

Item 8

**Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
Annual Report**

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)**

26th July 2007

KEY ISSUE:

This report outlines the major strands of activity being undertaken within Surrey Heath by the Fire Service teams based at Camberley and Chobham Fire Stations.

SUMMARY:

The report contains information on the various activities undertaken by the Borough Team to reduce the risk from fire and road traffic to the residents of Surrey Heath, including direct contact public education programmes and campaigns.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee

- 1 Recognise the achievements of the Borough Teams at Camberley and Chobham.
- 2 Supports the achievement of the Retained duty personnel at Chobham Fire Station and acknowledge the availability offered by employers who release staff, and those who are self-employed. Recruitment is currently underway to increase the establishment from 12 to 15 personnel

Contact Details

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1 Surrey Heath continues to be one of the safest Boroughs in the County, which is reflected in the following performance figures, These figures relate to the reporting year April 2006 to March 2007.
 - The Service attended 403 calls to fires; this represents an increase of approximately 5% on the previous year's total of 381. This figure is still showing a downward trend over a 5 year period.

- Malicious false alarm calls were down approximately 20% from 27 to 22. This represents a reduction of approximately 14% over the previous two years.
- False alarms from Automatic Fire Detection systems increased by 17% from 288 to 336. This increase reflects the position across the Service. The Service is currently reviewing its strategy to reduce unwanted Automatic Fire Calls
- There was a reduction of 15% in deliberate fires, excluding vehicle fires, from 143 to 122.
- Deliberate fires in vehicles increased by 25% from 33 to 42. Although this would appear to be a significant increase, this figure is slightly below the 4 year average (44).

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Road Traffic Casualties

1. The Safe Drive Stay Alive initiative continues to grow in success with a number of schools eager to attend the stage production. In addition to the day shows, an additional show held in the evening is available for all community members. This proved very successful in 2006 and an additional date has been scheduled for November 2007
2. The programme for November has now been published, for which Tomlinscote School and Collingwood College have already booked. It is hoped that Kings International College and Gordon's School will follow.
3. In February 07, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service with partners held a public event within 'The Mall' Camberley with the objective of raising the awareness of the risk related to road use. The event involved positioning a car within 'The Mall', which had sustained serious front damage. This allowed members of the public to look closely at the vehicle and appreciate how vulnerable they would be, as a passenger when involved in an impact at speed.
4. The partnership consisted of the Police, Surrey Heath Safer Smarter Team and local businesses i.e., Carphone Warehouse, Mothercare and the AA. We are now planning to repeat the event in October 07 building on this success for which we also plan to involve local schools.

Schools' education programme

5. This is an ongoing programme of fire safety education for school children, with classroom-based input in years 2, 5, and 8. From October this year Firefighters from Camberley will be joining the Schools' Education Officer, on an ad hoc basis, to promote an increase in the use of smoke alarms in children's bedrooms. In year 6, additional input comes in the form of the Junior Citizens scheme, which is a two-week, multi-agency event.
6. In 2007, to date, the Service delivered safety advice to 875 year six pupils through the Junior Citizen model within the Surrey Heath area.

Firewise scheme

7. This scheme is aimed at young people who have displayed an unhealthy interest in fire, which has led or could lead to deliberate fire setting. It has

been running for many years with great success. In the year to end of March 2007 Surrey Heath had four referrals.

Firefighter for 2day

8. Support form Surrey Heath Local Committee has allowed us to expand our interaction with Young people of the Surrey Heath Community.
9. The initiative will consist of two days structured around raising the awareness of risks and implications of fire. Practical scenarios will also be included allowing the students to have hands on experience not only in pumping water but also Road Traffic Collision extrications. The first of these activities will run during the month of August at Camberley Fire Station and will be attended by 10 young people identified as suitable by the Youth Development Team.

Domestic Sprinklers

10. Smoke detection ownership within domestic premises continues to grow throughout the Borough however; in certain cases the actuation of the alarm may not be sufficient especially for those with mobility problems. It is with these community members in mind that we have been working hard to establish and promote the benefits of a domestic sprinkler system.
11. We are happy to say that Accent Peerless have agreed in principal for the first installation of this type within the County to be carried out within a domestic property. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will continue to work with Accent Peerless ensuring we identify a premises or premises which will offer maximum benefit to the occupiers.

Wildfire

12. The Service continues to work in close partnership with land managers throughout the county, with the objective of promoting prevention and intervention assistance.
13. In addition to the schools program a presentation has now been developed solely aim at wildfires. With the intension of operation crews delivering the presentation to school assemblies of year 8 on wards
14. Work is on going to enhance risk information of area's vulnerable to this type of incident. Creating comprehensive fire plans to be available to operational crews via the mobile data platform carried on all front line appliances.
15. The Service are currently reviewing the off road capability with the aim to improve the provision of fire fighting equipment.

CONSULTATION

16. The Service will consult with Members and Partners to ensure the community safety initiatives in Surrey Heath continue to target priority areas and contribute to our aim of making Surrey safer. Additionally, there may be issues not covered within this report that Members may wish to discuss further. Areas include flooding issues, road traffic casualty statistics and common land fires.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. None

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 18. All Surrey Fire and Rescue Service activity continues to support the principles of sustainable development, particularly in relation to road safety, common land fires and pollution.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 19. Initiatives and campaigns within Surrey Heath will contribute to a reduction in crime and disorder particularly in relation to arson and vehicle crime. For the year 2007/8 a Fire Service representative will chair the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 20. All initiatives, campaigns and operational procedures will be subject of an Equality Impact Assessment. There are no equality implications directly related to this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None

Number of Annexes: None