

8. Performance Assessment 2008

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members of progress made to date with the Fire Service Performance Framework for 2008.
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Background

2. Comprehensive Performance Assessment was introduced for Fire and Rescue Authorities in 2005 and has been acknowledged as a driver for improvement in the service. In order to measure improvement made since CPA the Audit Commission developed a performance management framework that built upon the CPA judgement and measured improvement, or regression from that baseline. This framework was introduced in July 2006.
3. The Performance Assessment Framework for 2008 consisted of three elements:-
 - A Direction of Travel Assessment. This assesses the authority against progress made since CPA.
 - A Use of Resources Assessment. This assesses the authority across a broad range of financial issues.
 - A Service Assessment. This assessment places emphasis on service delivery and includes a performance information element and an assessment of operational service delivery.

Reporting Process

4. The Audit Commission commenced work on H&WFRS Direction of Travel and Use of Resources Assessments in autumn 2008. This comprised of a rigorous evaluation of previously submitted self assessment documents, an extensive review of key evidence to support the self assessment documents and two on-site visits which involved 1-2-1 interviews with Authority Members and a cross section of staff.
5. At the time of preparing this report the Audit Commission has not published its findings however, initial feedback has been very positive and we look forward to receiving the Audit Commission's final judgements on 12th February 2009.
6. The results of the Performance Assessment will be presented at the Authority meeting. Members can obtain a full copy of the final report via the Audit Commission website www.audit-commission.gov.uk or the Service website www.hwfire.org.uk

Recommendation

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer recommends that the content of this report is noted.

Appendices

None

Background papers

1. Fire & Rescue Service Performance Framework 2006/07