

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

7 July 2011

Present:-

Councillors Brooksbank, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, Healey, Leaves 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 2012.

***CSCPC/2. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2011 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/3. Items Requiring Urgent Attention**

Reference was made to a matter requiring consideration in respect of the strategy being taken on Fire Safety Enforcement, whereupon it was agreed that this be discussed following the item on Specialist Rescue.

Nb. MINUTE *CSCPC/7 BELOW REFERS.

***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 to declare any such interests at this time.

No interests were declared.

***CSCPC/5. 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 2012.

***CSCPC/6. Specialist Rescue - Update**

The Committee received for information a report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Support) (CSCPC/11/3) that gave an update in respect of the progress made against the five year plan for implementation of specialist rescue activities within Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (DSFRS).

The report referred specifically to the progress made in the following areas:

- four Specialist Rescue Teams (SRTs) were now live for water rescue; two SRTs were fully live for rope rescue, two partial status; animal rescue training was underway; level two water rescue training for all operational firefighters was now complete;
- four new SRT vehicles were now on the run;

- DSFRS was chairing the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA) Inland Water Technical Group;
- DSFRS worked closely with the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to produce a final draft of national flood rescue concept of operations;
- Four DSFRS boat teams and two SRAs on the national assets register.

***CSCPC/7. Fire Safety Enforcement**

(An item taken in accordance with Section 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chairman determined that this matter should be taken as a matter of urgency to enable the Committee to consider the strategy being taken in respect of Fire Safety Enforcement matters in the light of a recent prosecution.

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer (Service Support) that set out the action being taken by the Service to provide fire safety audits at both commercial and domestic premises on a risk based approach. It was noted that this action was being taken to ensure that premises complied with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRO) and that 159 audits had been completed to date in 2011 by wholtime firefighters, crew managers and watch managers following appropriate training courses. The advantages of undertaking this activity were to increase community and firefighter safety and to ensure that the Service complied with the "Hampton" principles of enforcement. 4 prohibition notices had been issued since the audits had been instigated.

A Protection Handbook setting out the guiding principles had been produced as there had been a gap in this area since the RRO had been introduced and this was issued to all attendees on the courses run. The Committee commended the Service on the action taken and the officers involved in the production of an excellent Handbook.

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

The meeting started at 10.00ghours and finished at 11.08hours.