



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE SURREY HEATH

SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE'S BOROUGH PLAN FOR SURREY HEATH 2011/12

16 FEBUARY 2012

KEY ISSUE

The borough plan for 2011/12 is delivering community safety in Surrey Heath, helps meet the needs of the community and enhances the overall performance of Surrey Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS).

SUMMARY

SFRS in Surrey Heath continues to improve its performance, evidenced by implementation and development of projects to reduce the number of calls to automatic fire alarms, arson, road traffic collisions and dwelling fires. The projects continue to have an impact on Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's performance figures and improve community safety.

The borough plan for 2011/12 offers real improvement over previous years with targeted activities reflecting local need and community priorities.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Surrey Heath) is asked to:

- recognise the achievements of the borough teams within Surrey Heath and support their commitment to improve initiatives to reduce risk and make Surrey Heath safer through the delivery of the borough plan;
- note the targets and initiatives set within the Surrey Heath borough plan for 2011/12 and support the Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of this plan.

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Surrey Heath continues to be one of the safest boroughs in the county, which is reflected in the following performance figures, which relate to the reporting period April 2011 to December 2011.
- 1.2 The service has attended 42 calls to property fires in the reporting period to date. This represents an 18% decrease from the previous year's figure at this stage.
- 1.3 The number of fires in dwellings has fallen from 20 to 14 – a reduction of over 30%.
- 1.4 The number of fires in commercial premises has fallen from 4 to 2 – a 50% reduction.
- 1.5 The number of deliberate fires has fallen from 101 to 79. The number of deliberate fires in vehicles has fallen again and only 6 have been recorded in the 6 months to date.
- 1.6 The number of false alarms from automatic fire detection systems has risen slightly (up by 6 to 47) but this remains very low given the make up of Surrey Heath. The Service's call challenge and education initiatives will continue to be implemented to ensure this figure remains low.
- 1.7 The number of malicious false alarms is currently under target by 30% – only 4 have been recorded to date.
- 1.8 The four key areas for the year 2011/12 and the approach to reducing risk and increasing safety are described in detail in the Surrey Heath borough plan. These areas ensure that the borough team remains focused on improving performance against the key performance indicators and meeting locally identified needs in reducing risk.

2.0 ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Borough Plan

- 2.1 The borough plan has been reviewed and re-written to ensure that it reflects both Service and local needs and that it reflects how Surrey Fire and Rescue Service contribute to making the community safer in Surrey Heath.
- 2.2 The plan is divided into four sections – reduction in accidental dwelling fires, training and special services, education and prevention, and risk information and protection.

Accidental Dwelling Fires

- 2.3 Five targetted campaigns were carried out covering areas in Heatherside, Frimley, the Old Dean and Chobham. The events run in conjunction with our partners and deliver community safety in our most at risk areas.
- 2.4 We will also work with our partners (Accent Peerless and Age Concern) as well as deal with ad hoc requests for home fire risk checks to ensure that we fit at least 250 smoke detectors this year. Currently we are well over target as we have completed a total of 255, plus 2 campaigns of over 400 at each campaign.
- 2.5 We will also work hard on education initiatives to ensure that people are more aware of the risks in their own homes. On occasions this will be in a road where a fire has occurred when people are more aware of the everyday hazards that may exist in their homes.

Education / Prevention

- 2.6 Surrey Heath personnel will support fully both local and national campaigns aimed at reducing deaths and injuries on our roads.
- 2.7 We will ensure that one of the key messages delivered at the station open day is road safety.
- 2.8 Automatic fire alarms and malicious calls stop the Fire and Rescue Service from attending life threatening incidents, create a risk on our roads whilst an appliance is travelling to these incidents and impact on the environment.
- 2.9 As such we will run a number of Service lead initiatives in Surrey Heath aimed at reducing these calls. These will include monitoring automatic fire alarm calls and working with the top ten identified premises for the number of calls and working in partnership with local schools to reduce malicious calls.
- 2.10 Outdoor fire safety will be a key area for Surrey Heath in order to prevent the unnecessary damage that wildfires cause to the environment, our wildlife and their habitat.
- 2.11 We will also continue to ensure that all abandoned vehicles are removed and that derelict buildings are made safe and hence not an arson target or a hazard.
- 2.12 We will put resources into education initiatives such as visiting schools and youth groups and also run the first firefighter for a day in Surrey Heath.

- 2.13 We will support the five National Campaigns including candle safety and electrical safety.

Risk Information and Protection

- 2.14 We will gather risk information about premises in Surrey Heath to make them, their occupants and our firefighters safer. This will also ensure a more informed response to any incident at one our identified risk premises.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None.

5.0 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6.0 CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 SFRS is an active member of the Safer Surrey Heath Partnership and contributes to a range of initiatives and campaigns within Surrey Heath intended to achieve a reduction in crime and disorder, particularly in relation to arson and vehicle crime.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 All initiatives, campaigns and operational procedures will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The Committee will also note the support given to promoting self-reliance as set out in the preceding paragraphs.

8.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Surrey Heath Borough Plan will deliver community risk reduction, partnership working and other priorities within the Surrey Heath area.
- 8.2 The Committee is asked to note the targets and initiatives set within the Surrey Heath borough plan for 2011/12 and support the Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of this plan.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None