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This circular is	<b>For guidance</b>	No response required	
This circular is	<b>Relevant to the National Framework</b>		
Status	<b>Third batch of case studies giving examples of efficiency gains and of notable practice. Follows batch two issued as annex to FRS circular 31/2006.</b>		

## *Notable Practice Guidance Case Studies (Batch 3)*

### Issued by:

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### 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 Clerk to the Combined Fire and Rescue Authority**  
**The Commissioner of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority**  
**The Chief Fire Officer**

### Summary

This circular accompanies a third batch of case studies, bringing together examples of efficiency gains and of notable practice in relation to procurement, financial planning and performance management. Earlier batches of case studies were published on 23 March (as the second annex to Fire and Rescue Service Circular 14/2006) and 7 June 2006 (annexed to FRS Circular 31/2006).

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### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The first two batches of case studies were published on 23 March 2006 (as the second annex to Fire and Rescue Service Circular 14/2006) and 7 June 2006 (annexed to FRS Circular 31/2006), respectively. The intention of the case studies is to provide Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) with examples of initiatives being pursued in other FRAs with a view to encouraging authorities to consider different approaches which might be applicable to their own situation.

### 2.0 Batch 3

- 2.1 This third batch of case studies brings together examples from a range of sources including efficiency gains, notable practice identified by the Audit Commission and procurement examples provided by Regional Management Boards and FiReBuy. Case studies from two district councils have also been included on performance management to give a flavour of approaches which have worked in other local government services and which we hope may encourage FRAs to consider wider approaches to common performance issues. As with earlier batches, a working group including DCLG, the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA), the Local Government Association (LGA), the Fire Service College and the Audit Commission has considered the range of examples selected for publication. These case studies are jointly badged by DCLG, CFOA and the LGA.
- 2.2 Some of the case studies we have included are of projects that are only starting to be implemented, so the full impact of outcomes are yet to be evaluated. Others represent opportunities only available in specific circumstances that may not be applicable to all FRAs, so cannot be described as universally transferable. They cannot therefore be described as "best" or "good" practice at this stage. As for batches 1 and 2, the intended purpose of making these case studies widely available is to increase awareness of innovation across the fire and rescue service.

### 3.0 Batch 4

- 3.1 We will be issuing a further batch of case studies, focussing on Community Fire Safety and partnership working, early in the autumn.

**Gillian Verrall**

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