



Consultation Documents and Future Events

Over the past few months Communities and Local Government and the Audit Commission have released a number of documents for consultation. We thought it would be beneficial to bring these documents to your attention, and provide a brief summary of what each is looking at. On page 2 you will also see an calendar of events we are sponsoring.

We hope you find this useful, as always if you have any questions please let us know.



Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2008-2011

The draft National Framework was published for consultation on **14 November 2007**, and outlines what the Government sees to be the key priorities and objectives for the FRSs over the coming years. The document makes clear what is expected from FRSs, and what support the Government will provide.

FRSs have until 6 February 2008 to submit a consultation response to CLG, either online, by e-mail or by letter (please see website for address).

[Download Fire & Rescue Service National Framework 2008-2011](#)

The South - East Fire Improvement Partnership was formed in January 2006 and is made up of the 9 Fire & Rescue Services in the South - East. Work of the partnership is funded by Communities & Local Government, and the Local Government Association through Capacity Building Funds.
RMB-JAN1608R08.pdf

Contacts

James Finch: james.finch@kent.fire-uk.org
01622 698 453

Phil Dickens: phil.dickens@kent.fire-uk.org
01622 698 459

Emily Baker: emily.baker@kent.fire-uk.org
01622 698 410

National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of definitions – Draft for Consultation

On **8 November 2007** the Government published the single set of national indicators that will underpin the new performance framework. Consultation on the detailed definitions of these indications is now open to ensure that the methodology for measuring is robust at a local level. The consultation is seeking views of the methodology, how often authorities should be reporting and the data source of each indicator; they are keen to remind us that the consultation is not aimed at seeking views on whether the indicators should be used.

Responses to consultation can be submitted to CLG online, by e-mail or by letter until 21 December 2007 (please see website for address).

[Download National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of definitions – Draft for Consultation.](#)

Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy: 2008-2018

On **14 November 2007** CLG published the draft Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy for 2008 – 2018. The document covers all strands of diversity, setting out the key priority areas which require action. It is hoped that this strategy will help meet the challenge of delivering cultural change within FRSs.

FRSs have until 6 February 2008 to submit consultation response to CLG, this can be done by e-mail or in writing (please see website for address).

[Download the draft Fire and Rescue Service Equality and Diversity Strategy: 2008-2018.](#)

Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance: Draft for Consultation

CLG published the draft Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance for consultation on **20 November 2007**. The draft document provides guidance to local authorities and partners on how to improve their communities. It covers Local Strategic Partnerships, Sustainable Communities Strategies, Local Areas Agreements and the revised best value regime.

The closing date for consultation is 12 February 2008; responses can be submitted to CLG online, by e-mail or in writing (please see website for address).

[Download Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities Statutory Guidance: Draft for Consultation.](#)

A Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service

Consultation on the proposed Centre of Excellence for Fire and Rescue Services was launched on **26 October 2007**. The document outlines the suggested key functions of the Centre of Excellence, estimated costs and funding, along with ideas of the new organisation's status and governance arrangements. The formation of a Centre of Excellence for FRs is dependent upon this outcome of this consultation.

FRs can respond to consultation by e-mail or in writing (please see website for address).

Responses must be submitted to CLG by 31 January 2008.

[Download 'A Centre of Excellence for the Fire and Rescue Service'.](#)

Future Events

Delivery Seminar: Making the best of the duty to cooperate - IDeA, 24 January 2008 (Liverpool)

Events A New Deal for Local Devolution - LGA, 22 January 2008 (Central London)

Working with the New Performance Framework - 5 February 2008 (Central London)

LGA Annual Fire Conference and exhibition - LGA, 11 - 12 March 2008 (Royal Court Hotel, Coventry)

For more information on these events, or details on how to book please contact a member of the Improvement Team

Audit Commission Comprehensive Area Assessments

On **19 November 2007** the Audit Commission, with partners, published the joint inspectorate consultation on the Comprehensive Areas Assessment (CAA). The document asks for views on a number of issues including: the assessment of risk; how the elements of CAA fit together; the evidence to be used to make an assessment; how it fits with other performance documents, sustainable communities and LAAs; and the role of regional Government Offices.

Consultation of the Comprehensive Area Assessment **will close on 15 February 2008**. Responses can be submitted to the Audit Commission by e-mail or by letter (please see website for address)..

[Download Audit Commission Comprehensive Area Assessments](#)

The Audit Commission is also holding a series of workshops on the CAAs during January and February next year. The one for the south east is scheduled for 25 January 2008 in Royal Berkshire. For more information please visit the [Audit Commission's Events Site](#).

Use of Resources 2009

The Audit Commission is currently consulting on its proposed approach to use of resources, including the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) for 2009 assessments. This will be one element of the new CAA framework. Consultation, which opened on **19 November 2007**, is looking for local authorities views on the proposed KLOEs and the ways in which scores will be generated.

FRs have until 15 February 2008 to submit their response. This can be done by letter (please see website for address). or through the online response form.

[Download Use of Resources 2009](#)

