



# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/10/21</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>16 SEPTEMBER 2010</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>CORPORATE PLANNING TIMESCALE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Director Of Corporate Services</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<i>That the Draft Corporate Plan be submitted to the Authority meeting scheduled for 16 December 2010 for approval for consultation purposes, with the associated consultation period being proportionate to the level of change.</i>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	The Draft Corporate Plan has traditionally been consulted upon for twelve weeks during the period of October to December. Due to the current national economic position and the expected budget savings from the public sector, it is important that the Authority has knowledge of its level of government grant so that it can adjust its plans accordingly. Therefore, the Authority may wish to wait until the grant is announced before it approves the draft Plan for consultation. The announcement of the government grant is not expected until the end of November 2010, currently estimated around the 25 November. It is proposed that the Draft Corporate Plan is presented to the Authority for approval in December followed by a period of consultation that is proportionate to the level of change.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Nil
<b>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b>	This will be considered in conjunction with the proposals for the Draft Corporate Plan and associated consultation period in December 2010.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Nil

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The annual planning cycle produces the Corporate Plan that sets the future direction to ensure the Authority has the right resources in the right place being used efficiently and effectively. The Corporate Plan has also historically incorporated the needs of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP); a component of this is the incorporation of proposed service delivery changes upon which the community and stakeholders are invited to comment through various methods of consultation.
- 1.2 In previous years, the Authority has approved the Draft Corporate Plan and presented it for public consultation during the period of October to December. The consultation has been managed so that it considers the guidance of consulting for a twelve week period, which the Authority has endeavoured to achieve.

## **2. PUBLIC SECTOR BUDGET SAVINGS**

- 2.1 Due to the current national economic position and the expected savings required from the public sector, it is suggested that the Authority may wish to know the level of government grant prior to setting its Draft Corporate Plan. With the knowledge of the grant it will receive the Authority may adjust the plan accordingly before it is approved for consultation.
- 2.2 The announcement of the government grant is not expected until the end of November 2010, currently estimated at 25 November. Therefore it is proposed that the Draft Corporate Plan is presented to the Authority for approval in December followed by a period of consultation that is proportionate to the level of change.

## **3. CONSULTATION PERIOD**

- 3.1 By approving the Draft Corporate Plan in December, the Authority will have a future decision to make on the period of consultation. The consideration of the consultation methodology and timescales for the Draft Corporate Plan would be at the Authority meeting on 16 December 2010 at the same time the draft plan is approved. There are currently two options that may be presented for Members to consider. These are as follows:
- to compress the duration of consultation to a period substantially less than 12 weeks in order that the Corporate Plan is approved alongside the budget at the Authority's meeting on 16 February 2011; or
  - to hold a twelve week consultation period commencing in December 2010. This option may require the Authority to set a budget in February 2011 that could be dependent on incorporating one or more of the options that would be consulted on. The decision on which option(s) to select would be informed by the consultation results and made by the Authority at a meeting in late March or early April 2011, the date for which will be proposed at the Authority meeting on 16 September 2010.

**MIKE PEARSON**  
**Director of Corporate Services**