

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CABINET PANEL****WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2015****COMMUNITY PROTECTION DIRECTORATE Q2 2015/16 PERFORMANCE UPDATE***Report of the Director of Community Protection (Chief Officer)*

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Executive Member: Richard Thake, Community Safety & Waste Management

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To provide the Cabinet Panel with an overview of Community Protection Directorate performance to the end of Q2 2015/16.

Please note that a more detailed report will be published in due course and this overview contains performance information that is available at the time of writing, which is primarily Fire and Rescue performance data.

**2. Summary**

- 2.1 Areas where performance has not met target and is more than 5% worse than the same period last year include:

- Non-domestic premises fires
- False alarms attended due to automatic fire alarms (AFAs)

Areas where performance is worse than last year but performance has been as anticipated and the target met are:

- Deliberate fires (arson)
- Primary fires
- Secondary fires

Areas where performance has shown notable improvement include:

- Road traffic collisions attended
- Shifts lost to sickness
- Deaths and injuries from primary fire

It should be noted that generally the number of calls to Fire and Rescue has been on a downward trend for a number of years. The continuation of this trend will become increasingly difficult to maintain in the future.

### 3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Cabinet Panel notes the performance summary for the Community Protection Directorate in the year to the end of Q2 2015/16 and note that the full mid-year report will be published in due course.

### 4. Background

#### *Primary Fires*

The number of primary fires (a fire which involves property e.g. buildings, crops, equipment etc) attended **increased by 6** from the same period last year, up from **671** in Q2 2014-15 to **677** in Q2 2015-16. This represents a **slight increase of 0.9%** overall and slightly exceeds, by one, the target of no more than **676** for the quarter. Significantly dwelling fires **reduced by 12.4%** compared to the previous year.

#### *Deaths from Fire*

There has been **one death** in the year to the end of Q2 where the cause of death has been attributed directly to fire. It is believed that the female victim died in a house fire in Potters Bar in July as a result of being overcome by gas, smoke or fumes. However this death has not yet been confirmed as a 'fire fatality' by the coroner. If confirmed this would represent a **decrease of 2** compared to year to the end of Q2 2014/15 when **3 confirmed fire fatalities** were recorded

#### *Injuries from Fire*

Here the definition 'Primary Fire Injury' is an injury that was fire related where the victim was conveyed to hospital as a result. The figures do not include first aid or precautionary checks given at the scene. In the year to the end of 2015/16 there have been **17** injuries resulting from primary fires which is **8 less** than the same period last year and is **11** below the target of no more than **28**.

#### *Deliberate Fires*

Overall deliberate fires have **risen by 11.7%** when compared to the same period last year, up from **582** in Q2 14/15 to **650** in Q2 15/16. However the target of no more than **664** deliberate fires was achieved.

Whilst the overall number of deliberate primary fires has **risen by**

**13.2%** compared to last year (**up** from **159** to **180**), the number of deliberate dwelling fires has **decreased** by **45%** from **20** in Q2 2014/15 to **11** Q2 2015/16. Deliberate secondary fires **rose** by **11.1%** over the period from **423** in 2014/15 to **470** in 2015/16.

### ***Secondary Fires***

The number of secondary fires attended (a fire of no discernible value or ownership i.e. scrubland, grassland, rubbish etc) **increased** by **47** or **7.0%** from **668** in Q2 2014/15 to **715** in Q2 2015/16. Performance against target remains good at **2.5%** below the Q2 target of no more than **733** secondary fires.

### ***Non-Domestic Premises Fires***

Fires attended in non-domestic premises (fires in buildings that are not dwellings) **rose** from **93** in the year to the end of Q2 2014/15 to **98** to the end of Q2 2015/16, a **rise** of **5** fires or **5.4%** and the target of no more than **81** fires was **not met**.

### ***False Alarms caused by Automatic Fire Alarms***

In April 2014 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service implemented a new policy to change the way the Service responds to automatic fire alarms (AFAs). The policy aims to reduce the number of false alarms attended by the Service resulting from automatic fire alarms. As of 1 April 2014 the Service stopped automatically responding to calls from automatic fire alarm systems in most business premises between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, unless a fire is confirmed by further information from the premises. During 2014/15 the policy proved extremely successful in reducing the number of attendances to automatic fire alarms which turn out to be a false alarm and the Service experienced an overall reduction of 14.5%.

In the year to the end of Q2 2015/16 there has been an overall **rise of 7.6%** in the number of false alarms attended from **1,194** in Q2 14/15 to **1,285** in Q2 15/16. The number of automatic fire alarms in domestic premises has **risen** by **6.1%**. Whilst the number of automatic fire alarms in non-domestic premises (the focus of the new policy) has **risen** by **8.8%**.

### ***Road Traffic Collisions***

The Fire and Rescue Service continue to be called out to rescue significantly more people from Road Traffic Collisions (RTCs) than from fires and around ten times more people are killed on Hertfordshire's roads than in fires. In Q2 2014/15 HFRS attended **212** Road Traffic Collisions, a **decrease** of **9.8%** on last year when **235** Road Traffic Collisions were attended during the same period.

### ***Sickness Levels***

The Directorate has experienced a significant reduction in sickness levels. The number of shifts lost to sickness for uniformed personnel **fell** by **1.19** shifts per person from **8.07** at the end of Q2 14/15 to **6.88** shifts per person at the end of Q2 15/16. Levels of sickness for Directorate non-uniformed personnel have also fallen significantly. Please note that sickness is measured on a 12 month rolling average.