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This circular is	For information	No response required	
This circular is	Relevant to the National Framework		
Status	This circular provides information on research commissioned by Communities and Local Government (CLG) on property asset management in the Fire and Rescue Service and a survey being undertaken by CIPFA.		

Asset Management Research and Survey

Issued by:

Julian Baldwin

Finance and Performance

Addressed to:

**The Chair of the Fire and Rescue Authority
The Chief Executive of the County Council
The Clerk to the Fire and Rescue Authority
The London Commissioner
The Chief Fire Officer**

Please forward to:

**Directors of Finance
Asset and Property Managers**

Summary

This circular provides information on research commissioned by Communities and Local Government (CLG) on property asset management in the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS).

For further information, contact:

Julian Baldwin
Finance and Performance
3/E2, Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU

Direct line **0303 4442966**

E-mail julian.baldwin@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Website www.communities.gov.uk

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Effective asset management has a key role to play in helping Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) to deliver improved value for money and cost efficiency. With the support of FRS partners Communities and Local Government (CLG) is commissioning research on property asset management in the FRS in England. This will provide an improved evidence base on overall property asset management planning within the FRS, provide feedback to FRAs and a basis to identify asset management good practice and support for improvement.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Effective asset management can support FRS objectives to deliver cost savings, take forward IRMP implementation, improve facilities and meet carbon reduction targets. CLG held an asset management workshop in Sept 2009 and there was a high level of interest from the FRS. Following this we have sought to support the development of a FRS asset management network and this is currently underway.

3.0 The Survey

- 3.1 In 2006 CLG, working with the FRAs, reviewed all Fire and Rescue Service assets. This new survey will look to both update the property element of the data and to review FRAs Property Asset Management Plans in terms of content and quality.
- 3.2 CIPFA has been commissioned to undertake the review and will start the data gathering exercise in late May. A key objective is to ensure the survey does not place an excessive burden on FRAs. The work will centre solely on property assets, unlike the 2006 data collection which included all assets such as vehicles and IT.

4.0 Benefits

- 4.1 Each FRA will have the opportunity to receive feedback aimed at encouraging improved performance in Asset Management Planning. This data will be used to inform any future work to support continued improvement working with the sector, as such accurate information will be of benefit to the FRS and CLG.
- 4.2 The research will also produce asset management good practice learning in order to support the future development of effective asset management in the FRS and a report will be published following completion of the research.

5.0 Timescale:

- 5.1 The timescale for this work will be 3 months and the table below sets out the timetable:

Milestone	Planned Delivery Date
Start asset data collection	May
Review data and AMPs etc.	Late June
Feedback to FRAs on AMP quality etc.	July

6.0 Participation in the Asset Management Research and Survey

6.1 CIPFA will be contacting Asset Managers directly regarding their participation in the Survey, and we would appreciate a swift response from Fire & Rescue Authorities.

7.0 Further information

- 7.1 If you have any queries about any of the above, please contact Julian Baldwin on 030344 42966 or e-mail julian.baldwin@communities.gsi.gov.uk
- 7.2 Queries on the CIPFA review itself should be addressed to David Bentley, Head of Asset Management, CIPFA Property on 07710 368711 or e-mail david.bentley@cipfa.org.uk
- 7.3 A new Network group has been established under the chairmanship of Mr Andrew Stevens of South Yorkshire FRS, which aims to bring together Asset Managers from a wide selection of English FRAs to improve asset management plans. For further information please contact: astevens@syfire.org.uk
- 7.4 The Asset Management data collection involves a survey being undertaken by CIPFA to update the property asset management data. This data will belong to the CLG who will publish the report and retains intellectual property rights.

Julian Baldwin

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