

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

14 April 2016

Present:-

Councillors Eastman (Chair), Bown, Colthorpe, Ellery, Leaves (Vice-Chair) and Redman

Apologies:-

Councillor Hill

CSCPC/14 Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 12 January 2016*

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 be signed as a correct record.

CSCPC/15 Review of Performance Measures*

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Area Manager – Analysis and Development – that set out the process that was being followed for the review of the internal performance measures which was underway.

The performance measures were being aligned to the Authority's strategic priorities, namely:

- Priority 1 – public safety;
- Priority 2 – staff safety;
- Priority 3 – efficiency and effectiveness.

The Committee noted that it was important for the measures to be aligned to the corporate priorities but additionally, at local level this would also align to both departmental and local community plans within areas. Workshops were being arranged in which Members of the Authority would be invited to participate and engage and further information on the arrangements would be circulated in due course.

CSCPC/16 Rapid Intervention Vehicles Pilot Results and Next Steps*

The Committee received for information a report of the Area Manager – Response (CSCPC/16/2) that set out the progress made with the pilot undertaken on Rapid Intervention Vehicles.

Councillor Ellery enquired as to whether the effectiveness of the vehicle had been measured in both rural and urban areas. The Area Manager – Response confirmed that this had been undertaken as part of the pilot. The pilot had been a great success and the Service was now moving forward to the next phase which was the specification of the actual vehicle and the procurement process.

The Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer made reference to the vehicle that had been left in place at Porlock as a result of staff requests. Councillor Redman drew attention to the need to consider firefighter safety in the event that the vehicle was mobilised with less than the current standard crewing of 4 people. The Area Manager – Response referred to new technology that was available to assist staff should a crew of less than 4 be mobilised to an incident. It was noted that the mobilisation of a smaller crew at an earlier stage could result in a quicker and more effective intervention at an incident involving a fire. Councillor Redman commented that, whilst this project was supported, the Service had to ensure that staff safety was the primary consideration when mobilising to incidents.

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer encouraged the Committee to visit the station at Porlock to hear the experience of the staff at first hand. The Area Manager – Response – added that the use of the Rapid intervention vehicle was part of a tiered response so it was not envisaged that it would be mobilised on its own on all occasions.

Councillor Ellery referred to the need for these issues to be communicated to the public so that there was an understanding as to why this new approach was being undertaken. The Assistant Chief Fire Officer advised that work was being undertaken with the BBC's Spotlight team to encourage some positive communication on innovative work being undertaken by the Service into the public arena. It was noted that such communication needed to be extended into Somerset in addition.

In response to a question in respect of the location of the vehicles, the Committee was advised that there would be 45 of these vehicles in due course but the final locations had not been identified yet.

CSCPC/17 Call Reduction - Unwanted Fire Signals Non-Attendance Policy Impact*

The Committee received for information a report of the Area Manager – Community Safety (CSCPC/16/3) that set out the impact of the implementation of the Service's call reduction policy.

The Committee commended the approach taken by the Service and expressed thanks to the officers concerned for the good work that had been undertaken in capturing the data required to confirm the tangible benefits seen. It was suggested that the outcomes should be publicised as widely as possible.

CSCPC/18 Better Business for All

The Committee received for information a report of the Area Manager – Community Safety (CSCPC/16/4) that set out details of the partnership that was in place to promote compliance and regulation with businesses within Devon and Somerset.

It was important for the Service to encourage the Better Business for All partnership to report issues related to fire back and also to promote understanding of the Fire Service's role. The Service wished to avoid having to pursue compliance through improved education of the issues and the Better Business for All partnership provided an excellent opportunity for discussions at an earlier stage.

It was suggested that it would be useful for the Chair of Better Business for All to be invited to attend a future Members' Forum to encourage support for this partnership.

Councillor Ellery **MOVED** (seconded by Councillor Leaves):

“that the recommendation set out within report CSCPC/16/4 be amended to reflect the suggestion above“.

Upon a vote, this was **CARRIED** unanimously, whereupon it was

RESOLVED

- (a) That Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service continues to promote and support the Better Business for All programme:
- (b) That the Chair of the Better Business for All Partnership be invited to attend a future Members' Forum to encourage support for the partnership.

CSCPC/19 Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 - Legal Action Taken

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Area Manager – Community Safety – that set out the position in respect of enforcement action taken in accordance with the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and the legal action that had been taken during 2015/16 to ensure compliance with this legislation.

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

The meeting started at 10:00hours and finished at 11.35hours