

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

6 July 2012

Present:-

Councillors Brooksbank, Healey and Leaves.

Apologies:-

Received from Councillors Eastman, Foggin, Fry and Woodman

***CSCPC/1. Election of Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Leaves be appointed Chair of the Committee until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in May 2013.

***CSCPC/2. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2012 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/3. Election of Vice Chair**

RESOLVED that Councillor Eastman be appointed Vice Chair of the Committee until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Authority in May 2013.

***CSCPC/4. Declarations of Interest**

Members 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 declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

***CSCPC/5. Alarm Awards 2012**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Support (CSCP/12/2) that highlighted the success of the Service at the national Alarm Awards 2012.

The Committee noted that this was the first year in the history of the awards that one organisation had been successful in winning or being runner up in 4 of the 7 categories. The awards received were as follows:

- Winner – People Risk: Phoenix Job Centre Plus Programme – Nick Birt;
- Winner – Strategic Risk: Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) – Jim Holgate;
- Winner – Young Risk Management Achievement of the Year – Dave Church;
- Runner up – Operational Risk: Fire Track Asset Management System – Colin Rockey.

The Committee commended the winners and runner up on their excellent achievement.

***CSCPC/6. Job Centre Plus/Phoenix**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support at the meeting in respect of the progress made to date with the Job Centre Plus/Phoenix Programme. This Programme was aimed at encouraging 18 to 24 year old people in long term unemployment to realise their potential and to build confidence in themselves.

It was noted that there had been 8 courses completed to date and that an additional 4 courses were in progress. There had been 105 students of which 96 had completed the course. Of these, 75% of the students had ended up in employment and the remaining 25% had re-engaged with the Job Centre and wished to seek employment.

The Head of Community Safety referred to a course that had recently finished at Bridgwater with a 100% completion rate. Of the candidates, 2 had been offered a job directly on completion of the course. He added that there were now 4 other fire and rescue services running Job Centre Plus schemes and EDF had expressed an interest in the principles of the Scheme for planned recruitment purposes.

***CSCPC/7. National Road Safety Day**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by Nigel Flowers (Devon County Council) and Laura Vincent (Road Traffic Collisions Reduction Officer) on the projects the Service had been working on as part of the Road Safety Partnership such as The Honest Truth and Learn 2 Live re-filming and websites.

The Committee noted that Learn 2 Live was one of the road safety campaigns which was a travelling roadshow aimed at reducing the number of young people killed or seriously injured on our roads. This event enabled the Service to talk to young people about the importance of taking care whilst driving and highlights the impact of careless driving.

"The Honest Truth" was a campaign about working together in partnership to get the messages across that 'small changes save lives'. A new Resource Booklet had been completed to give the information needed to back up the key messages for educational establishments such as schools and colleges to pass on to students during their lessons. A new series of exciting posters had also been developed together with a dedicated website and in-car resources to help promote discussion around "The Honest Truth" messages during lessons. This information was displayed at the meeting for information.

Reference was made in particular to a new application for mobile telephones – PANIC – aimed at giving young people information on what to do in the event of an accident or incident that was being launched by the Road Safety Partnership. It was hoped that this would be successful given the current youth interaction with mobile applications and this was to receive a public launch shortly.

***CSCPC/8. Olympic Games - Service Preparations for the Sailing Event**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support in respect of the planning and preparatory work being undertaken for the Olympic Sailing Event in Weymouth in July 2012.

It was noted that the Service was to be represented at the Sailing Event by the USAR team headed up by Group Manager Colin Rockey. Colin updated the Committee on the progress made to date with the support arrangements. He stated that there were 3 main agencies involved in this, namely:

- Dorset Fire and Rescue Service;
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (USAR), and;
- National CFOA Resilience Forum.

The event, which was to be based at the old naval station at Portland Bill, involved:

- 380 athletes;
- 61 nations;
- 264 boats of differing sizes;
- 600 officials;
- 400 support boats;
- 50 security boats, and;
- 5000 expected spectator boats.

There would be live media global broadcasting of the sailing event and as a result, the preparation and response arrangements needed to be right. It was envisaged that there may be up to 10,000 visitors per day for the sailing events and whilst the fact that there was only one road into and out of Weymouth was good from a security perspective, this would provide challenges in terms of traffic movement.

The Committee noted that, although the Service was providing its support to this prestigious event from 28 July 2012 to 12 August 2012, it would not be committing all of its personnel in USAR to it in the event of other incidents occurring during the same period.

***CSCPC/9. Fire Angels Project**

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of Service Support in respect of the progress made with the replacement of smoke detectors that had already been fitted to premises but had been deemed to be not fit for purpose as a result of potential problems with the battery and fixings.

The Head of Community Safety advised the Committee that the Senior Management Board had taken the decision to replace 4774 of the smoke detectors already installed as a precautionary measure and had given an instruction to staff as to how these should be fitted in the future. In addition, the Service had written to all of the premises to which the smoke detectors had been fitted to offer a replacement. 650 visits had already been requested and of these, 204 had already been replaced.

The Committee noted that the Service was now working with the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) in respect of an end user specification for a new product in the future.

***CSCPC/10. Engaging with Private Rented Landlords**

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of Service Support in respect of the progress made with engaging with landlords in respect of the provision of smoke alarms for private rented stock.

The Head of Community Safety advised the Committee that the existing legislation did not make provision for landlords to fit smoke alarms to privately owned accommodation as compulsory. A Private Members' Bill had been pursued by Adrian Sanders MP but this had not been supported by Government. It was estimated that 14% of premises did not have a smoke alarm fitted and that 55% of fires occurred at these premises. As a result, the Service was working together with private industry and with the Chartered Institute of Housing and a sponsorship deal had been set up with ICreate to develop a product accordingly. It was hoped that this work would be realised in September 2012.

***CSCPC/11. Inter Agency Liaison Officers**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support at the meeting on the role of the Inter Agency Liaison Officers (ILOs).

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

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 12.27hours