

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

23 September 2015

Present:-

Councillors Bown, Dyke (vice Colthorpe), Eastman, Ellery, Hill, Leaves and Redman

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Eastman be elected Chair of the Committee until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority in May 2016.

***CSCPC/2. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 be signed as a correct record.

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Leaves be elected Vice Chair of the Committee until the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting of the Fire and Rescue Authority in May 2016.

***CSCPC/4. Community Safety Work in Plymouth - Presentation**

Watch Manager Dave Evans gave a presentation at the meeting in respect of the work that has been undertaken in Plymouth linked to community and workplace equalities and wider community engagement.

This work included supporting people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and funding had been secured recently through the Fire Service to support a community hub in Plymouth to assist BME communities in the city to obtain help and advice.

Shoker Abobeker, representing the Kurdish community in Plymouth, also attended the meeting and gave an overview of the support that had been provided by the Fire Service through the community hub, which it was felt had been a great success. The key points made were that people arriving in Great Britain for the first time did not have any knowledge of the language or the laws of the country and were often afraid of people in uniform due to regimes in place in their home countries. The support provided through the hub had been of great value and had assisted with basic educational needs such as what people should do in the event of fire. The partnership working had also enabled the building of trust within the community with the emergency services.

The Committee commended the excellent work that had been undertaken in Plymouth and suggested that this should be emulated in other areas of the Service but that additional work should be undertaken to bring the business community on board with such an initiative. The Committee also requested that the presentation be given at a Full Authority meeting.

***CSCPC/5. Strategic Plan: 'Our Plan 2016 to 2021'**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Area Manager (Strategy and Business Change) in respect of the work that was being undertaken in drawing up the next iteration of the Authority's Strategic Plan – "Our Plan 2016 – 2021".

It was noted that the work involved a refresh of the existing Plan for 2015-2020, which incorporated the Integrated Risk Management Plan. The Strategic Plan was based on the 3 key priorities that had been developed in 2014/15, namely:

- public safety;
- staff safety;
- efficiency and effectiveness.

One of the objectives of the refresh was to introduce performance outcomes and also to improve the clarity of the work that was being undertaken to achieve the priorities. To this end, a performance matrix had been designed to record the outcomes linked to each of the key priorities. A draft of the Strategic Plan would be produced shortly and this would then be submitted to the Authority in February 2016 for approval.

The Committee endorsed the approach being taken with the Plan but expressed the view that there may be a perception that there was a priority attached to the order of these as they were numbered 1, 2 and 3. It was suggested that the Service may wish to revise this, possibly by using A, B and C as an alternative.

***CSCPC/6. Lift Release Call Reduction**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Operations (CSCPC/15/1) that set out details of the approach being taken by the Service to reduce the incidence of unwanted lift releases whilst maintaining its obligation to attend emergency incidents as required by the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004. In the past 3 years, (2011 to 2014) there had been an average of 420 lift releases per year with 25% of premises having two incidents in a four week period or three in a twenty six week period.

The Committee was advised that a six month pilot had been undertaken in East Devon on a new approach which had showed how proactive communication and early intervention could reduce both the number of incidents and consequently, the cost to the Service. The pilot used the unwanted fire signals poor performance trigger thresholds and a 28% reduction in repeat calls was seen. The trigger thresholds involved:

- 2 incidents in a rolling 4 week period; and
- 3 incidents in a rolling 26 week period.

It was noted that, based on this evidence from the pilot, a policy had been developed aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Service by reducing unnecessary mobilisations to lift releases. The cost saving that could be achieved as a result of this change was £0.758million.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Call Reduction Manager confirmed that the Service would still mobilise one appliance to incidents requiring lift release in the interests of protecting the person(s) trapped. The Service would engage with the person responsible for the premises, however, to give advice on this matter and then, depending on the circumstances, would consider charging if a second incident occurred within the rolling 4 week period.

The Committee endorsed the approach being taken on this matter but suggested that, in the interest of public perception, the “unwanted” be removed from the terminology within the policy so that it was read as Lift Release.

RESOLVED that the approach taken on Lift Releases be endorsed and the report be noted.

***CSCPC/7. Update on Community Safety Campaign and Key Messages**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Corporate Communications Manager at the meeting.

The presentation covered, amongst other matters, the campaigns that the Corporate Communications Team had undertaken in support of community safety initiatives including:

- “Make the Call”;
- Hoarding;
- Keep your Home Safe;
- Cold water Shock; and
- Business Safety Week.

The Committee also received copies of the literature that had been utilised for these campaigns and was informed about the utilisation of social media as a tool to assist with communicating key messages.

***CSCPC/8. Biker Down Initiative**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the in respect of Road Safety issues and the “Biker Down” initiative specifically, which was a programme that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service had initiated recently.

It was noted that the Biker Down initiative was set up originally by Kent Fire & Rescue Service in 2011. Kent was recognised for their campaign with the prestigious Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in January 2013. 17 other Fire & Rescue Services, including Devon and Somerset, now deliver the Biker Down initiative, which is a workshop for motorcyclists consisting of 3 modules, namely scene and dynamic risk assessment, basic first aid and the science behind being seen. Since this initiative had been instigated within Devon and Somerset, very positive feedback had been received from motorcyclists and two further workshops had been planned and were both fully booked.

The Committee also received an update on the Learn2Live campaign which was about to commence in Devon in October 2015. Members of the Committee were encouraged to attend this event to see the impact of the presentation given to 17 to 24 year old people at first hand. Learn2live had been proven in recent research undertaken by Plymouth University to improve young people's (in particular young females) attitudes towards risky driving and intentions to behave safely as a passenger.

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

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 13.10hours