

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

12 January 2016

Present:-

Councillors Bown, Eastman, Ellery, Hill, Redman and Thomas (vice Leaves).

Apologies:-

Received from Councillor Colthorpe.

***CSCPC/9. Apologies**

In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, it was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bown take the Chair for this meeting.

***CSCPC/10. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2015 be signed as a correct record.

CSCPC/11. Strategic Plan 'Our Plan': 2016 to 2021

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Fire Officer (CSCPC/16/1) that set out the proposals for the Authority's Strategic Plan 'Our Plan': 2016 to 2021. The proposed Plan was an evolution of 'Our Plan 2015 to 2020, continuing the previously agreed longer term planning approach which would changes to be incorporated during the lifecycle of the Plan as appropriate. The strategic direction and content of the plan was aligned with the medium term financial plan to address the Service's anticipated funding requirements and to drive improvement. It also incorporates the requirements of the Integrated Risk Management planning process, aligning resources to risk accordingly.

The Service's three key strategic priorities remain as:

- Public safety;
- Staff safety;
- Efficiency and effectiveness.

It was noted that new strategic outcomes had been identified for each of the three key priorities and it was anticipated that this would improve the Service's ability to measure performance against the strategy.

The Chief Fire Officer stated that, since the report had been published, the Authority had received details of its financial settlement for 2016/17. This meant that the funding gap was £7.5million with £2.5million of savings required in 2016/17 and he outlined some of the actions that were being taken to address this, including the ongoing reductions in operational staff and the implementation of reductions in non-operational staff.

The Committee enquired as to the position on redundancy for non-operational staff. The Chief Fire Officer replied that this remained a possibility although staff would be given the opportunity to move into other roles wherever possible. The Authority had taken a decision in 2015 to reduce the redundancy multiplier to 1, the outcome of which was that voluntary redundancy was now no longer as attractive to individuals and the decision may need to be revisited if the Service wished to encourage staff to leave voluntarily.

Reference was also made to the position on Automatic Fire Alarm activations and whether the Service's revised approach had achieved the required outcome. The Chief Fire Officer advised that the number of calls and the subsequent road risk had already reduced but he would ask officers to review the policy to ensure that it was robust and that mechanisms were put into place to charge repeat offenders. He added that a report would be submitted to the next meeting to update the Committee on this matter.

Attention was drawn to the need to ensure that community safety activities in particular had a high profile in the media and it was suggested that this could be carried out via a monthly focus on these issues on programmes such as BBC Spotlight. The Chief Fire Officer indicated that the Service strived to gain as much coverage in the media as possible but that he would raise this specifically at a forthcoming with the Editor.

The Committee expressed its thanks to officers for the work that had been undertaken on what it felt was an excellent document, whereupon it was:

RESOLVED that the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority be recommended to approve the Strategic Plan 'Our Plan 2016-2021' at its meeting on 19 February 2016.

***CSCPC/12. Review of the Community Safety Strategy**

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of Operations at the meeting on the progress made to date in respect of the review of the Service's Community Safety Strategy.

It was noted that there was to be a fundamental review of the Community Safety Strategy which would be focussed on four key areas, namely:

- Improving information gathering and intelligence – to include learning from operational incidents, developing opportunities for gathering community intelligence and sharing data so the Service could learn more about its vulnerable communities;
- Targeting resources better – rationalising existing partnerships, improving the focus on the Service's key strategic aims and developing further opportunities for integrated service delivery;
- Community safety delivery – ensuring a more consistent approach to issues such as Drug Driving and Schools Education was in place;
- Performance management – ensuring clearer lines of management were in place with a clear focus on the Service's strategic aims.

The Committee recognised that fire was only one of the partners in the community safety field and enquired as to the contribution that others such as Red One could make. The Chief Fire Officer responded that there were areas in which Red One was already contributing such as in public health, giving assistance with bariatric patients. He added that there was a need to ensure that partners were aware of what the Service could offer in the future and also to consider other forms of income and funding for projects such as through SAFE South West. It was noted that there may also be opportunities for funding via the Hinckley C Social and Economic Fund and the Chief Fire Officer undertook to explore this further.

***CSCPC/13. Proposed Response Arrangements**

The Chief Fire Officer gave an oral update at the meeting on the proposed future response arrangements for the Service. It was noted that this involved a three tier response incorporating a range of different sized vehicles that could be mobilised according to the nature of the incident and the location, amongst other factors, to best match resources to risk. The Service was applying a “blended” approach involving the use of different types of vehicle for the future.

The Chief Fire Officer reported that the Service had already undertaken six months of a twelve month pilot on the use of Rapid Intervention Vehicles and as a result, there were clear advantages and disadvantages with the different types of vehicles being piloted. A specification was being drafted for the purposes of the procurement exercise for the proposed Rapid Intervention Vehicles and a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee setting out the progress made.

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

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 12.07hours