

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

28 November 2011

Present:-

Councillors Leaves (Chairman), Brooksbank, Eastman, Foggin, Healey and Mills

Apologies:-

Councillors Fry and Woodman

***CSCPC/14. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2011 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/15. 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/16. Job Centre Plus**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support which gave an overview of the Job Centre Plus Training Programme and highlighted the following key points:

- That the purpose of the programme was to encourage 17 – 29 year olds in long term unemployment to realise their potential;
- That funding for 7 courses had been received from Job Centre Plus and was cost neutral to the organisation;
- That the results of the programme to date had seen a 100% improvement in the opportunities of participants with many going back into employment whilst others had gone back into full time education., At one event an employers directly offered interviews to two students following the pass out parade;
- That the programme was accredited enabling candidates to be awarded certification which could be used when seeking future employment;
- That the organisation was in discussion with Job Centre Plus in Somerset with a view to working in partnership to provide opportunities across the whole Devon and Somerset area; and,
- That a number of other Fire and Rescue Services were interested in using the Job Centre Plus programme to target their higher risk groups.

The Director of Service Support stated that the programme had been run as a pilot, and, on completion of the 7 funded courses, the organisation would evaluate the benefit to the community and look towards future aspirations.

Members of the Committee requested that the dates of future pass out parades were forwarded to them so that they could attend, when possible, to give support to the Programme.

***CSCPC/17. Community Safety Marketing Plan - Update**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support which set out the current position of Fire and Rescue Services nationally following Central Governments reduction in funding and resources in the provision of fire safety literature.

The Community Safety Support Manager advised the Committee that the organisation had identified the need to provide appropriate materials to support the reduction of risk in the community by implementing a Community Safety Marketing Plan which could extend beyond the simple provision of leaflets.

The following key points were highlighted:

- That the Community Safety department had used intelligence gathered from the Experian Mosaic system for prevention and protection activities and designed a marketing plan which could target the household types at higher risk than others;
- That a number of leaflets and posters had been designed with the Corporate Communications department to specifically target the household types at higher risk in the counties of Devon and Somerset; and,
- That a number of social marketing tools had been developed to ensure that the organisation was appealing to its highest risk groups.

The Community Safety Support Manager referred to the fireworks campaign which had launched in preparation for 5 November 2011 and indicated that it had been neutrally branded for use around the festive period. Additionally, it was noted that a home safety at Christmas campaign had been launched.

Members of the Committee requested that the Community Safety Support Manager presented the Community Safety Marketing Plan to the Members of the Fire and Rescue Authority at the next available Members Forum, and, further to this, circulated copies of the Marketing Plan packs and any additional marketing material for dissemination in their constituents.

***CSCPC/18. Firesetter Intervention Software Solution**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Service's Deliberate Fire Reduction Manager which provided an overview of the work being undertaken to deliver a software package which would provide better information with respect to firesetter activity and intervention.

In particular, the following issues were raised:

- That prevention activities were crucial in the reduction of deliberate fires as 44% of the fires attended by the Service were deliberate;

- That firesetter intervention programmes had been set up nationally to reduce the chances of young people playing with fire in the future; and,
- That the Service had identified the need for an internet based system which could be used by partner agencies and other Fire and Rescue Services as a means for referring and tracking individuals with firesetter motivation.

The Deliberate Fire Reduction Manager stated that intelligence had highlighted 4 key areas of motivation for firesetters and added it was the ambition of the Community Safety Department to develop work around these aspects in the future.

Members of the Committee requested further explanation of the referral process between agencies with respect to the Data Protection Act. The Director of Service Support clarified that the Service was currently working with partner agencies on a process for referrals in order to maintain confidentiality at all times through the use of safe systems of working and a secure information interchange.

Additionally, it was noted that the system would be launched in April 2012 and would provide consistency at a national level. Members of the Committee requested that a copy of the presentation be forwarded to them following the meeting.

***CSCPC/19. Fire Safety and Timber Framed Buildings**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Support which set out the fire risks associated with timber framed buildings. The presentation highlighted, amongst other things:

- That the construction of timber framed buildings was increasing and that these were extremely susceptible to the risks of fire,
- That the Deputy Chief Fire Officer was Chairing a National Working Group to address the issues surrounding timber framed buildings which included participation, amongst others, from the Chief Fire Officers' Association (CFOA); United Kingdom Timber Frame Association and the Health and Safety Executive;

The Fire Safety Policy Support Officer referred to work that had been undertaken to test the validity of fire resistance techniques for timber framed buildings which could be adopted by building firms when constructing in built up urban areas. It was added that a 'Design Guide to Separating Distances for Timber Frame Buildings under Construction' had been created as one package in a suite of safety documents.

Further to this, the Director of Service Support stated that CFOA was hosting a National web based notification system that had been created to facilitate the notification to fire and rescue services of timber framed buildings that were under construction.

Members of the Committee requested that a copy of the presentation was forwarded to them following the meeting.

***CSCPC/20. Operational Risk Information System (ORIS)**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Support (CSCP/11/6) that set out details of the new Operational Risk Information System (ORIS) that enabled risk critical information to be made available to Incident Commanders (IC) on the incident ground via the Mobile Data Terminal (MDT). This information was crucial to inform the dynamic risk assessment (DRA) and tactical plan which in turn leads to greater Firefighter safety.

The report provided an update on the progress made in respect of ORIS and specifically, the Level 3 risk assessments undertaken.

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

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.55hours