

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

31 August 2011

Present:-

Councillors Leaves (Chairman), Brooksbank, Eastman, Foggin, Fry, and Woodman

Apologies:-

Councillor Healey

***CSCPC/8. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2011 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/9. Declarations of Interest**

Members of the Committee 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/10. Fire Control Issues**

The Committee received for information an update given by the Director of Service Support which highlighted progress being made with the instigation of a long-term solution for Fire Control following cessation of the Regional Control Centre project.

The Director of Service Support advised the Committee that there were three areas of work being progressed currently as follows:

- Consolidation of the Somerset and Devon Control rooms;
- Development of an outline plan for rebuilding the Control room at Service Headquarters; and,
- Collaboration with Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services on the possibility of a combined procurement of a new Fire Control Solution to deliver a degree of regional resilience, albeit that each Service would retain its own Control Room.

The Committee noted that it was intended to facilitate the move of Somerset Control to Devon by 31 March 2012 as a result of the cost of new licences for existing software. This would also allow sufficient time for repairs at Hestercombe House before expiration of the lease in October 2012.

An outline plan was being drawn up for a rebuild of the Control Room at Devon to accommodate staff. All options were being considered to provide a facility that was fit for purpose for the future.

In relation to the collaborative working with Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Services, it was reported that the Government had indicated that it would make available funding in the region of £1.8m per Service for fire control projects, a proportion of which would be required to finalise the FireLink project. The government had also indicated that sums in excess of £1.8m may be available albeit that successful bids for this would be those where appropriate resilience and a degree of future proofing were demonstrated.

***CSCPC/11. Performance Against Community Safety Targets**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Head of Community Safety which highlighted, amongst others, the following key points with respect to the level of performance against Community Safety targets:

- That a recent survey had demonstrated that 92% of the public were satisfied with the Service they received, 5% were neither satisfied or dissatisfied and 3% were dissatisfied;
- That the number of fire safety audits being completed had reduced and the number of fire safety checks had increased;
- That the organisation had started targeting at risk groups for home fire safety checks to ensure resources were being used as effectively as they could;
- That community action days had exceeded the targets set by the Service by over 100%;
- That community safety engagement with community groups was proving valuable: a programme of talks for newly released prisoners had begun and was demonstrating a high level of return;
- That the Community Safety vehicles purchased to further engagement with young people had excelled on a number of recent occasions including engagement with over 180 people at a Tesco's car park in Shepton Mallett where young people took their vehicles on weekends; and,
- That changes to the National Curriculum had made it more difficult to influence Schools Education Programmes so the organisation had been developing a number of e-learning packages to give schools ownership to deliver training when it was most convenient to them.

The Head of Community Safety also gave an overview of recent Community Safety initiatives which included:

- Direct involvement in the development of the South West Guide for Localism; and,
- Devon and Somerset are seen as leaders for participatory budgeting within the FRS.

***CSCPC/12. Prevention Targeting**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Support (CSCP/11/4) that gave an overview of some of the methodologies used by Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service to target Community Safety Activity.

A demonstration of Experian Mosaic (Public Sector) was provided which highlighted following key points:

- That the system used data from 755,000 households which was profiled into 69 household types with 15 groups for each household;
- That a profile was available for each household type providing information on the types of lives led by these households; and,
- That the information provided had enabled the Service to identify the household types which were at higher risk than others, and, further to this, had identified the households in which an incident was more likely to occur.

A discussion was held over the way data such as this could be interpreted and it was noted that monthly data from partners had already demonstrated a huge reduction in the risk level of properties which had been identified early.

Members of the Committee requested that copies of the presentation given together with a copy of the Local Community Plan for their area be provided in due course.

***CSCPC/13. Local Community Plans**

The Committee received for information a report of the Chief Fire Officer (CSCP/11/5) which set out the way Local Community Plans were to be used by the organisation to help with the identification and delivery of activities to reduce risk and improve safety.

The Project and Planning Manager gave a presentation that covered how the data from the Experian Mosaic (Public Sector) system could be interpreted for inclusion in Local Community Plans (LCPs) and advised that a new target in the Corporate Plan 2011/12 was that LCPs would be used for the budget setting process with a view to ensuring the right level of resources were in the right place at the right time. Additionally, the presentation covered the level of detail included in LCPs such as prevention and protection profiles and reactive risk maps of Station areas.

NB. Minute *CSCPC/12 above also refers.

***DENOTED DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.50hours.