

**M. Pearson
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

**To: The Chair and Members of the
Community Safety & Corporate
Planning Committee (see below)**

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COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE
(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

Thursday 7 July 2011

A meeting of the Community Safety and Corporate Planning Committee will be held on the above date, **commencing at 10:00 hours in Conference Room B in Somerset House, Service Headquarters** to consider the following matters.

M. Pearson
Clerk to the Authority

AGENDA

1. **Election of Chair**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 13 January 2011 attached (Page 1).
4. **Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

Items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

5. **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any **personal/personal and prejudicial interests** in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and declare any such interests at this time. *Please refer to the Note 2 at the end of this agenda for guidance on interests.*

6. **Election of Vice Chair**

PART 1 – OPEN COMMITTEE

7. **Specialist Rescue - Update**

Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Support) (CSCPC/11/3) attached (page 4)

PART 2 – ITEMS WHICH MAY BE TAKEN IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Nil

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership:-

Councillors Leaves (Chair), Brooksbank, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Healey and Woodman

Substitute Members

Members are reminded that, in accordance with Standing Order 36, the Clerk (or his representative) MUST be advised of any substitution prior to the start of the meeting.

NOTES

1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact Sam Sharman on the telephone number shown at the top of this agenda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

What Interests do I need to declare in a meeting?

As a first step you need to declare any personal interests you have in a matter. You will then need to decide if you have a prejudicial interest in a matter.

What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if it relates to any interests which you must register, as defined in Paragraph 8(1) of the Code.

You also have a personal interest in any matter likely to affect the well-being or financial position of:-

- (a) you, members of your family, or people with whom you have a close association;
- (b) any person/body who employs/has employed the persons referred to in (a) above, or any firm in which they are a partner or company of which they are a director;
- (c) any person/body in whom the persons referred to in (a) above have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £25,000; or
- (d) any body of which you are a Member or in a position of general control or management and which:-
 - you have been appointed or nominated to by the Authority; or
 - exercises functions of a public nature (e.g. a constituent authority; a Police Authority); or
 - is directed to charitable purposes; or
 - one of the principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

more than it would affect **the majority** of other people in the Authority's area.

Anything that could affect the quality of your life (or that of those persons/bodies listed in (b) to (d) above) either positively or negatively, is likely to affect your/their "well being". If you (or any of those persons/bodies listed in (b) to (d) above) have the potential to gain or lose from a matter under consideration – to a **greater extent** than **the majority** of other people in the Authority's area - you should declare a personal interest.

What do I need to do if I have a personal interest in a matter?

Where you are aware of, **or ought reasonably to be aware of**, a personal interest in a matter you must declare it when you get to the item headed "Declarations of Interest" on the agenda, or otherwise as soon as the personal interest becomes apparent to you, **UNLESS** the matter relates to or is likely to affect:-

- (a) any other body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Authority; or
- (b) any other body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g. membership of a constituent authority; other Authority such as a Police Authority);

of which you are a Member or in a position of general control or management. In such cases, provided you do not have a prejudicial interest, you need only declare your personal interest if and when you speak on the matter.

Can I stay in a meeting if I have a personal interest?

You can still take part in the meeting and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a prejudicial interest.

What is a prejudicial interest?

Your personal interest will also be a **prejudicial** interest if **all** of the following conditions are met:-

- (a) the matter is not covered by one of the following exemptions to prejudicial interests in relation to the following functions of the Authority:-
 - statutory sick pay (if you are receiving or entitled to this);
 - an allowance, payment or indemnity for members;
 - any ceremonial honour given to members;

- setting council tax or a precept; **AND**
- (b) the matter affects your financial position (or that of any of the persons/bodies as described in Paragraph 8 of the Code) or concerns a regulatory/licensing matter relating to you or any of the persons/bodies as described in Paragraph 8 of the Code); **AND**
- (c) a member of the public who knows the relevant facts would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?

If you have a prejudicial interest in a matter being discussed at a meeting, you must declare that you have a prejudicial interest (and the nature of that interest) as soon as it becomes apparent to you. You should then leave the room unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter by statutory right or otherwise. If that is the case, you can also attend the meeting for that purpose.

You must, however, leave the room **immediately after you have finished speaking (or sooner if the meeting so decides)** and you cannot remain in the public gallery to observe the vote on the matter. Additionally, you must not seek to **improperly influence** a decision in which you have a prejudicial interest.

What do I do if I require further guidance or clarification on declarations of interest?

If you feel you may have an interest in a matter that will need to be declared but require further guidance on this, please contact the Clerk to the Authority – preferably before the date of the meeting at which you may need to declare the interest. Similarly, please contact the Clerk if you require guidance/advice on any other aspect of the Code of Conduct.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

13 January 2011

Present:-

Councillors Leaves (Chair), Manning (Vice Chair), Bown (vice Healey), Eastman, Foggin, Fry and Woodman

Apologies:-

Councillor Healey

***CSCPC/7. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2010 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/8. Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had any personal/personal and prejudicial interests in items as set out on the agenda for this meeting and to declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

***CSCPC/9. Future Community Safety (Prevention and Protection) Strategy Principles**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Support (CSCPC/11/1) that set out proposals for the review of the Service's Prevention and Protection strategies to establish a targeted and intelligence led approach to activity to ensure that resources were directed to risk in the community.

The Head of Community Safety reported that the new approach proposed would mean that, on the prevention side, there would no longer be a free fire safety check but that this activity would be targeted to those most vulnerable. It was recognised that the Service would face challenges in identifying the vulnerable groups to be targeted but that help would be sought from partner agencies and the local communities and that funding would be redirected to assist with this.

In terms of protection, the proposed strategy had emanated from the Hampton review in 2005 which had considered how to reduce unnecessary administration without compromising the regulatory regime. The primary outcome of the review was for organisations to undertake comprehensive risk assessments to concentrate resources to the areas where it was needed most. For Devon and Somerset FRS, this would result in a "light touch" approach to fire safety checks in line with the proposed strategy as set out within paragraph 3.4 of report CSCP/11/1.

The Committee noted that the strategy principles were included within two specific proposals for service improvement that were set out within the Draft Corporate Plan for 2011/12 to 2013/14, as referred to in report CSCPC/11/2 elsewhere on the agenda.

NB MINUTE CSCPC/10 BELOW ALSO REFERS.

***CSCPC/10. Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority Draft Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (CSCPC/11/2) that set out proposals for key changes within the Corporate Plan for 2011/12 to 2012/13 to deliver organisational improvements whilst maintaining a focus on delivering the work required within the Authority's budget challenges. The report also proposed eight key service improvements (as set out in a separate document at Appendix B to report CSCPC/11/2) as a basis for consultation with the public and stakeholders. These service improvements were aimed at:

- Improving efficiency;
- Reducing costs, and;
- Generating income.

Following the consultation period which would commence on 17 January 2011 and finish on 10 April 2011, it was noted that the results would be fed back to the Authority at its meeting on 27 May 2011.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the Draft Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14 together with the separate Consultation Document outlining eight service improvement proposals (Appendix B to report CSCPC/11/2) be approved for consultation purposes;
- (b) that the associated engagement plan for consultation on the draft Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14 and eight service improvement proposals, as set out in Section 3 of this report and to include a 12 week consultation period to commence on Monday 17 January 2011, be approved;
- (c) that the outcome of the consultation period together with appropriate recommendations in relation to the Corporate Plan 2011/12 to 2013/14 and service improvement proposals be submitted to the full Authority meeting scheduled for 27 May 2011.

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

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.05hours

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY



REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSCPC/11/3
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	7 JULY 2011
SUBJECT OF REPORT	SPECIALIST RESCUE - UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER	ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER (SERVICE SUPPORT)
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the report be noted.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This is a progress report on the specialist rescue implementation project, and the involvement of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) in the development of local and national flood response arrangements. The report sets out, amongst other things, the progress made against the five year plan, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • four Specialist Rescue Teams (SRTs) are now live for water rescue; two SRTs fully live for rope rescue, two partial status; animal rescue training underway; level two water rescue training for all operational firefighters now complete; • four new SRT vehicles now on the run; • DSFRS now chairing CFOA Inland Water Technical Group; • DSFRS works closely with the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to produce final draft of national flood rescue concept of ops; • Four DSFRS boat teams and two SRAs on national assets register.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	None
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	None
APPENDICES	None
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Rescue Report (Ref CSCPC/07/7) - 1 November 2007 • Technical Rescue Strategy Document April 2007

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Committee on the progress of the specialist rescue implementation project, and the involvement of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS) in the development of local and national flood response arrangements.

2. PROGRESS OF SPECIALIST RESCUE WITHIN DSFRS

- 2.1 The project is progressing well and is expected to be completed within the original five-year timescaleⁱ.
- 2.2 All four Specialist Rescue Teams (SRTs) are now on the run with water rescue level three, and have been categorised as Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 'team type C' (i.e., with non-powered boat capability). Two teams, located at Camels Head and Special Operations, are also now live with rope rescue level three. The remaining two stations, Bridgwater and Barnstaple who, having completed their rope rescue training, are partially on the run and will be fully live as soon as Specialist Rescue Supervisor training has been completed in October 2011.
- 2.3 The Specialist Rescue Supervisor Course is a bespoke course, designed in-house, with the purpose of equipping junior officers with the skills and knowledge needed to safely supervise an SRT. This includes the requirement to work within a Local Resilience Forum or national response framework. It is anticipated that supervisor training will be completed by October of this year with the remaining two teams going fully on the run soon after. It is also hoped that this course may have a commercial potential.
- 2.4 All four teams are currently undergoing a two-part large animal rescue course that will enable the Service to comply with recently published Chief Fire Officer Association (CFOA) guidance on the safe and effective rescue of animals. This will be complete by the end of July 2011. The Service is working with Bicton Agricultural College to provide this training and early indications are that the Service will have jointly produced a high quality, well received course again with commercial potential.
- 2.5 The four specialist rescue vehicles are now in Service and on the run. Driver training is now complete. New boat trailers are to be built that will work specifically with the Specialist Rescue Vehicles. They will be designed to carry inflatable mud mats, fuel, and ancillary equipment for the boat, as well as being adaptable for any future requirements that may be placed on the trailer to enhance the Service's capability.
- 2.6 The three year project to up-skill all operational staff to water rescue level two (wading rescue capability) has now been completed. Level two is now the base line standard for all firefighters within DSFRS and all new joiners will be trained to this standard. It is likely that DSFRS is one of the first (if not the first) Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs) to achieve this level as a minimum standard. Refresher training is being identified and developed to support this standard.
- 2.7 The final phase (powered rescue boat training) is currently being planned and a project team has been established. This phase is on track to be completed by the end of 2012.

- 2.8 The Service now has 23 Specialist Rescue Advisors (SRAs) who are trained to provide advice and support at specialist rescue and adverse weather incidents. The SRAs provide a range of functions including: daily weather monitoring and RA, technical flood response advice to bronze, silver and gold commands, search management at water incidents, inter agency working at specialist rescue incidents, and a working knowledge of relevant LRF emergency plans. Two of the SRAs are also on the DEFRA national assets register as strategic flood advisors. The results of having this provision of SRAs within service is still showing to be highly beneficial in incidents, from the feedback received from public, crews and other agencies.

3. CFOA INLAND WATER TECHNICAL/STRATEGY GROUP

- 3.1 DSFRS is actively contributing to the formation of a national flood response framework through its involvement with the CFOA Inland Water Technical Group. The group is chaired by AM Alex Hanson and the secretary is GM Laurie Adams. The Inland Water Technical/Strategy Group (IWTG) has been working closely with DEFRA (the statutory lead for flood rescue) on the national flood rescue framework for some time.
- 3.2 In 2010, DEFRA formed the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project Team (FRNE) to produce the first draft of the FRNE Concept of Operations. This is now a live document and has recently been put to the test during Exercise Watermark (see paragraph 7 below).
- 3.3 The IWTG worked closely with the DEFRA FRNE project team to produce elements of the first draft, and AM Hanson and GM Adams have since been working with DEFRA to produce the final draft.
- 3.4 The IWTG have also produced a new FRS water rescue manual which will be published when the FRNE Concept of Operations has been completed.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIALIST OFFICERS

- 4.1 AM Hanson and GM Adams are currently working with DEFRA, CFOA and CFRA to align the FRNE Flood Rescue Concept of Operations with the National Coordination Advisory Framework (NCAF) for national resilience. This work includes the establishment and development of Subject Matter Advisors (SMAs) and a National Resilience Assurance Team (NRAT) specifically for flooding incidents.

5. NATIONAL ASSETS REGISTER

- 5.1 DEFRA has now established a national assets register for flood rescue resources and specialist advice, and this includes resources from both the FRS and the voluntary sector; again this was put to the test during Exercise Watermark.
- 5.2 DSFRS has four specialist teams currently on the register available for national deployment. These teams are currently registered as 'team type C' (i.e., water rescue team with non-powered boat), but this will be upgraded to 'team type B' (team with powered rescue boat) on completion of the rescue boat training. There is currently a project running to ensure that the Service has suitable policies and procedures in place for managing the deployment, support and welfare of any team that is mobilised out of the Service area.
- 5.3 DSFRS also has two officers who are on the national assets register as strategic flood advisors and who are available for national response in that role.

6. POWERED RESCUE BOAT CAPABILITY AND THE DEFRA GRANT SCHEME

- 6.1 At the beginning of 2011, DSFRS successfully applied to DEFRA for a grant of £75,000 to meet the cost of training the Service's four water rescue teams to Powered Rescue Boat Operator level. This training will begin in the Autumn of this year. The teams already have the boats and trailers, which they are currently using in a non-powered capacity. New trailers are being sourced as identified in section 2.5 of this report due to compatibility issues with the specialist rescue vehicle. The engines for the boats have also been purchased and are currently being commissioned, this will be complete by the end of the summer.
- 6.2 The grant will cover the full cost of training all 100 boat operators. The training will involve two modules: Royal Yacht Association (RYA) Level Two Operator and Powered Rescue Boat Operator. All boat operators must also be Water Rescue Level Three qualified, which has already been completed. The first module, commencing in September will be conducted at the service's RYA training centre in Plymouth, the second commencing in November at the Menai Straights in North Wales, one of only two locations in the UK where the training can be carried out, with realistic representation of flood conditions.
- 6.3 Additionally, the SRT crews will receive marine band vhf radio training to support interagency communication.
- 6.4 Once the training is complete, and the boats have been commissioned, DSFRS will have four inland water/flood rescue boats available; one of the best provisions in the country.

7. EXERCISE WATERMARK

- 7.1 In March 2011, DSFRS took part in the national flood response exercise: Exercise Watermark. This exercise was commissioned by DEFRA as part of the requirements of the Pitt Review. The exercise preparation was led by Environment Agency with DSFRS contributing to the exercise planning process over several months.
- 7.2 This was the largest exercise of its kind to be undertaken in the UK, spanning a seven day period with many rescue agencies, emergency planners, the utilities, the Met Office and Environment Agency taking part; right up to CLG and COBRA level. The Devon and Cornwall Local Resilience Forum were one of the main players on the first day, and members of the Service played at all levels including: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Search and Rescue (SAR) Cell, Scientific and Technical Advice Cell (STAC), Fire Control and the Operations Support Team.
- 7.3 It was also a chance to put Local Resilience Forum (LRF) emergency plans and the Service's own Adverse Weather plan to the test, and many valuable lessons were learnt and some further work identified.
- 7.4 DSFRS continued to play a strategic advisory role to the national exercise throughout the week.

8. LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM PLANNING

- 8.1 The Service continues to be instrumental in the establishment of LRF Emergency Plans for Flooding and Search and Rescue. The LRF Search and Rescue Forum in particular has become a focus for statutory and volunteer rescue resources, and the establishment of a set of minimum standards of competence and equipment for all rescue teams. This offers an assurance mechanism for issues such as validation, liability and insurance for multiagency working. The model developed in the Devon & Cornwall LRF is currently being adopted by neighbouring LRFs.

TREVOR STRATFORD
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Support

ⁱ Technical Rescue Strategy Document, April 2007