

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Chief Fire Officer's Service Report

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the Authority of recent key developments and activities.
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Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the report be noted.

New Evesham Fire Station

2. On the morning of 12th December 2016, firefighters moved into their new and improved fire station in Abbey Road, which took just under 11 months to build.
3. Members of the public and approximately 30 retired firefighters watched on as parades took place at the old station in Merstow Green and then at the new station.
4. The new station, which was project managed by Place Partnership and built by Greswolde Construction, has two floors, three fire engine bays and a state-of-the-art strategic training facility.
5. The site in Merstow Green will now be developed into a new Waitrose store as part of the economic regeneration of the town.
6. An official opening of the station will take place on the morning of Thursday 16th March 2017.

The New Policing and Crime Act 2017

7. The Policing and Crime Act received Royal Assent on 31 January 2017.
8. The new legislation is focused on delivering further reforms to policing and enables important changes to the governance of fire and rescue services – with a stated aim to build capability, improve efficiency, increase public confidence and further enhance local accountability.
9. Two of the main provisions of the Act will be to place a duty on police, fire and ambulance services to work together, as well as enabling police and crime commissioners to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services where a local case is made.

10. In response to this legislation, a number of English Fire Authorities are proactively reviewing their current governance arrangements, with a view to reducing their membership size.

Home Safety Checks for Syrian Refugees

11. In partnership with Refugee Action, HWFRS will be undertaking Home Safety Checks at a number of properties in Herefordshire throughout February where recently arrived Syrian refugees have been resettled.
12. The Home Safety Checks will be carried out by our Community Safety Technicians, assisted by interpreters.

Contact Officer

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