

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.

Herefordshire Awards and Medals Ceremony

2. On 18 November, firefighters and Fire Service support staff from across the county received awards at the annual Herefordshire Medals and Awards Ceremony. The event, which was held at Hereford Town Hall, honoured staff for their outstanding service and commitment to the Fire Service.
3. During the ceremony, accolades were presented to employees by Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire Lady Susan Darnley, High Sheriff of Herefordshire Mr Bill Jackson, Town Mayor Cllr Jim Kenyon, Chairman of the Authority Cllr Derek Prodger MBE and Chief Fire Officer Nathan Travis. Herefordshire Fire Authority Members, the Chief Constable and representatives from West Midlands Ambulance Service also attended the ceremony.

CFA Conference

4. On 27 October, the Chairman and I attended the annual Combined Fire Authority conference in Bedfordshire. The event was well attended this year, with 19 out of the 23 CFAs represented – and the delegates were able to participate in a wide-ranging agenda that included a speech (followed by a Q&A session) from the new Police & Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, as well as updates regarding national work streams on the Retained Duty System, Apprenticeships, and the new Home Office Inspection regime.

World Rescue Challenge 2016

5. From 19-23 October 2016, talented firefighters from across the world gathered in Brazil for the annual World Rescue Challenge 2016. Two teams from HWFRS joined Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service in representing the UK after winning places in the national challenge earlier this year.

6. Both teams from HWFRS gave an outstanding performance, with the extrication team finishing in the top three in two of the key competition categories (second in the '20-minute RTC' and third in the 'Best Officer in Charge'), whilst the trauma team were placed in a very impressive third place overall.
7. The challenge spanned over several days and, during this time, the teams competed against other rescue professionals from around the entire world in various rescue scenarios. Each team was faced with three scenarios during the four day challenge, both of which involved live casualties.
8. The competition is the premier event for rescue and trauma teams across the world to innovate, exchange ideas and develop new techniques – allowing them to bring those new skills and knowledge back into their own services for the greater benefit of their local communities and their fellow firefighters.

Service Exercise Debrief

9. At the last Authority meeting it was suggested that Members might be interested in the outcomes of the Service Exercise debrief. A presentation will follow providing the key outcomes.

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