



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/11/23
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	29 SEPTEMBER 2011
SUBJECT OF REPORT	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2012/13 TO 2014/15
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>(a) <i>That the Draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 and associated Consultation Document, as set out at Appendices A and B respectively to this report, be approved for consultation purposes;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>that the associated engagement plan for consultation as set out in Section 3 of this report and to include a 12 week consultation period (to run from Monday, 3 October 2011 to Tuesday 3 January 2012) be approved;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>that the outcome of the consultation, together with appropriate recommendations, be submitted to the full Authority meeting scheduled for 17 February 2012;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>that the progress made regarding progress on last year's plan be noted.</i></p>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This report presents the Draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15. The plan incorporates a proposal to amend the existing response to automatic fire alarm calls for domestic and non-domestic (non-residential) properties during working hours. Supporting the draft plan is the proposed approach for engaging key stakeholders.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Consultation costs will be met from the existing Corporate Planning budget.
EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An initial assessment has not revealed any equality and diversity issues so significant as to warrant a full impact assessment.
APPENDICES	<p>A. Draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 (page numbered separately)</p> <p>B. Public consultation document containing details of the proposal (page numbered separately)</p>
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is recognised that this draft Corporate Plan is presented to the Authority only a few months after it approved the current 2011/12 Corporate Plan at the end of May 2011. The Authority will be aware that the reason for the short time period between last year's plan and this one is due to the fact that the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) was not announced until December 2010, and that plans needed to be framed within the wider context of the CSR announcement. As a two year grant settlement was announced in December, this year's corporate planning process can now resume its usual timeframe.
- 1.2 We do not know what the expected settlement will be for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and as such, our focus remains on meeting the projected budget shortfall for this Authority of between and £3million and £7million.

2. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2011/12 TO 2013/14

- 2.1 The draft Corporate Plan incorporates the requirement to produce a publicly available Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) covering at least a three year time span.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan, whilst meeting the requirements of Integrated Risk Management Planning, also incorporates the Service's aspirations for organisational excellence. The content of the draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15, as set out at Appendix A to this report (page numbered separately), is therefore constructed around delivering improvement whilst remaining focused on achieving the significant savings required by 2014.
- 2.3 The plan is presented in a new, more concise, style to make it more reader friendly. Its structure is based on the framework of the three strategic principles established in the organisational strategy 'Towards 2014'.
- 2.4 The previous Corporate Plan was not printed in order to contribute towards our budget savings target. This approach will continue this year and the plan will be available electronically through the internet and intranet.
- 2.5 The draft Corporate Plan also outlines the progress we are making in those areas previously agreed by the Fire Authority.

3. CONSULTATION PLAN

- 3.1 The focus of consultation for the draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 is a proposal to amend the existing Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) response policy for domestic and some non-domestic (non-residential) properties. At present, 95% of all calls made by Automatic Fire Alarms Systems are false alarms. If agreed, the amended policy will ensure that our fire engines are available more often to deal with real emergencies as they will not be attending as many automatic fire alarms, the vast majority of which are false alarms. This will also reduce the risk to road users through us making fewer vehicle movements and, in addition, it will ensure that more time is available to train our staff as well as conduct safety related visits. We will continue to attend any automatic fire alarm we receive from high risk premises and as would be expected, we will send the appropriate number of fire engines to respond to any call made by a person (rather than an automatic system – of which a large proportion are false alarms).

- 3.2 Due to the content of the automatic fire alarm proposal, we will invite views from businesses in the Service area, Chambers of Commerce and other representative organisations. It is proposed that focus groups be held in several locations in Devon and Somerset to discuss the proposal in more depth with those likely to be most affected and we will continue to give guidance to occupiers as to prevent unwanted calls from being received.
- 3.3 This proposal is presented in more detail in a separate draft consultation document attached as Appendix B to this report (page numbered separately).
- 3.4 The public and interested parties will be invited to comment on any aspect of our draft Corporate Plan as well as the specific automatic fire alarm proposal. Comments and completed questionnaires will be accepted by email, fax, post and over the telephone to the Consultation Officer. The documents, with various accessibility options will be available online through our website where the online questionnaire and Equality Impact Risk Assessments will also be found.
- 3.5 If the Authority approves the draft Corporate Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 and separate consultation document, the consultation period will commence on Monday 3 October 2011 and will run for thirteen weeks ending Tuesday 3 January 2012. The results of the consultation will be reported to the Authority at its meeting on 17 February 2012.

LEE HOWELL
Chief Fire Officer