

<b>WYFRA</b>	<b>FINANCE &amp; BEST VALUE COMMITTEE</b>	<b>28 APRIL 2006</b>	<b>ITEM NO</b>
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**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF FIRE SAFETY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** TO INFORM MEMBERS OF THE WORK OF THE REGEN 2000 "COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY AND ARSON REDUCTION PROJECT" WHICH ENDS 31 MARCH 2006

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT MEMBERS NOTE THE REPORT

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT DETAILS**

**EXEMPTION CATEGORY:** NONE

**ACCESS CONTACT OFFICER:** PETER McCREESH 01274 655721

**BACKGROUND PAPERS OPEN TO INSPECTION:**

DEC 2001 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

REF. APPROACH FROM REGEN 2000 FOR SUBMISSION BY THE AUTHORITY FOR SRB FUNDING

MAY 2002 FINANCE AND BEST VALUE COMMITTEE.  
REF. APPROVAL FOR BID SUBMISSION TO REGEN 2000

## **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service formed links with Regen 2000 (a regeneration partnership accountable to Bradford Metropolitan City Council) and commenced a Community Fire Safety and Arson Reduction Project in April 2003.
- 1.2 The partnership was seen as an ideal opportunity for the Service to instigate a community engagement programme that would benefit all parties concerned, especially the respective communities in the BD3 postcode area of Bradford.
- 1.3 Over £28 million has been allocated for the Regen 2000 area from the Government's Single Regeneration Budget over a seven-year period to 2007.

## **2 INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Regen 2000 area has been described as a place of substantial economic and social exclusion, with a higher than average number of:
  - Dwelling fires,
  - Deliberate car fires,
  - Malicious calls and an apparent lack of general fire safety awareness amongst residents.
- 2.2 The projects lifetime objectives were to:
  - Reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries by 40% within 5 years.
  - Reduce the number of accidental dwelling fires by 33% within 5 years.
  - Reduce the number of deliberate (car and other) fires by 50% within 5 years.
  - Ensure that every year 5-school pupil receives education in the dangers of fire.
  - Ensure that, at the end of the 3-year project, there are sufficient numbers of trained members of the community to continue fire safety awareness training.
- 2.3 In order to address the above, targets were agreed with Regen 2000. Table1 attached to this report shows the projects performance. Statistics for the year 2005/06 (up to the 28 February 2006) are as follows:
  - Dwelling fires – 32                      a reduction of 33%
  - Vehicle fires – 99                      a reduction of 59%
  - Hoax calls – 45                      a reduction of 38%
  - 1737 Home Fire Safety Checks in BD3 homes.

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### **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Authority has received £446,000 over the three-year period to support this project which ended on 31 March 2006.
- 3.2 The cost of continuing this work has been incorporated within the approved revenue budget.

### **4. EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The scope of the project was limited by Regen 2000 to the residents of the BD11 postcode area.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Community Fire Safety & Arson Reduction Team set up in 2003 funded via the Government's Single Regeneration Budget for 3 years has now come to an end.
- 5.2 The opportunity provided by this funding has allowed a dedicated fire safety team to be set up and concentrate its work in an area of multiple deprivation. The efforts of the team have resulted in significant reductions in fires and hoax calls. The team has provided the residents within the Regen area with essential fire safety education and fire detection.
- 5.3 The work carried out by the team will continue through the Bradford District Community Fire Safety Team.

**TABLE SHOWING OUTPUT TARGETS AND OUTPUTS ACHIEVED TO DATE.**

**Table 1**

<b>CODE</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Revised Output Targets</b>	<b>Actual Achievement to Feb 2006</b>	<b>% of Lifetime Target Achieved</b>
1A (i)	Jobs created	5.5	8.5*	154%
1D	Residents of the area gaining employment	2	3	150%
1J	Young people benefiting from fire safety education	10,000	11361	113%
2D	Businesses advised on fire safety matters	120	120	100%
5A(i)	No of individuals benefiting from community safety advice	17,000	29,596	174%
5A (ii)	5A(i) over 60	2,500	3236	129%
5A (iii)	5A(i) females	5,000	7685	154%
5C	CFS initiatives delivered	12	12	100%
5D (i)	Youth Crime prevention initiatives delivered	3	3	100%
5D (ii)	No attending 5D i	300	1063	354%
6B	Area of Land reclaimed for development	0.344	0.344	100%
7A (iii)	No of local people given access to new cultural community facilities	-	New Fire Station opens September 2006	Work in progress
7A (vi)	New Cultural facilities	1	New Fire Station opens September 2006	Work in progress
11B (ii)	No of information guides produced	1	2	200%
13D	Number of dwellings benefiting from fire safety improvements (Home Fire Safety Checks completed)	4,500	4564	101%

\* 3 members of the original Regen team are now employed elsewhere within West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

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