

<b>WYFRA</b>	<b>FULL AUTHORITY</b>	<b>15 February 2008</b>	<b>ITEM No.</b>
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REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
RESOURCES

TITLE OF REPORT: FIRE AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT 2007

PURPOSE OF REPORT: TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE FIRE  
AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE  
ASSESSMENT 2007 CARRIED OUT BY  
THE AUDIT COMMISSION

CONTACT OFFICER: ALISON DAVEY – 01274 655801  
CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER  
[alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.davey@westyorksfire.gov.uk)

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In 2005 all Fire and Rescue Services (FRS's) were subjected to a Comprehensive Performance Assessment, which assessed how well each FRS delivered services to local people and communities.
- 1.2 The assessment process was developed and overseen by the Audit Commission, which subsequently awarded each FRS a corporate assessment rating of excellent, good, fair, weak or poor. West Yorkshire FRS was awarded a rating of 'Good'.
- 1.3 In 2006 an overall assessment of FRS's performance was undertaken by the Audit Commission. Unlike the previous corporate assessment, this assessment included the following:
- Operational Service Assessment
  - Use of Resources Assessment
  - Direction of Travel Assessment
- 1.4 The Operational Service Assessment comprised of two judgements:
- an Operational Assessment of Service Delivery
  - an analysis of Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)

## 2.0 SERVICE ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 SERVICE ASSESSMENT 2006

- 2.2 In 2006 West Yorkshire FRS attained the maximum score of 4 – 'Performing Strongly' in respect of the Operational Assessment of Service Delivery element of the Service Assessment.

The Audit Commission then applied the scoring methodology shown below to the Performance Information element.

**Table 1**

<b>Performance Information score</b>	<b>Distribution of PI's</b>
<b>4</b>	No PIs at or below the lower threshold and 3 or more PIs at or above the upper threshold
<b>3</b>	No more than 1 of the PIs (except F3) at or below the lower threshold and 2 or more PIs at or above the upper threshold
<b>2</b>	Any other combination
<b>1</b>	3 or more PIs at or below the lower threshold

As a result, measurement of the Performance Information element of the Service Assessment attracted a score of 2 – 'Adequate Performance' - only at minimum requirements.

- 2.3 As the overall Service Assessment is calculated by combining both scores, West Yorkshire FRS's overall Service Assessment was determined as 3 'Performing Well' – consistently above minimum requirements.
- 2.4 **SERVICE ASSESSMENT 2007**
- 2.5 The same Service Assessment methodology has been applied by the Audit Commission for 2007, combining the Operational Assessment of Service Delivery score with the score for BVPI Performance Information, inclusive of three additional indicators.
- 2.6 The Operational Assessment of Service Delivery score, attained by each FRS in 2006, was used for the Service Assessment in 2007 and is to be used again in 2008. West Yorkshire FRS's Operational Assessment of Service Delivery score for 2007 therefore remains at the maximum level of 4 – 'Performing Strongly'.
- 2.7 However, following the introduction of the three additional indicators (and the new total of ten), the Audit Commission have applied the scoring methodology shown below for the Performance Information element.

**Table 2**

<b>Performance Information score</b>	<b>Distribution of PI's</b>
<b>4</b>	No PIs at or below the lower threshold and 35% or more PIs at or above the upper threshold
<b>3</b>	No more than 15% of the PIs (except F3) at or below the lower threshold and 25% or more PIs at or above the upper threshold
<b>2</b>	Any other combination
<b>1</b>	35% or more PIs at or below the lower threshold

- 2.8 Consequently, for 2007, West Yorkshire FRS's Performance Information score is 1 (35% or more performance indicators at or below the lower threshold).
- 2.9 Therefore, as the overall Service Assessment is calculated by combining both scores, the overall 2007 Service Assessment score for West Yorkshire FRS has been assessed as 2 'Adequate Performance' - only at minimum requirements.

### **3.0 IMPACT OF CHANGES TO THE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY ON THE PERFORMANCE INFORMATION ELEMENT**

- 3.1 The introduction of a further three performance indicators into the Performance Information element of the 2007 Service Assessment, whilst only allowing one more indicator to be below the lower threshold, has made it much more likely for metropolitan FRS's to receive a Performance Information score of 1.
- 3.2 Despite the addition of the new indicators, the maximum attainable Performance Information score for any FRS's, who have more than one indicator at or below the lower threshold, is still 2. This is irrespective of the fact that their other eight indicators may be above the respective upper threshold values.
- 3.3 The requirement to have at least four (instead of the previous three) performance indicators at or above the upper threshold in order to attain a Performance Information score of 4, effectively prohibits those FRS's with any real concentration of risk from achieving such a score.

#### 4.0 OVERVIEW OF 2007 PERFORMANCE INFORMATION ELEMENT AND PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

4.1 Table 3 (below) summarises the Performance Information indicators used for the 2007 Service Assessment. New and amended indicators have been highlighted.

**Table 3**

<b>Audit Commission reference</b>	<b>Performance indicator descriptor</b>	<b>Data Period*</b>
F1	Primary fires per 10,000 population	2004-2007 (3 years)
F2	Accidental dwelling fires per 10,000 population	2004-2007 (3 years)
F3	Deaths arising from accidental dwelling fires per 100,000 population	See 4.2 overleaf
F4	Injuries arising from accidental fires per 100,000 population	2004-2007 (3 years)
F5	Percentage of accidental dwelling fires confined to room of origin	2004-2007 (3 years)
F7	Deliberate primary fires, including vehicles, per 10,000 population	See 4.3 overleaf
F8	False alarms caused by automatic fire detection per 1,000 non-domestic properties; and the percentage with more than one attendance	2005-2007 (2 years)
F9	The number of calls to malicious false alarms per 1,000 population; and percentage of malicious false alarms attended	2005-2007 (2 years)
F11	Fires in non-domestic properties per 1,000 non-domestic properties	2005-2007 (2 years)
F13	Percentage of fires attended in dwellings in which no smoke alarm was fitted	2005-2007 (2 years)

\* Performance has been calculated by using average performance against BVPIs over a 2, 3 or 5 year data period.

- 4.2 Indicator F3 has been determined by utilising data from 2002 to 2007 (5 years) and is subject to special treatment, whereby failure to exceed the specified lower threshold automatically limits the Performance Information score to a maximum of 2.
- 4.3 Indicator F7 represents progress toward the national target of a 10% reduction in deliberate primary fires upon the base-line figure (taken from 2001/02). An average reduction of 1.25% from the baseline figure is required each year to meet this target.
- 4.4 Table 4 (below) identifies West Yorkshire FRS's 2007 performance in respect of the performance indicators and the relevant threshold levels for each individual indicator.
- 4.5 Performance indicators F1, F2, F4 and F9 are inclusive of deprivation adjustments and are denoted in Table 4 by the symbol #.

**Table 4**

Indicator	Upper and Lower Threshold Values	WYFRS Performance	WYFRS Rating	
F1	Upper 7.5 Lower 15.2	0.68 #	Upper	
F2	Upper 5.2 Lower 9.9	4.06 #	Upper	
F3	Upper 0.5 Lower 0.625	0.66	Lower	
F4	Upper 2.0 Lower 6.0	4.71 #	Middle	
F5	Upper 91.3% Lower 89.6%	91.57%	Upper	
F7	Upper: Net reduction of 7.5% from 2001/02 Lower: No reduction from 2005/06	60% reduction from 2001/02	Upper	
F8(a)	Upper 74.9 Lower 110.1	113.4	Lower	Lower
F8(b)	Upper 53.6% Lower 74.9%	73.8	Middle	
F9(a)	Upper 0 Lower 0.3	0.78 #	Lower	Lower
F9(b)	Upper 41.3% Lower 72.4%	42.80%	Middle	
F11	Upper 10.9 Lower 15.2	10.65	Upper	
F13	Upper 40.3% Lower 54.1%	57.45%	Lower	

- 4.6 Performance against the new indicators introduced for the 2007 Service Assessment has largely been below the lower threshold levels set by the Audit Commission. The one exception to this has been the performance against indicator F11 (Fires in non-domestic properties per 1,000 non-domestic properties).
- 4.7 Performance against Indicator F8 was partially utilised in the 2006 Service Assessment where it was represented by indicator F6 (false alarms caused by automatic fire detection per 1,000 non-domestic properties).

## 5.0 DIRECTION OF TRAVEL 2007

- 5.1 The Direction of Travel assessment indicates the progress being made, or otherwise, to achieve improvement.
- 5.2 In 2006 West Yorkshire FRS achieved a Direction of Travel statement of 'Improving Strongly'. In 2007 the Audit Commission has awarded West Yorkshire FRS with the statement 'Improving Well'.

## 6.0 USE OF RESOURCES 2007

- 6.1 The Use of Resources assessment looks at
- financial accounting and reporting arrangements
  - how well the Authority plans and manages its finances
  - whether the Authority achieves value for money
- 6.2 In the 2007 Use of Resources assessment West Yorkshire FRS has **improved from 3 – 'Performing Well' to 4 – 'Performing Strongly'** and is the only FRS in the country to have improved from 3 to 4 in this year's assessment. It is one of only four FRS's in the country to be at the **'Performing Strongly'** level.
- 6.3 A summary of the overall performance for West Yorkshire FRS is attached along with the Audit Commission Fire and Rescue Performance Assessment National Report, which provides information regarding all fire authorities performances.