive note....

- Compared to the same period last year injuries from accidental dwelling fires remain at the same level.
- There has not been a death recorded in this type of fire in the area since the start of 2003.

Deliberate Anti Social Behaviour Fires not including Vehicle Fires:

“These are known to the service as secondary fires. For secondary fires the terms ‘Intentional’, ‘Deliberate’, ‘Malicious’ or ‘Arson’ are usually interchangeable. Generally speaking these are fires where there isn’t an insurance value attached to the item, it’s the nuisance value and the cost of sending an appliance that are the key issues. In Bassetlaw the two most common types are bin fires or fires set on areas of grassland”

- There have been 1,526 fires of this type in Nottinghamshire so far this year.
- 209 of these (14%) occurred in Bassetlaw.
- Bassetlaw is not the highest area in the North of the County for this period (currently Mansfield with 291 - 19%).
- This is a significant problem for the North – There has been nearly double the amount compared to the Nottingham City area for this period.
- Compared to the same period last year Nottinghamshire has seen a fall of 1,250 (45% reduction).
- Compared to the same period last year Bassetlaw had just over a third less (110 less) which is a smaller drop than in Nottinghamshire as a whole.
- On going problem – in July last year we recorded 149 for one month alone.
- Reduction may be attributable to the poor weather experienced.

So although Nottinghamshire has seen a drop of nearly half, Bassetlaw has seen a smaller drop of only a third. This may be attributable to poor weather, if the weather had been like last year we may have seen similar levels.

Road Traffic Collisions

“Improving road safety will always be a priority as almost 3,000 people die each year on roads in England; a person is seriously injured every 20 minutes”

- There have been 285 Road Traffic Collisions in Nottinghamshire so far this year.
- 49 of these (17%) occurred in Bassetlaw.
- In comparison Mansfield has had 20 or 7% (lowest of the County North Districts).
- In the same period last year Nottinghamshire had 322 Road Traffic Collisions.
- 49 of these were in the Bassetlaw area.
- Nottinghamshire has seen a reduction at this point in the year, Bassetlaw remains the same.

Recent Community Safety Initiatives in Bassetlaw:

The Fire Service now employs a 'Community Safety Advocate' in the area to promote Community Safety initiatives and work with partnership agencies.

Multi Agency Events the Fire Service has participated in:

A Week of Action took place in Harworth in June, lead by the fire service, around problems of secondary fires and vehicle fires. This has helped reduce the instances of secondary fires in the area. The Fire Service hopes to be involved in a similar event in Manton in Worksop soon.

'MACS' or 'Making all Children Safe' scheme run in Retford and Worksop, multi agency event looking at issues of safety with year 6 children.

999 Challenge – 12 Month Youth Intervention programme for secondary school pupils, educating the students on issues of safety.

Other Initiatives:

We work with Environmental Health to address problems of Derelict Buildings that are a problem to the fire service.

There is a 4 day Road Traffic Collision awareness event in Retford and Worksop coming up for the 17+ age group.

Useful Contacts and websites:

Audit Commission: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/>
Department Communities and Local Government
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/>
Nottinghamshire County Council: <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/>
Bassetlaw District Council <http://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/>
National Statistics Online <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>

Useful Publications

Changing Lanes – Audit Commission 26th Feb 2007
Fire Statistics, United Kingdom, 2005 – CLG March 2007