

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Authority)

7 February 2014

Present:-

Councillors Eastman (Chairman), Bown, Mrs. Bowyer, Colthorpe, Ellery, Owen and Prior-Sankey.

Apologies:-

None

***CSCPC/14. Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2013 be signed as a correct record.

***CSCPC/15. Safe South West - Work Programme**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Operations (CSCPC/14/1) that updated the Committee on the work programme that had been developed for SAFE (Safety, Advice, Funding and Education) South West, the charitable arm that had been set up by the Service with the purpose of accessing otherwise unobtainable funds to promote community safety activities.

A presentation was given at the meeting by the Community Safety Support Manager, Anne Harrison-Bailey and the Charity's Co-Ordinator, Steve Smith, on the progress made to date in respect of the Charity's work. It was noted that the Charity had already had some success in respect of attracting funding for projects, notably from the Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner's small grants fund for training staff to undertake interventions within an Adult Firesetters programme and also for training for Flood Wardens (Minute *CSCP/17 below also refers). It was felt that the profile of the Charity had been raised and that progress could now be made as a result of the funding generated.

***CSCPC/16. Specialist Rescue Capabilities**

In view of the recent incidence of flooding within the Somerset Levels and the need to deploy operational staff to deal with this from the Service's boat rescue teams, this item was **DEFERRED** to a future meeting.

***CSCPC/17. Preparing for and Responding to Flooding Incidents**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Operations (CSCPC/14/2) that set out information in respect of the Service's response to the increased number of flood related incidents within Devon and Somerset.

The Community Safety Manager updated the Committee on the current position in respect of the flooding on the Somerset Levels. He stated that a Strategic Command Group had been established together with a Tactical Co-ordination Group to implement the decisions made. Briefings were sent out every 12 hours to update the position.

The Service was receiving assistance from the National Resilience Assurance Team together with specialist advice from other organisations in respect of the response provided to the villages of Muchelney and Moorland in particular. Reference was made to the cost of the Service's response to the flooding and how this may be reclaimed from Government in due course. It was noted that there may be European funding available for extreme emergency funding and the Service was urged to pursue this.

The Community Safety Support Manager made reference to work being undertaken on community resilience in Somerset in conjunction with the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). This was aimed at empowering communities and individuals with resources and other support to facilitate their response to and recovery from emergencies. It was hoped that this Project would empower communities to protect their property and that the training for Flood Wardens would be one of the mechanisms that would assist in achieving this aim.

The Committee also received a presentation given at the meeting by the SAFE South West Charity's Co-ordinator in respect of the Flood Warden Training Programme that had developed utilising funding received from the National Lottery and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It was noted that a pilot project had been established in Cornwall and it was hoped that this could now be extended to other communities within the South West.

***CSCPC/18. Networked Fire Control Services Partnership (NFCSP) - Update**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Operations that covered, amongst other things:

- An overview of the history behind the Partnership and the establishment of the New Dimensions project, which was set up to look at resilience in the light of a major terrorist attack and funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG);
- The issues emanating from the New Dimensions Project, namely the identification of inefficient communications between fire control rooms, the resulting decision to reduce the number of Fire Control rooms, and the inability of individual fire and rescue services to track assets deployed;
- The above issues led to the introduction of Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) to the cabs of fire appliances which provided specific information at the touch of a button to fire crews in respect of maps, chemical data, crash recovery, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) and Operational Risk Information Systems (ORIS), together with the establishment of Airwave – a new digital communications system;
- The introduction of “status messaging” via the MDTs in 2012 to provide more detailed information to the Service in respect of the position on an incident to which an appliance had been mobilised (such as “mobile to, in attendance”, etc.) and also to cut down on the amount of radio traffic;
- Details of the new FORTEK system that had been developed as a result of central government funding for a collaborative approach to Fire Control with Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services which would go live in Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service in October 2014.

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

The meeting started at 10.00hours and finished at 11.20hours