



# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>CSCP/10/2</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>29 JANUARY 2010</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>ACFO (SUPPORT SERVICES)</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	That the progress made on the review of the Partnership Framework be noted.
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	The successful introduction of the Partnership Framework has been supplemented with the commissioning of a full review of the Framework and sampling of one existing partnership and one proposed partnership. I&DeA has been commissioned to carry out both the review and the sampling exercise. The review has now been completed and is being cross matched to the existing Framework. The partnerships for sampling have been identified and approval given by partners for their involvement. Work has commenced to ensure all relevant information is available for the sampling exercise to be meaningful.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	The review requires the involvement of officer time, it is anticipated that this will be one day preparation, one day meeting with I&DeA £9,000 consultancy fee (I&DeA)
<b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	Not applicable  The review and sampling will inform the partnership arrangements the Service undertakes with our communities and are intended to improve community engagement
<b>APPENDICES</b>	None
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Partnership Framework

1. **BACKGROUND**

1.1 At the meeting of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority held on 27 May 2009 (Minute DSFRA/106 refers) the Partnership Framework was approved. The Framework was designed to secure sound governance arrangements for partnership working and to ensure that the Service engaged with strategic partnerships that are fit for purpose and able to meet the business objectives within the Corporate and Group Plans. To test the new arrangements, a comprehensive review of the Framework against a nationally recognised model was also approved.

1.2 Given the existing relationship between the Service and the I&DeA through the South West Regional Improvement and Excellence Programme, it was determined that their experience of partnerships and ability to commit to the review made them ideal to complete the review and accordingly, they were commissioned to complete a review of the existing partnership framework and to sample the arrangements.

1.3 Torbay Local Strategic Partnership was selected as an existing partnership where the Service have extensive relationships with a variety of other partners and would therefore provide a good test of the partnership arrangements. To complement this, a proposed partnership with Devon and Cornwall Probation Service in Exeter was identified as being suitable for testing the partnership start up arrangements.

2. **PROGRESS TO DATE**

2.1 The review has been received and evaluated, the recommendations will be incorporated into an updated Partnership Framework. This will then be used to carry out the sampling of our partnerships, the results of which will be used to quality assure the framework document and form the basis of guidance for other partnerships that do not have strategic importance to the Service.

2.2 In addition to this work in reviewing our partnership arrangements, the framework is already providing guidance to officers involved in partnerships, allowing them to ensure that the partnership arrangements are in accordance with the Services core values and Corporate Plan.

2.3 Preparations are underway to provide I&DeA with the evidence of the partnership structure for Torbay LSP and our involvement with this partnership. The business case for the proposed partnership with the Probation Service has been prepared and will be submitted to I&DeA in the near future.

2.4 Progress reports will be submitted to the Committee in due course.

3. **RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That the progress made on the review of the Partnership Framework be noted.

**PETE SMITH**  
**ACFO (Support Services)**