

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

25 June 2014

Present:-

Councillors Mrs. L Bowyer, Burridge-Clayton (vice Bown), Colthorpe, Eastman, Owen and Prior-Sankey

Apologies:-

Received from Councillors Bown and Ellery

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Eastman be elected Chair of the Committee until its first meeting after the Authority Annual Meeting in 2015.

***CSCPC/2. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2014 be signed as a correct record.

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Colthorpe be elected Vice Chair of the Committee until its first meeting after the Authority Annual Meeting in 2015.

***CSCPC/4. Planning Process for the Corporate Plan (CP2)**

The Committee received for information a presentation by the Director of Operations on the new draft corporate strategy 'Towards a Safer Community' together with information on the planning process for the next iteration of the Service Corporate Plan (CP2).

During the presentation, the following points were highlighted:

- The new long term corporate strategy was based on 3 core priorities for the Service namely public safety, staff safety and effectiveness and efficiency;
- With these priorities in mind, the Service was currently reviewing its options for service delivery, particularly in view of the point that there was a need to identify budget savings of £7.1million over the next 3 years.
- A timetable for the planning process for CP2 had been established with a public consultation exercise on any proposals for change commencing in January 2015, culminating in a proposal for a new Corporate Plan being considered by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting in July 2015.

The Director of Operations advised the Committee that it was clear that any changes in service delivery should be made for the right reasons, balanced against the point that the Service had to contend with a reducing budget in future years. The Committee recognised that it would be important for the Service to handle its public relations surrounding this very carefully.

***CSCPC/5. Home Fire Safety Visits**

The Committee received for information a presentation by the Director of Operations on undertaken to review the Service's approach to Home Fire Safety Visits.

The Committee noted the following points during the presentation:

- The Service will undertake checks in future as opposed to visits based on a risk profile;
- During a check, staff will be able to identify and assess the potential fire risks in the home with a view to either giving advice or then undertaking a full visit;
- During a visit, the Service will provide support and try to influence behavioural change, provide equipment as required and promote any other means of fire safety;
- Home Fire Safety Advocate workloads will be managed and co-ordinated centrally.

The Director of Operations outlined the benefits of these changes, which included the ability to increase capacity within groups to generate referrals, to improve working arrangements for Advocates and the ability for the Service to be able to forecast future financial requirements. It was noted that this new approach was being piloted within the Central Command with a view to it being extended across the Service in due course.

***CSCPC/6. Update on Community Safety Investment**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Operations (CSCPC/14/3) summarising activities that undertaken to date in utilising the £450,000 funding approved by the Fire and Rescue Authority at its meeting on 10 July 2013 for community safety activities as part of the proposals within the Corporate Plan for 2013/14 to 2015/16. The report also outlined the ways in which the remaining balance of this funding would be utilised.

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

The meeting started at 10:00hours and finished at 11.23hours