

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Committee	13th September 2005
Report Title	Fire and Rescue Service Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) – Update
Summary	A report for Members outlining progress and work undertaken by the Fire and Rescue Authority since the announcement of the national Fire and Rescue Service CPA results by the Audit Commission on 28th July 2005.
For further information Please contact:	Balbir Singh Policy and Planning Officer Tel: 01926423231 balbirsingh@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No.
Background papers	Cabinet 13 th January 2005: Fire and Rescue Service Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). Fire and Rescue Service Circular 13-2005: Improvement Planning Guidance for Fire and Rescue Authorities in England – March 2005. Audit Commission: Guidance on reporting the outcomes of CPA for fire and rescue authorities – June 2005.
Appendices:	

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Other Committees | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Local Member(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Elected Members | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr John Haynes, Cllr Dave Shilton |
| Cabinet Member | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cllr Richard Hobbs |
| Chief Executive | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Legal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Greta Needham |
| Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Oliver Winters |
| Other Chief Officers | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| District Councils | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Health Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Police | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

FINAL DECISION: No

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To Cabinet | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fire CPA Improvement Plan to be presented to Cabinet for approval once it is agreed following the round table discussion in October 2005. |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Community Safety Overview and Scrutiny Committee

13th September 2005

Fire and Rescue Services Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) - Update

Report of the County Fire Officer

Recommendation

For Members to note the report and comment as appropriate.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Commission led the CPA assessment for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority between 21st and 27th April 2005, this followed a peer review exercise in March 2005. The assessment team delivered a presentation to the Fire and Rescue Authority prior to their departure on 27th April 2005, outlining the key strengths and areas for improvement. This presentation was to form the basis of the draft and final report. The overall approach to the fire CPA process was outlined in the paper to Cabinet on 13th January 2005.

2.0 Process for agreeing the draft report

- 2.1 Following the CPA assessment site visit, the draft report for Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority was issued for consideration on 6th June 2005. A period of 10 days was allowed to review the draft report and to make any feedback. A detailed response was prepared and sent to the Audit Commission, together with additional evidence. This led to a meeting on the 23rd June 2005 with the Audit Commission Team Leader to agree the contents and challenge some elements of the final report. Whilst the overall score did not change, the rating for one of the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) was upgraded and the report changed to accurately reflect the position of the Fire and Rescue Authority.

3.0 Reporting CPA Outcomes

- 3.1 In June 2005, the Audit Commission issued a paper titled '*Guidance on reporting the outcomes of CPA for fire and rescue authorities.*' This guidance note made it quite clear that the scores for all fire and rescue authorities taking part in the CPA would be released on 28th July 2005.

- 3.2 It was pleasing to announce on 28th July 2005 that Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Authority achieved a Good score and now ranks amongst the high performing fire and rescue authorities in the country. The analysis by score band is provided below:

CPA Score	No. Fire and Rescue Authorities
Excellent	2
Good	20
Fair	17
Weak	4
Poor	2
Score to be confirmed	2
Total	47

4.0 Round Table Discussion

- 4.1 A round table discussion is being arranged for early October 2005, to present and agree the Fire and Rescue Authority's CPA Improvement Plan. The 2005/06 Service Plan contains the main CPA improvement areas and is currently being revised in the light of the final report. The round table discussion will involve the following:

Round Table Discussion: attendees	
Internal	External
County Fire Officer - Chair	Business Change Manager
Policy Board	Audit Commission - Team Leader
Chief Executive	Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate
Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority	County Council External Auditor
County Treasurer	

- 4.2 The primary purpose of the round table discussion is to discuss improvement priorities and capacity building needs. Most of the key improvement areas identified during the CPA assessment form part of the 2005/06 Service Plan. This stage of the process will refine this and the detailed CPA improvement plan will be presented to Members for approval. Some elements (e.g. Service and financial planning) will be incorporated within the County's CPA improvement plan. The remaining objectives will be programmed within the existing service planning and performance management arrangements of the Service. The final CPA report is available on the Audit Commission website,

<http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/fire/firecpa/scorecardsaz.asp>

William Brown
County Fire Officer

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Date 23rd August 2005