

**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (WAVERLEY)****SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
BOROUGH PLAN FOR WAVERLEY 2011-2012****KEY ISSUE:**

To report to the Committee on the Borough Plan for 2011/12 that will deliver community safety in Waverley and demonstrate the overall performance and activity of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) in the Borough.

**SUMMARY:**

SFRS in Waverley 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 the Service's performance figures and improve community safety.

The Borough Plan for 2011/12 continues to offer improvement over previous years with targeted activities reflecting local need and Service priorities.

Staff continue to use the flexibilities that are available to them via Limited Borough Autonomy to support safety initiatives across the borough.

The variable crewing staff at Haslemere continue to develop and implement a number of excellent community initiatives across the borough.

The Service is an active member of the Safer Waverley Partnership and continues to work with relevant agencies and services to promote community safety locally.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Local Committee (Waverley) is asked to:

1. Recognise the achievements of the borough teams within Waverley in 2011 /12 and support their commitment to improve initiatives to reduce risk and make Waverley safer through the delivery of the borough plan.
2. Note the targets and initiatives set within the Waverley borough plan for 2011/12 and support the Fire and Rescue Service in the delivery of this plan.
3. Support the achievements of the retained duty personnel at Godalming, Cranleigh, Dunsfold and Haslemere and acknowledge the availability offered by employers who release staff, and those who are self-employed.

**1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Waverley 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 January 2012.
- 1.2 The service has attended 12567 calls to fires in the reporting period to date. This represents a decrease from the previous year's figure at this stage: much of this, however, will be to the quieter than normal summer period where incidents of all type were below the norm.
- 1.3 The number of deliberate fires in both premises and vehicles has dropped from the previous reporting period and continues the downward trend in this type of fire in the borough.
- 1.4 The number of false alarms from automatic fire detection systems has fallen slightly from last year's total at this stage. Robust management of this type of call through the Service's call challenge and education initiatives will continue to be implemented to ensure this figure starts to fall again.
- 1.5 The number of malicious false alarms has also fallen. This does not represent a significant problem to the area and the borough team is monitoring the situation.
- 1.6 The four key areas for the year 2011/12 and the approach to reducing risk and increasing safety are described in detail in the Waverley Borough Plan. These areas ensure that the borough team remains focused on meeting local needs, improving performance against the performance indicators and that all of this is achieved in line with Surrey County Council values.

## **ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

### **2 Borough Plan**

- 2.1 The borough plan has been reviewed to ensure that it reflects both Service and local needs and that it reflects how Surrey Fire and Rescue Service contributes to the community in Waverley. The Plan was received by the Committee at its meeting on 17 June 2011 and can be viewed online at: <http://online.surreycc.gov.uk/legcom/CouncilP.nsf/f5fb086c73d64f3000256954004aed25/0f8c4ba0c78daf79802578a9002f4780?OpenDocument> .
- 2.2 The plan is divided into four sections – reduction in accidental dwelling fires, reduction in the number of road traffic collisions, reduction in the number of unwanted calls, reduction in the incidents of arson and general community risk reduction initiatives.

### **3. Accidental Dwelling Fires**

- 3.1 Three targeted campaigns are planned for Godalming, Farnham and Haslemere. These events will be run in conjunction with our partners and deliver community safety in our most at risk areas.
- 3.2 We will also work with our partners (Waverley Housing and Libraries) as well as deal with ad hoc requests for home fire risk checks to ensure that we fit at least 700 smoke detectors this year. To date we have fitted over 500 smoke detectors.
- 3.3 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.

### **4. Road traffic collision reduction**

- 4.1 Waverley personnel will support fully both local and national campaigns aimed at reducing deaths and injuries on our roads. The Service is active in the Safer Waverley Partnership's Casualty Reduction Action Group (CRAG), working with colleagues in the County Council and Surrey Police to promote good driving practice and raise the awareness of young and prospective drivers.
- 4.2 In conjunction with CRAG we will contribute to road user awareness days at four key schools within the area – Rodborough, Heath End, Glebelands and Woolmer Hill School.
- 4.3 **Ride it Right:** This successful event is aimed at motorbike riders of all ages and abilities. It brings together riders and local motorbike businesses and experts to share and event promoting safe and responsible use of

bikes in Surrey. Last year over 500 people attended and enjoyed a display of bikes and clothing, safety talks and road safety displays.

- 4.4 We will ensure that one of the key messages delivered at the station open day is road safety.
- 4.5 We will support the national drink drive and mobile phone awareness campaigns.

### **5. Unwanted Call Reduction**

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 As such we will run a number of initiatives in Waverley aimed at reducing these calls. These will include monitoring automatic fire alarm calls and working with the top ten identified premises and in partnership with local schools to reduce malicious calls.

### **6. Reduction in arson incidents**

- 6.1 We will run a number of joint inspections with the Waverley Borough Council waste management team in Farnham, Haslemere, Cranleigh, Godalming and Dunsfold.
- 6.2 Outdoor fire safety will be a key area for Waverley in order to prevent the unnecessary damage that wildfires cause to the environment, our wildlife and their habitat. We will therefore run campaigns aimed at educating the public in the areas of Sidney Wood, Frensham, Hankley, Winterfold and Hurtwood.
- 6.3 We will also look to ensure all abandoned vehicles are removed and that derelict buildings are made safe and hence not an arson target or a hazard.

### **7. Community Risk Reduction**

- 7.1 We will gather risk information about premises in Waverley 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.
- 7.2 We will put resources into education initiatives such as visiting schools and youth groups and also run eight "Firefighter For a Day" schemes in Waverley as well as three Youth Engagement Scheme (YES) sessions.
- 7.3 We will support the five National Campaigns including candle safety and electrical safety.

## **8 CONSULTATION**

- 8.1 The service will consult with members and partners to ensure the community safety initiatives in Waverley 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.

## **9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None

## **10 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 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.

## **11 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 SFRS is an active member of the Safer Waverley Partnership and contributes to a range of initiatives and campaigns within Waverley intended to achieve a reduction in crime and disorder particularly in relation to arson and vehicle crime.
- 11.2 The Waverley team is also contributing to the promotion of the self-reliance agenda by engaging with partners and developing schemes that encourage youth engagement, particularly in priority areas. An example is given in the following paragraph.
- 11.3 **Firefighter For A Day:** This is a one-day event that enables identified children to be given an intensive training day with fire service personnel. The day encourages discipline and teamwork and provides an opportunity for the participants to engage with strong role models. The first of these events focused on participants from Sandy Hill and The Chantrys in Farnham. This will then be expanded to encompass other identified areas within Waverley.

## **12 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 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.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Waverley Borough Plan 2011/12