

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

6 November 2008

Present:-

Councillors Fry (Chair), Foggin, S. Hughes, Leaves, Manning and Mrs. Parsons (vice Dyke).

Apologies:-

Councillors Dyke and Tully

***CSCPC/16. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2008 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/17. Service Activity during recent Flooding Conditions**

(An item taken in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972).

The Chair determined that this should be considered as a matter of urgency to enable the Committee to be apprised at the earliest opportunity of Service activities during the recent adverse weather conditions.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) informed the Committee, for information, on activities (including utilisation of Urban Search and Rescue facilities) undertaken by the Service during the recent freak weather conditions that had resulted in extensive flooding in the Ottery St. Mary area.

***CSCPC/18. Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Committee were invited to consider whether they had any **personal/personal and prejudicial interests** in items as set out on the agenda for the meeting and declare any such interests at this time. No interests were declared.

***CSCPC/19. Operations and Resilience Summary Update**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) (CSCP/08/4) summarising progress to date in relation to operational and resilience activities as featured in the Corporate and Departmental plans. The majority of the work sought to improve service delivery arrangements through a more flexible approach to resource disposition and use (both staff and equipment/appliances) to most appropriately address identified community risk.

The report covered the following areas:-

- preliminary work to examine current wholetime and day crewed shift arrangements, in line with National Framework expectations, to ensure flexibility and targeting of resources to most appropriately meet the challenges faced by a modern fire and rescue service;

- progress in reviewing the distribution of emergency response resources in light of the recently-approved new Service response standards;
- progress with work to harmonise and update arrangements for operational risk information to ensure full compatibility with the Firelink and FiReControl (Regional Control Centre) projects;
- the drafting of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Service and the South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST), providing a framework of operation (including funding arrangements) for the co-responder scheme;
- progress in introducing a specialist rescue capability including, amongst other things, water rescue;
- progress with the National Resilience Programme and the hosting by the Service of associated facilities (e.g. Urban Search and Rescue [USAR] teams; high volume pumps);
- the work of the Service with Local Resilience Forums under the provisions of the Civil Contingencies Act;
- audit arrangements put in place by the Service to assess station preparedness for operational incidents and performance at operational incidents.

Members commented in particular on the work being undertaken to harmonise and update operational risk information and asked to be provided with further details on this.

RESOLVED

- (a) that a report be submitted to the next meeting detailing work being undertaken on the harmonisation and updating of operational risk assessments;
- (b) that, subject to (a) above, the report be noted.

***CSCPC/20. Regional Control Centre Update**

The Committee received **FOR INFORMATION** a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) on the current position in relation to the FiReControl Project and covering, amongst other things:-

- publication of the Part 1 Business Case, to which the Authority had responded. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) had indicated that it would not reply separately to representations made by individual fire and rescue services but would in due course be releasing a composite response;
- the announcement by CLG of a re-alignment of the project dates and the potential impact of this on the legacy control systems of individual fire and rescue services;
- the potential impact of the date re-alignment on the Service Project Team, taking account also of normal staff movements and retirements;

- benefits to accrue from the project, including enhancements to data availability at operational incidents via mobile data terminals in emergency appliances and precise appliance location via global positioning technology.

***CSCPC/21. Retained Duty System (RDS) Review - Update**

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Operations) withdrew this item pending further management discussions and the submission of details to a future meeting.

*** DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.06hours