



# DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

<b>REPORT REFERENCE NO.</b>	<b>DSFRA/12/20</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>DEVON &amp; SOMERSET FIRE &amp; RESCUE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>30 JULY 2012</b>
<b>SUBJECT OF REPORT</b>	<b>DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION TIMESCALE</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>Director Of Corporate Services</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b><i>That the report be noted</i></b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>Consultation on the Draft Corporate Plan has traditionally taken place over a twelve week period between October and December. Due to the current national economic position and the continued expectations of budget savings from the public sector, it is important that the Authority has knowledge of its level of Government Grant so that it has the opportunity to adjust its plans accordingly.</p> <p>Consequently, it is proposed to await the grant announcement – anticipated for the beginning of December 2012 – prior to finalising the content of the next iteration of the Corporate Plan for consultation purposes.</p>
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	Nil
<b>EQUALITY RISK AND BENEFIT ASSESSMENT (ERBA)</b>	This will be considered in conjunction with the proposals for the Draft Corporate Plan and associated consultation period.
<b>APPENDICES</b>	Nil
<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	Nil

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan is a product of the annual planning cycle. This plan presents the key activities that ensure the Authority has the right resources in the right place being used efficiently and effectively. The Corporate Plan also incorporates the needs of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP); the proposed service delivery changes are incorporated upon which the community and stakeholders are invited to comment through various methods of consultation.

## **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 considered the Authority may wish to know the level of government grant prior to finalising the content of the next iteration of its Draft Corporate Plan and commencing consultation.
- 2.2 This will provide a better opportunity for a more meaningful and informed consultation on realistic proposals shaped by all relevant factors including financial constraints. Conversely, if the Authority consults on the Draft Corporate Plan prior to the Government Grant announcement there is a risk that any proposed changes may not appropriately reflect all relevant considerations.
- 2.3 The announcement of the government grant is not expected until the beginning of 2012, currently estimated at 6 December.

## **3. CONSULTATION PERIOD**

- 3.1 In previous years, the Authority has consulted on the Draft Corporate Plan during the period of October to December. This timescale, as indicated above, does not allow any proposed changes to be informed by the Government Grant announcement.
- 3.2 The Authority will need to determine the consultation methodology and the start date for consultation at a future meeting. It is currently anticipated that the Draft Corporate Plan will be presented to the Authority for approval in December followed by an appropriate period of consultation, informed by relevant guidance and which is proportionate to the level of change being proposed.

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