



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

**M. Pearson
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY**

**To: The Chair and Members of the
Community Safety Committee**

(see below)

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COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Monday, 26 July, 2021

A meeting of the Community Safety Committee will be held on the above date, **commencing at 10.00 am in the Committee Rooms, Somerset House, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters** to consider the following matters.

M. Pearson
Clerk to the Authority

A G E N D A

PLEASE REFER TO THE NOTES AT THE END OF THE AGENDA LISTING SHEETS

1 Apologies

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the [former] Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee held on 8 March 2021, attached.

Note: this Committee was decommissioned by the Authority at its annual meeting on 29 June 2021 and was replaced by this Committee.

3 Items Requiring Urgent Attention

Items which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be considered at the meeting as matters of urgency.

PART 1 - OPEN COMMITTEE

4 Community Safety Committee Future Scrutiny Arrangements (Pages 7 - 16)

Report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSC/21/1) attached.

5 Match Funding of Domestic Sprinklers (Pages 17 - 22)

Report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSC/21/2) attached.

6 Draft Community Risk Management Plan - Next Steps

Officers to report.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership:-

Councillors Chesterton (Chair), Biederman, Corvid, McGeough, Parker-Khan, Radford (Vice-Chair) and Redman.

NOTES

1. **Access to Information**

Any person wishing to inspect any minutes, reports or lists of background papers relating to any item on this agenda should contact the person listed in the “Please ask for” section at the top of this agenda.

2. **Reporting of Meetings**

Any person attending a meeting may report (film, photograph or make an audio recording) on any part of the meeting which is open to the public – unless there is good reason not to do so, as directed by the Chair - and use any communication method, including the internet and social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.), to publish, post or otherwise share the report. The Authority accepts no liability for the content or accuracy of any such report, which should not be construed as representing the official, Authority record of the meeting. Similarly, any views expressed in such reports should not be interpreted as representing the views of the Authority.

Flash photography is not permitted and any filming must be done as unobtrusively as possible from a single fixed position without the use of any additional lighting; focusing only on those actively participating in the meeting and having regard also to the wishes of any member of the public present who may not wish to be filmed. As a matter of courtesy, anyone wishing to film proceedings is asked to advise the Chair or the Democratic Services Officer in attendance so that all those present may be made aware that is happening.

3. **Declarations of Interests at meetings (Authority Members only)**

If you are present at a meeting and you are aware that you have either a disclosable pecuniary interest, personal interest or non-registerable interest in any matter being considered or to be considered at the meeting then, unless you have a current and relevant dispensation in relation to the matter, you must:

- (i) disclose at that meeting, by no later than commencement of consideration of the item in which you have the interest or, if later, the time at which the interest becomes apparent to you, the existence of and – for anything other than a “sensitive” interest – the nature of that interest; and then
- (ii) withdraw from the room or chamber during consideration of the item in which you have the relevant interest.

If the interest is sensitive (as agreed with the Monitoring Officer), you need not disclose the nature of the interest but merely that you have an interest of a sensitive nature. You must still follow (i) and (ii) above.

Where a dispensation has been granted to you either by the Authority or its Monitoring Officer in relation to any relevant interest, then you must act in accordance with any terms and conditions associated with that dispensation.

Where you declare at a meeting a disclosable pecuniary or personal interest that you have not previously included in your Register of Interests then you must, within 28 days of the date of the meeting at which the declaration was made, ensure that your Register is updated to include details of the interest so declared.

	NOTES (Continued)
4.	<p><u>Part 2 Reports</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that any Part 2 reports as circulated with the agenda for this meeting contain exempt information and should therefore be treated accordingly. They should not be disclosed or passed on to any other person(s). Members are also reminded of the need to dispose of such reports carefully and are therefore invited to return them to the Committee Secretary at the conclusion of the meeting for disposal.</p>
5.	<p><u>Substitute Members (Committee Meetings only)</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the Clerk (or his representative) must be advised of any substitution prior to the start of the meeting. Members are also reminded that substitutions are not permitted for full Authority meetings.</p>
6.	<p><u>Other Attendance at Committees</u></p> <p>Any Authority Member wishing to attend, in accordance with Standing Orders, a meeting of a Committee of which they are not a Member should contact the Democratic Services Officer (see “please ask for” on the front page of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.</p>

COMMUNITY SAFETY & CORPORATE PLANNING COMMITTEE

(Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority)

8 March 2021

Present:

Councillors Redman (Chair), Colthorpe, Radford, Trail BEM and Wheeler (vice Corvid)

Apologies:

Councillors Corvid and Eastman

* **CSCPC/15** Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2020 be approved as a correct record subject to amendment under Minute CSCPC/14 - paragraph 2 in the third sentence as follows:

“Of the 18 internal actions which were outstanding, 13 would be completed by 31 December 2020 with the remaining 5 by 1 April 2021”.

* **CSCPC/16** Safer Together Programme Update

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Improvement (CSCPC/21/1) which provided a high level overview and update on the progress made with the Service’s “Safer Together” Programme.

The Programme consisted of the following key workstreams:

- Service Delivery Operating Model (SDOM);
- Fleet & Equipment Replacement;
- Data and Digital Transformation; and
- People Development.

The report gave an overview of the progress made in each of these areas based on a Red, Amber and Green (RAG) rating as requested at the previous meeting (Minute CSCPC/13 refers).

The Director of Service Improvement advised that the Programme Team had made very good progress with the projects given the current circumstances with the third lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The key points highlighted were:

SDOM:

- Topsham and Budleigh Salterton fire station closures and associated moves were completed;
- Replacement of the third fire engines with a Light 4x4 Rescue Pump (L4P) at Taunton and Torquay had been completed and Bridgwater and Yeovil to follow shortly;
- The removal of the second fire appliances from Crediton, Lynton, Martock and Totnes had all been completed;

- The Pay for Availability (P4A) project was rolling out well with 4 groups of stations already moved over to this model and 6 stations were in the process of transitioning onto risk dependent availability too;
- A review of the approach to roving appliances was being undertaken currently to ensure that the Service could make the most of any excess capacity within Wholetime watches.

Fleet & Equipment Replacement:

- Medium Replacement Pump (MRP) replacement was moving forward and the stowage exercise had been completed with the supplier, E1, recently;
- The first Wildfire and All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) were on the run at Bovey Tracey now;
- Asset management was on track.

Digital Transformation:

- The Management of Risk Information (MORI) Protection app which would enable increased capability in case management of the Service's business safety activity was progressing well; and
- Work on the data architecture required to support digital transformation was complex but was being developed in an agile approach to ensure flexibility for the future.

People Development:

- This project had progressed very well and it was hoped to close this shortly and to move into business as usual. The work undertaken included the instigation of development pools for crew managers to the Service Leadership Team and the procured of MindTools recently.

The Chair of the Committee expressed thanks to officers for including the RAG rating. He added that it would also be useful to have contrasting text on the coloured backgrounds and a key to the RAG rating in future reports. He also suggested a list of acronyms be included as part of a briefing for new members of the Authority.

In terms of the SDOM workstream, it was noted that there seemed to be a number of places where things were being reviewed such as latent capacity. The Director of Service Improvement advised that the projects undertook gateway reviews as normal practice. With roving appliances, there was a need to ensure this was the best it could be so the Service was looking at latent capacity and vehicle types to ensure it would be sustainable. The Chair requested that this matter be reported to the Committee as a separate item to the next meeting.

Reference was also made to the rollout of various new appliances and the question was raised as to whether any feedback had been received from Firefighters. The Director of Service Improvement replied that the Service was still gathering feedback. The new ATV had been instigated at Bovey Tracey recently, however, and the crew seemed excited to receive it. The Committee would be kept up to speed with any feedback received although it was noted that the Service was engaging currently with all stations on the Fleet Plan as a whole. The Chair requested an update at the next meeting on any feedback received.

In response to a question on selective alerting, the Director of Service Improvement advised the Committee that this went hand in hand with Pay for Availability (P4A) and the Service would only be alerting those Firefighters that were required. The Project Team was working through the requirements and there would be a trial implemented initially. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer added that P4A would not work correctly as a concept without selective alerting and the Service had undertaken a lot of engagement with Representative Bodies on this.

* **CSCPC/17** **Grenfell Recommendations Progress Report**

The Committee received, for information, a report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSCPC/21/2) on the progress made by the Service in implementing the recommendations arising from the Grenfell Phase 1 Inquiry. The report also provided an update on the use of the additional Building Risk Review grant funding.

It was noted that a total of 44 recommendations were made as a result of the Grenfell Inquiry. These were split into external and internal actions. The external actions required collaboration with external partners including the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) together with changes in legislation. There were 18 external actions, none of which had been completed but 4 of these were on track with 14 slightly off track as these were awaiting the instigation of legislation by the Government.

There were 26 internal actions of which 6 had been completed to date. Of the 20 outstanding actions, 13 were on track with the remaining 7 slightly off track.

The Service had received grant funding totalling £455,125 to support the outcomes of Grenfell in addition to general improvements in fire safety standards and outcomes as follows:

- Building Risk Review Programme (£60,000);
- Protection Uplift Programme Grant (£256,909); and
- Grenfell Infrastructure Fund (£138,216).

The Building Risk Review Programme had been developed to support Fire and Rescue Services in reviewing fire safety arrangements for all “in scope” high rise residential buildings over 18 metres by December 2021.

The Service had identified a multi-disciplinary team (protection; prevention; risk; communication and engagement) and developed an action plan to deliver the programme for the 89 buildings identified in the Service area. At the end of February 2021, 35 of these buildings had been inspected, with the remainder to be addressed by September 2021.

Spending against the Protection Uplift funding was zero as at the end of February 2021. An action plan to provide increased numbers of Building Safety Officers had been instigated and a recruitment process was underway. Spending against the Grenfell Infrastructure funding was £35266 as the Service had provided relevant equipment including smoke hoods to all operational vehicles.

The Committee expressed its thanks to officers for instigating a RAG rating against the recommendations. The question was raised as to whether there may be further recommendations arising as a result of Phase 2 of the Grenfell Inquiry. The Director of Service Delivery advised that any such recommendations would be reviewed by the Service on publication.

The Committee also commented that the provision of smoke hoods was innovative and asked for a demonstration to be provided at a future meeting.

* **CSCPC/18 Integrated Risk Management Plan & Community Risk Management Plan**

The Committee received for information a presentation given by the Director of Service Improvement at the meeting which covered the requirement under the National Framework 2018 to implement an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP), the current iteration of which ran to 2022.

It was noted that the Service had commenced work on the next iteration of the Plan. The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) had produced a new National Fire Standard for a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) now. It was considered that a CRMP would reflect more accurately the function and content of the Plan. Additionally, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) would monitor the Service's performance against the new Standard.

The presentation at the meeting covered the following points:

- The components of a CRMP, including work undertaken on defining its scope, hazard identifications, risk analysis, decision making and evaluation;
- the engagement being undertaken with internal and external stakeholders which would also give evidence for collaborative work with partners;
- Details of the new Fire Standard and how the Service expected to achieve any desired outcomes;
- The Pre-Engagement exercise which would identify where consultation would be required on the new Plan, starting with station staff;
- Timescales for the process, notably that a draft of the proposed CRMP would be available in Summer 2021 with any statutory consultation commencing at the end of August to September 2021 for 13 weeks;

- There was an ongoing community risk project at the NFCC and the Service was hoping there would be a standard definition of “risk” to guide fire and rescue services in this process.

The Committee noted that the agenda for future committee meetings was likely to focus on this matter as it had delegated responsibility to make recommendations to the Authority on the CRMP. The Committee asked that the presentation be circulated by email for reference and the Director of Service Improvement undertook to forward the information requested.

Reference was made to the point that interest in CRMP may be greater this time after the Grenfell fire and that Officers needed to be prepared for greater examination by the local authorities. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer advised that the Service would be encouraging the public to respond to the Service on the CRMP engagement exercise and it recognised the need to delve deeper into communities so a stakeholder mapping exercise was being undertaken currently.

The Committee asked the Service to consider if Members could feedback and also to have material available to take to their respective local authorities. A report was also requested for future meetings.

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

The Meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.07 am

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Agenda Item 4

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/21/1
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	26 JULY 2021
SUBJECT OF REPORT	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE FUTURE SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS
LEAD OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>(a). <i>that, subject to any amendments as may be indicated at the meeting, those performance measures identified in Section 2 of this report for monitoring progress against Strategic Priorities 1 & 2 and its associated policy objectives be approved; and</i></p> <p>(b). <i>the proposal at paragraph 2.2 of this report for presenting this information to future meetings be approved.</i></p>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>At its ordinary meeting on 29 June 2021, the Authority approved four Strategic Priorities with associated policy objectives.</p> <p>Each of the Strategic Priorities and associated policy objectives were developed in consultation with the Authority at a series of bespoke workshops and Members' Forum discussions.</p> <p>The Authority annual meeting on 29 June 2021 established this Committee to replace the former Community Safety & Corporate Planning Committee and with the main objective of: "to scrutinise and monitor the effectiveness of Service performance against Authority approved Community Safety Strategic Policy Objectives and the Community Risk Management Plan".</p> <p>The approved policy objectives to support Strategic priorities 1 & 2 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.(a) Deliver interventions and education events to reduce the risk of fires in the community 1.(b) Develop and deliver initiatives to support children and young people in making safe lifestyle choices 1.(c) Target risk-based inspection processes and enforcement activities towards the highest risk and ensure that they are effective and properly resourced 2.(a) Provide response resources at times and in locations relevant to identified risks of fires and other emergencies

	<p>2.(b) Ensure that we continue to meet our obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act and the National Resilience Model and continue to develop plans and capability to respond to major emergencies in line with changing threat and risk levels</p> <p>2.(c) Explore and develop opportunities to work with other agencies where the Service can add value to community outcomes</p> <p>This paper makes suggestions of some of the performance measures that the Community Safety Committee could scrutinise and monitor against Strategic Priorities 1 and 2</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Existing resource
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	N/A
APPENDICES	<p>A. Relevant HMICFRS Efficiency Pillar Assessment Questions – Strategic Objective 1</p> <p>B. Relevant HMICFRS Efficiency Pillar Assessment Questions – Strategic Objective 2</p>
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Report DSFRA/21/12 (Review of Constitutional Governance Framework) to the Authority Annual Meeting on 29 June 2021 (and the minutes of that meeting).</p> <p>Report DSFRA/21/15 (Strategic Policy Objectives 2021-22) to the Authority Ordinary Meeting on 29 June 2021 (and the Minutes of that meeting).</p>

1. **BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION**

1.1. In 2020 the Authority, supported by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, undertook an extensive review of its governance structure. Stemming from this, it was felt there would be considerable benefit to the Authority in approving set of clear Strategic Priority Objectives for each year against which the Authority could, using its Committee structure, scrutinise Service performance.

1.2. Proposed Strategic Priority Objectives for 2021-22 were presented to and approved by the Authority at its ordinary meeting on 29 June 2021. These were developed with input from Authority Members at recent Members' Forum meetings and three Member workshops. The four Strategic Policy Objectives approved by the Authority for 2021-22 are:

Strategic Priority 1

Our targeted prevention and protection activities will reduce the risks in our communities, Improving Health, Safety and wellbeing, supporting the local economy.

Strategic Priority 2

Our Operational resources will provide an effective emergency response to meet the local and national risks.

Strategic Priority 3

The Service is recognised as a great place to work. Our staff feel valued, supported, safe and well trained to deliver a high performing fire and rescue service.

Strategic Priority 4

We are open and accountable, using our resources efficiently to deliver a high performing, sustainable service that demonstrates improving public value.

1.3. In relation to Strategic Priorities 1 & 2, the Authority also approved the following policy objectives:

- 1.(a) Deliver interventions and education events to reduce the risk of fires in the community;
- 1.(b) Develop and deliver initiatives to support children and young people in making safe lifestyle choices;
- 1.(c) Target risk-based inspection processes and enforcement activities towards the highest risk and ensure that they are effective and properly resourced.
- 2.(a) Provide response resources at times and in locations relevant to identified risks of fires and other emergencies;
- 2.(b) Ensure that we continue to meet our obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act and the National Resilience Model and continue to develop plans and capability to respond to major emergencies in line with changing threat and risk levels; and
- 2.(c) Explore and develop opportunities to work with other agencies where the Service can add value to community outcomes.

1.4. These policy objectives align to the current Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) assessment criteria under the Prevention and Protection Pillar (see Appendix A and B of this report).

2. **PROPOSED PERFORMANCE MONITORING BY THIS COMMITTEE**

2.1. To assist the Committee in achieving to its main objective, the Service suggests the following performance measures to be scrutinised and monitored at committee meetings:

Strategic Policy Objective 1.(a) Deliver interventions and education events to reduce the risk of fires in the community.

Suggested performance reporting:

- Number of accidental dwelling fire fatalities;
- Number of accidental dwelling fire casualties (not including precautionary check);
- Number of deliberate dwelling fire fatalities;
- Number of fire fatalities and casualties by other incident type;
- Number of Deliberate Primary Fires;
- Number of Home fire safety visits carried out. Against target;
- Number of targeted Home fire safety visits carried out (2 or more identified risk factors); and
- Number of secondary fires.

Strategic Policy Objective 1.(b) Develop and deliver initiatives to support children and young people in making safe lifestyle choices.

Suggested performance reporting:

- Number of killed or seriously injured (KSI) road traffic collision (RTC) incidents;
- Number of RTC incidents attended;
- Number of preventable drownings;
- Number of Schools talks delivered;
- Number of RTC reduction education events delivered;
- Number of other education events delivered; and
- Number of cadet schemes and other organised groups supported

Strategic Policy Objective 1.(c) Target risk-based inspection processes and enforcement activities towards the highest risk and ensure that they are effective and properly resourced.

Suggested performance reporting:

- Number of fires in non-domestic buildings covered by the fire safety order;
- Number of Fire safety checks/short audits carried out against risk based inspection programme;
- Number of Fire safety Audits carried out against risk based inspection programme;
- Percentage of inspections achieving Compliance with Fire Safety Order;
- Number of unwanted Fire alarm signals in non-domestic premises;
- Percentage of statutory consultations completed to required timescales.

Strategic Policy Objective 2.(a) Provide response resources at times and in locations relevant to identified risks of fires and other emergencies.

Suggested performance reporting:

- Number of incidents attended by type and location;
- Appliance availability;
- Risk critical appliance availability;
- Wholetime appliance availability;
- On call appliance availability;
- Emergency response time failures (10 & 15 min);
- Call handling times;
- Percentage of Operational risk information in date. (Level 3 Site Specific Risk Inspection (SSRI) and 4 tactical plans);
- Number of 72d risk inspections (inspection undertaken to gather information for an SSRI or for operational familiarisation purposes) completed against target.

Strategic Policy Objective 2.(b) Ensure that we continue to meet our obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act and the National Resilience Model and continue to develop plans and capability to respond to major emergencies in line with changing threat and risk levels.

Suggested performance reporting:

- Availability of National resilience assets;
- National resilience Competencies in date;
- Level 4 (tactical plans) in date;
- Number of National and regional exercises against target.

Strategic Policy Objective 2.(c) Explore and develop opportunities to work with other agencies where the Service can add value to community outcomes.

Suggested performance reporting:

- Co-responder availability;
- Number of Co-responder incidents;
- Number of staff providing activity for different agencies (varied by ad hoc nature of requests);
- Outcomes of collaboration initiatives.

2.2 It should be noted that the performance areas agreed by the Committee would be an initial position that may change and adapt as the Committee matures and develops.

2.3 A forward plan will be developed with the committee for agreement at the next meeting.

ACFO PETE BOND
Director of Service Delivery

HMICFRS Effectiveness Pillar Assessment Questions

1.1 How well does the FRS understand the risk of fire and other emergencies?

- 1.1.1 How well does the FRS engage with the local community to build up a comprehensive risk profile?
- 1.1.2 To what extent does the FRS use information from other sources to build the risk profile?
- 1.1.3 How well does the FRS identify and assess current, emerging or future changes in the risk of fire and other risks?
- 1.1.4 How well does the FRS define the level of community risk, including those communities that are most at risk or seldom heard, and risks affecting the most vulnerable people?
- 1.1.5 To what extent is risk information systematically and accurately gathered by staff?
- 1.1.6 How well is information on risk communicated throughout the FRS?
- 1.1.7 To what extent are the results of operational activity used to make sure there is a common understanding of risk?

1.2 How effective is the FRS at preventing fires and other risks?

- 1.2.1 To what extent is preventative activity, such as the home fire safety check programme, focused on the people most at risk?
- 1.2.2 How well does the FRS raise awareness and campaign to prevent fires and promote community safety?
- 1.2.3 What progress has the FRS, with partner organisations, made in preventing fires and keeping people safe?
- 1.2.4 To what extent does FRS identify vulnerability and safeguard vulnerable people?
- 1.2.5 How well does the FRS work with partner organisations to promote road safety and reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads?
- 1.2.6 How well does the FRS work with partner organisations to tackle fire setting behaviour and support the prosecution of arsonists?

1.3 How effective is the FRS at protecting the public through the regulation of fire safety?

- 1.3.1 To what extent is enforcement and inspection based on risk?
- 1.3.2 To what extent is a systematic, consistent and robust fire safety audit undertaken by staff?
- 1.3.3 How well does the FRS take enforcement action against those who fail to comply with fire safety regulations?
- 1.3.4 How well does the FRS work with other enforcement agencies to share information on risk and take joint enforcement action?
- 1.3.5 To what extent is the FRS working in partnership to reduce the burden of unwanted fire signals?
- 1.3.6 To what extent does the FRS engage with local businesses or large organisations to share information and expectations on compliance with fire safety regulations?

1.4 How effective is the FRS at responding to fires and other emergencies?

- 1.4.1 To what extent does FRS operational policy reflect national operational guidance?
- 1.4.2 To what extent does the FRS respond proportionately to incidents based on risk?
- 1.4.3 How well does the FRS use and communicate information about incident risk?
- 1.4.4 How well does the FRS command fire service assets at incidents?
- 1.4.5 How well does the FRS respond to cross-border incidents with other FRSs?
- 1.4.6 How well does the FRS communicate information about incidents and risks to the public?
- 1.4.7 To what extent are consistent, rigorous and open systems in place to evaluate operational performance and make operational improvements?

1.5 How well prepared is the FRS to respond to major and multi-agency incidents?

- 1.5.1 To what extent has the FRS anticipated and assessed community risks likely to require a multi-agency response?
- 1.5.2 How well has the FRS established response plans for dealing with major and multi-agency incidents?
- 1.5.3 How well has the FRS trained, exercised and tested arrangements for dealing with major and multi-agency incidents?
- 1.5.4 How well prepared is the FRS to form part of a multi-agency response in line with JESIP?
- 1.5.5 How well prepared is the FRS to respond to major incidents with other FRSs?
- 1.5.6 How well does the FRS exchange learning and notable practice with other FRSs, including learning from local, regional and national incidents?

Relevant HMICFRS Efficiency Pillar Assessment Questions

N.B. the majority of the Efficiency Pillar questions are scrutinised through the Resources Committee

2.1 How well does the FRS use resources to manage risk?

2.1.3 To what extent does the FRS have the capacity and capability it needs to achieve operational performance, including the allocation of resources to prevention, protection and response activity?

2.1.4 How well does the FRS make sure its workforce's time is productive?

2.1.5 How well is the service making use of new ways of working, including having a flexible workforce and flexible working pattern?

2.1.6 To what extent is the FRS actively exploring all opportunities for collaboration within and beyond the fire and rescue sector, and are the anticipated benefits from collaboration being realised?

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Agenda Item 5

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/21/2
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	26 JULY 2021
SUBJECT OF REPORT	MATCH FUNDING OF DOMESTIC SPRINKLERS
LEAD OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p><i>That the report be noted as evidencing a different approach to supporting the following of the Authority's approved Strategic Policy Objectives:</i></p> <p><i>Strategic policy objective 2(a) - Provide response resources at times and in locations relevant to identified risks of fires and other emergencies; and</i></p> <p><i>Strategic policy objective 2(c) - Explore and develop opportunities to work with other agencies where the Service can add value to community outcomes.</i></p>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Domestic sprinklers are reasonably inexpensive if fitted at the time of build. They have a proven record of reducing fatalities, injuries and damage in fires. The Service has a fund available to match-fund bespoke equipment. There is an opportunity to match-fund the fitting of sprinklers in a new build to use as a case study and to promote domestic sprinklers throughout Devon and Somerset.</p> <p>The Service recognises the benefit of retro-fitting domestic sprinklers in a small number of high risk cases where other mitigation options have been exhausted in order to protect life. There is the possibility of working with housing providers to match fund retro fit sprinklers where it is identified that individuals are at risk. This report sets out a proposal to achieve this.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	<p>The 2021/22 Prevention budget had an additional £50,000 assigned from 2020/21 underspend to fund bespoke equipment to reduce risk for high risk individuals. This is held in the 'Joint Working Initiative' budget within Prevention. Section 4 of this report sets out the specific resource implications.</p>
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	<p>To be completed on a case by case basis.</p>
APPENDICES	<p>None</p>
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>None</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Service has been undertaking fire prevention work for many years in order to reduce fire fatalities, injuries and incidents in accordance with the National Framework.
- 1.2 The National Framework for Fire & Rescue Services provides:
- “2.4 We expect fire and rescue authorities to target their fire safety, prevention and protection resources on: those individuals or households who are at greatest risk from fire in the home; those most likely to engage in arson or deliberate fire setting; and on those non-domestic premises where the life safety risk is greatest. Consideration could also be given to non-domestic premises which are at risk from fire in order to mitigate loss to economic wellbeing.
- 2.5 To identify those at greatest risk from fire, we expect fire and rescue authorities to work closely with other organisations in the public and voluntary sector, as well as with the police and ambulance services. Wherever appropriate, we expect fire and rescue services to develop partnerships to support risk reduction services to those identified as vulnerable, including from exploitation or abuse, and wherever possible to share intelligence and relevant risk data”.
- 1.3 The Service instigated a Community Safety Strategy which uses four levels of intervention to reduce risk. This ranges from Universal Preventative Services such as social media messaging up to Specialist Services that are designed for high risk individuals to reduce risk to an acceptable level on an individual basis.
- 1.4 This approach also aligns with the National Fire Chief Councils’ Person Centred Framework and the Fire Standard for Prevention. Interventions may include providing specialist equipment to an individual to reduce risk. This can range from fitting a smoke alarm or hard of hearing alarms or even individual misting systems where appropriate.
- 1.5 Even with our current Prevention efforts and interventions the Service still has fire fatalities every year in Devon and Somerset. A high degree of work has been undertaken, therefore, to explore innovative ways of locating high risk individuals and providing services to protect those most at risk. This report sets out a proposal to mitigate the risk with individuals at greatest risk of fire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. It is recognised that, in very high risk situations where an individual is unable to exit a property due to mobility and if the risk of fire is so severe and cannot be mitigated against, then the installation of domestic sprinklers may be an option to prevent a fatality should a fire break out.
- 2.2. The fitting of sprinklers has a proven track record of preventing fire fatalities and reducing damage to property as well as increasing firefighter safety.

- 2.3. In the UK, there has never been a fire death in a building with a fully maintained sprinkler system. Fires are extinguished or controlled in 99% of sprinkler protected properties. Average property loss is reduced by 70%. (National Fire Sprinkler Report, 2017).

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP WORKING TO REDUCE RISK

- 3.1. The Service has an opportunity to work in partnership with housing providers. Where it is recognised that an occupant reaches the criteria of being at very high risk and unable to exit a property, there is an opportunity in a small number of cases to retro-fit sprinklers to protect an individual if all other options for mitigation have been exhausted.
- 3.2. In this situation the Service would look to match-fund the fitting of domestic sprinklers. Conversations with housing providers such as Plymouth Community Homes and Cornerstone Housing have been positive and indicate that there is an appetite to a match funding approach in a small number of cases.
- 3.3. Following a tragic fatal fire and subsequent fatal fire review, Cornerstone Housing in Exeter has been in dialogue with the Service to explore opportunities to protect residents from fire. Cornerstone has offered an opportunity for a new build block of flats that could be used as a trial for the fitting of domestic sprinklers using a match-funding approach. The build is in Beacon Avenue, Exeter consisting of 6 one bed roomed flats. It is generally recognised that people living alone are at higher risk of fire than the general population.
- 3.4. The advantage to match-fund on a new build is the cost of fitting at time of build is significantly lower than retro-fitting sprinklers.
- 3.5. The Service will use this example to demonstrate the low cost of installing sprinklers at time of build along with the benefits that domestic sprinklers bring. The Service can also use this build as a case study throughout the lifetime of the building to promote domestic sprinklers across Devon and Somerset.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Service's Prevention budget currently contains £50,000 in the 'Joint working initiative' for funding equipment to provide bespoke innovative interventions for those most at risk in order to reduce fatalities. This budget would be used to support the new build option and any retro fit projects. Consequently, no further budget requirement is required. This budget is in addition to the annual equipment budget and has been secured as one-off funding from underspend in 2020-21 due to a reduction in face-to-face activity due to the pandemic.

New build option

- 4.2. The cost of fitting a domestic sprinkler system at time of build is far less than retro-fitting sprinklers. The cost for the match-funding of the new build with Cornerstone Housing is £2,500+VAT per flat. The total cost of approximately £18,000 will provide 6 one bed flats with a sprinkler system. The proposal is for the Service to match-fund the cost of the sprinklers, committing £9,000 to this project. Cornerstone would fund the remaining £9,000.
- 4.3. This would be a one-off project and can be achieved within the delegated authority of the Chief Fire Officer.

Retro-fit option

- 4.4. The option to support a small number of individual high risk cases across Devon and Somerset would be considered on a case by case basis for retro-fit sprinkler systems. Retro-fitted sprinklers would only be considered where other mitigation has already been exhausted and the risk of fire and death is still very high.
- 4.5. The cost of retro-fitting sprinklers is unique dependent upon many factors and would have to be reviewed on a case by case basis and considered using a cost benefit approach. Any support for match funding would be met from the current budget allocation.

5. BENEFITS

- 5.1 There are clear benefits both financially and on life safety grounds for fitting domestic sprinklers. Any project supported by the Service will be used to promote the fitting of domestic sprinklers to housing providers and be a valuable case study for best practice within the housing sector.
- 5.2 The proposal fits clearly within the National Framework and also the Authority's Community Safety Strategic Policy Objectives, specifically:
- 2(a) - Provide response resources at times and in locations relevant to identified risks of fires and other emergencies; and
 - 2(c) - Explore and develop opportunities to work with other agencies where the Service can add value to community outcomes (referred to elsewhere on this agenda).
- 5.3 The Chief Fire Officer (in consultation with the Treasurer) has delegated authority to make grants of up to and including £10,000. This has allowed the Service to agree to match-fund the fitting of sprinklers in the new build of 6 one bed flats in partnership with Cornerstone housing.
- 5.4 If the Service was to support any retro-fitting of sprinklers with the same housing provider, this could exceed the Chief Fire Officer's delegated authority. In this event, approval would be required by the Resources Committee in accordance with Financial Regulations and subject to the expenditure being met from the £50,000 budget allocation for 2021-22. Such approvals would also be reported through the Community Safety Committee as part of the monitoring of performance in accordance with the strategic objectives.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1. The Chief Fire Officer (in consultation with the Treasurer) has delegated authority to award grants of up to £10,000 so can authorise the match funding for fitting of domestic sprinklers in a low number of very high risk cases up to this figure and within the budget for bespoke equipment of £50,000 available, for 2021-22, in the 'joint working initiative'.
- 6.2. Any future opportunities to match fund the fitting of domestic sprinklers from within the budget for bespoke equipment that exceed the £10,000 delegated authority to the Chief Fire Officer would be submitted to the Resources Committee, for consideration in accordance with Financial Regulations.
- 6.3. This approach is consistent with the National Framework and the Authority's Strategic Objectives for Community Safety. This will allow the Service to demonstrate a commitment to innovation and forward thinking in its approach to reducing fatalities, injuries and incidents and allow the Service to explore bespoke solutions for a small number of very high risk individuals in partnership with housing providers across Devon and Somerset to reduce fire fatalities.

ACFO PETE BOND
Director of Service Delivery

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