DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

E. Jackman
CLERK TO THE AUTHORITY

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

(see below)

SERVICE HEADQUARTERS
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COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
(Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority)

Friday, 8th September, 2023

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

E. Jackman
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 - 4)

of the previous meeting held on 28 April 2023 attached.

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   Strategic Priority 1 and 2 Performance Measures: Quarter 1 2023-24 (Pages 5 - 20)

Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Delivery (CSC/23/8) attached.

5   Planning and the Role of the Fire & Rescue Service (Pages 21 - 26)

Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Office – Service Delivery (CSC/23/9) attached.

6   Partnerships (Pages 27 - 32)

Report of the Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Delivery (CSC/23/10) attached.

7   His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Areas for Improvement Action Plan Update (Pages 33 - 36)

Report of the Chief Fire Officer (CSC/23/11) attached.

MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Membership:-

Councillors Hendy (Chair), Chesterton (Vice-Chair), Brazil, Radford, Kerley, Patel and Power

	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.	**Part 2 Reports**
	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.
5.	**Substitute Members (Committee Meetings only)**
	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.
6.	**Other Attendance at Committees)**
	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.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
(Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority)

28 April 2023

Present:

Councillors Chesterton (Chair), Biederman (Vice-Chair), Coles (vice Brazil), Drean, Radford, Randall-Johnson (vice McGeough) and Sully

Apologies:

Councillors Brazil and McGeough

* **CSC/22/13** **Minutes**

> **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2023 be signed as a correct record.

* **CSC/22/14** **Strategic Priority 1 and 2 Performance Measures: Quarter 4 2022-23**

The Committee received for information a report of the Director of Service Delivery (CSC/23/6) on performance by the Service during Quarter 4 of the current (2022-23) financial year against those Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) associated with the following two Strategic Priorities as approved by the Authority for 2022-23 (Minute DSFRA/21/36 refers):

> **Strategic Priority 1**: "Our targeted prevention and protection activities will reduce the risks in our communities, improving health, safety and wellbeing and supporting the local economy"; and

> **Strategic Priority 2**: "Our operational resources will provide an effective emergency response to meet the local and national risks identified in our Community Risk Management Plan".

The performance status of the Service KPIs was based on the following criteria:

Succeeding	The KPI was achieving its target
Near Target	The KPI is less than 10% away from achieving its target
Needs Improvement	The KPI is at least 10% away from achieving its target

The report identified the following in relation to Quarter 3 performance against the 21 KPIs associated with Strategic Priority 1 and the 14 KPIs associated with Strategic Priority 2:

	Succeeding	Near Target	Needs Improvement
Priority 1	13	6	2
Priority 2	6	7	1

There were 3 KPIs as indicated above with a status of "needs improvement" which were:

- KPI 1.1.2.2 - number of dwelling fire fatalities (Priority 1);

- KPI 1.10.1.2 - rate of hospitalisations in other primary fires per 100,000 population (Priority 1)) and

- KPI 2.1.4.2 - percentage of operational risk information in date – level 4 tactical plans (Priority 2).

It was noted that exception reports for each of these KPIs needing improvement were included within the report circulated. The exception reports indicated:

- dwelling fire fatalities - this stemmed from one fatal fire in Quarter 4 which had started accidentally but had developed quickly and the severity was such that the cause could not be determined definitively. The Service was doing everything possible to mitigate against fatal fires including working closely with stakeholders and partners in the community to identify those most vulnerable, with each fatal fire being subject of an in-depth review;

- rate of hospitalisations in other primary fires per 100,000 population - this was dealing with very low numbers, making the rate subject to significant fluctuations. More meaningful monitoring could be ensured by assessing the rate of injuries within expected ranges, based on historical performance, with exception reports generated only where performance fell outside the upper limit. As this was based on a rolling average currently, however, this measure would automatically fall out of exception in the next 12 months as the rate of injuries had been dropping each year;

- percentage of operational risk information in date – level 4 tactical plans related to refreshing existing plans rather than the requirement for new plans. Measures were in place to address fully the backlog although this had taken longer than anticipated to work through.

The Committee considered areas of work it would like to pursue in greater depth via the submission of reports or deep dives in due course. These included:

- the planning system and building control post Grenfell and interaction with the Service;

- prevention and protection and particularly the work being undertaken to protect those vulnerable in the community together with how the new app on the Management of Operational Risk Information was progressing.

- Water supply and use of hydrants by the Service;

- Automatic Fire Alarm (AFA) activations;

- Emergency Response Standards;

- Review of the Community Safety Plan.

It was noted that these areas would be formulated into a forward plan for the Committee.

RESOLVED that, subject to the inclusion of the areas of work listed above into an appropriate forward plan for the Committee, the report be noted.

* **CSC/22/15** **His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary & Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Areas for Improvement Action Plan Update**

The Committee received for information a report of the Deputy Chief Fire Officer (CSC/23/7) on progress against action plans to address Areas of Improvement within the remit of this Committee and stemming from His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) 2022 inspection report of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (the Service).

Action plans had been developed to address the following two Areas for Improvement:

HMI-1.2-202203 - The Service should evaluate its prevention activity so it understands what works; and

HMI-1.2-202204 - Safeguarding training should be provided to all staff.

The report indicated that progress against each of the actions was on track to secure completion by the relevant target dates.

*DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.08 am

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REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/23/8
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	8 SEPTEMBER 2023
SUBJECT OF REPORT	STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 AND 2 PERFORMANCE MEASURES: QUARTER 1 – 2023-24
LEAD OFFICER	ACFO GERALD TAYLOR, DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY
RECOMMENDATIONS	*(a).* *That the Committee requests reports on areas of performance in relation to agreed strategic objectives; and* *(b).* *That, subject to (a) above, the report be noted and*
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Appendix 1 of this report presents the Quarter 1 of 2023-24 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report for Strategic Priorities 1 and 2. Unless otherwise stated, the performance status of our KPIs is based on the following criteria: Succeeding: the KPI is achieving its target. Near target: the KPI is less than 10% away from achieving its target. Needs improvement: the KPI is at least 10% away from achieving its target. **Performance overview: top level** Table 1: performance status overview 2022/23 Quarter 4 <table><tr><td></td><td>Succeeding</td><td>Near target</td><td>Needs improvement</td></tr><tr><td>Priority 1</td><td>13</td><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Priority 2</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr></table> The KPIs with a status of "needs improvement" are: • KPI 1.2.2.2 – Number of non-domestic fire fatalities (exception report, page 8) • KPI 2.1.4.2 – Percentage of operational risk information in date - level 4 tactical plans (exception report, page 10) All have been subject to review, with exception reports included as appropriate. Where required, action plans have been developed to bring performance back on track.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Existing budget and staffing is sufficient to deliver the required improvements
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	N/A
APPENDICES	A. Community Safety Committee 2023-24 quarter one performance report
BACKGROUND PAPERS	DSFRA/21/9 Strategic Policy Objectives 2021-22

Community Safety Committee

2023/24 quarter one performance report

This report provides an overview of performance against the priorities and objectives that fall within the remit of the Community Safety Committee.

Alice Murray, Strategic Analyst

Devon & Somerset
Fire & Rescue Service

Acting to Protect & Save

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Introduction

To make sure that we are delivering the best possible service to the communities of Devon and Somerset and its visitors, we need to regularly monitor our performance. This report looks at Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) from the Services' Performance Management Framework that require the scrutiny of the Community Safety Committee.

The KPIs will support us to deliver against two of our four strategic priorities:

Priority 1 – "Our targeted prevention and protection activities will reduce the risks in our communities, improving health, safety and wellbeing and supporting the local economy."

Priority 2 – "Our operational resources will provide an effective emergency response to meet the local and national risks identified in our Community Risk Management Plan."

The performance status of our KPIs is based on the following criteria:

Succeeding	The KPI (key performance indicator) is achieving its target.
Near target	The KPI is less than 10% away from achieving its target.
Needs improvement	The KPI is at least 10% away from achieving its target.

When a KPI has a status of "needs improvement", an exception report will be provided which will contain further analysis and identify whether an additional action needs to be taken to drive improvement. Updates on progress against actions will be provided in future reports until they are closed.

KPIs that are "near target" will be monitored by the lead manager to assess whether performance is likely to improve where appropriate implement tactical changes to influence the direction of travel. No further information will be provided within this report.

Performance overview: top level

Table 1: performance status overview 2023/24 Q1

	Succeeding	Near target	Needs improvement
Priority 1	13	5	1
Priority 2	7	6	1

The KPIs with a status of "needs improvement" are:

- KPI 1.2.2.2 – Number of non-domestic fire fatalities (exception report, page 8)
- KPI 2.1.4.2 – Percentage of operational risk information in date - level 4 tactical plans (exception report, page 10)

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Performance overview: priority one

Objective 1.1: we will work with partners to target our prevention activities where they have the greatest impact on the safety and wellbeing of our communities.

Table 2: KPIs that require improvement.

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.
--	No KPIs are currently requiring improvement	--	--	--

Table 3: KPIs that are near to achieving target[1]

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.1.3.2	Rate of dwelling fire hospitalisations per 100,000 population	4.30	4.22	2.0%	Lower is better
1.1.11.2	Rate of secondary fires per 100,000 population	96.98	91.04	6.5%	Lower is better

Table 4: KPIs that are achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.1.2.2	Number of dwelling fire fatalities in reporting quarter	0	0	NA	Lower is better
	Number of dwelling fire fatalities in last 12 months vs five-year average	5	6	-16.7%	Lower is better
	Dwelling fires fatality performance status	Succeeding: both reporting quarter and 12-month performance on target			
1.1.1.2	Rate of dwelling fires attended per 100,000 population	50.25	52.28	-3.9%	Lower is better
1.1.4.1	Number of home fire safety visits completed	5,187	4,500	15.3%	Higher is better
1.1.6.1	Percentage of targeted home safety visits meeting two or more risk criteria	62.6%	60.0%	2.6%	Higher is better
1.1.8.2	Rate of other primary fires per 100,000 population (excludes dwellings and non-domestic premises)	44.74	46.37	-3.5%	Lower is better
1.1.9.2	Rate of other primary fire fatalities per 100,000 population (excludes dwellings and non-domestic premises)	0.08	0.10	-18.4%	Lower is better

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[1] The actual and target figures within this document are rounded to two decimal places for KPIs that are calculated as a rate. The percentage change is calculated using a higher degree of accuracy, this means that for smaller figures the percentage change may not be derived from the rounded figures presented in this report.

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.1.12.2	Rate of deliberate fires per 100,000 population	77.41	80.68	-4.0%	Lower is better
1.1.13.2	Rate of road traffic collisions per 100,000 population	44.74	47.58	-6.0%	Lower is better
1.1.14.2	Rate of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions per 100,000 population	25.57	25.90	-1.3%	Lower is better
1.1.9.2	Number of other fire fatalities in reporting quarter	0	0	NA	Lower is better
	Number of other fire fatalities in last 12 months vs five-year average	0	1	NA	Lower is better
	Other fires fatality performance status	Succeeding: both reporting quarter and 12-month performance on target			

Objective 1.2: we will protect people in the built environment through a proportionate, risk-based approach to the regulation of fire safety legislation.

Table 7: KPIs that are requiring improvement

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.2.2.2	Number of non-domestic fire fatalities in reporting quarter	1	0	NA	Lower is better
	Number of non-domestic fire fatalities in last 12 months vs five-year average	1	1	0.0%	Lower is better
	Non-domestic fires fatality performance status	Requires improvement: in exception due to fire-related death in reporting quarter			

Table 8: KPIs that are near to achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.2.1.2	Rate of non-domestic premises fires per 10,000 rateable premises (hereditaments)	59.34	58.24	1.9%	Lower is better
1.2.5.4	Rate of non-domestic false alarms per 10,000 rateable premises (hereditaments)	271.39	249.42	8.8%	Lower is better
1.2.6.1	Percentage of statutory consultations completed to required timescales	98.0%	100.0%	-2.0%	Higher is better

Table 9: KPIs that are achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.2.2.2	Rate of non-domestic premises fire fatalities per 10,000 rateable premises (hereditaments)	0.14	0.14	-1.2%	Lower is better
1.2.3.2	Rate of non-domestic premises fire hospitalisations per 10,000 rateable premises (hereditaments)	0.94	1.17	-19.6%	Lower is better
1.2.4.2	Number of fire safety audits completed (short and full)	156	120	30.0%	Higher is better

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Exception report: number of non-domestic fire fatalities

This KPI reports on the number of fire-related fatalities in non-domestic premises.

Analysis

The KPI is in exception due to a fire-fatality being recorded within the reporting quarter.

Table 10: performance status – number of non-domestic fire fatalities

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
1.2.2.2	Number of non-domestic fire fatalities in reporting quarter	1	0	NA	Lower is better
	Number of non-domestic fire fatalities in last 12 months vs five-year average	1	1	0.0%	Lower is better
	Non-domestic fires fatality performance status	Requires improvement: in exception due to fire-related death in reporting quarter			

This is the first fire-related fatality in a non-domestic premises since April 2020. Details of the incident are outlined below.

Incident date and time: 21/04/2023 21:00:46

Location: Bampton, Devon

Victim age and sex: 73-year-old male

Incident details: just after 21:00 on the 21 April 2023, two fire appliances were mobilised to a "Fire Building Other Persons Reported" incident at Bampton in Devon. Bampton Fire Crew were first in attendance, arriving 10 minutes and 26 seconds after the emergency call was received, with a crew from Tiverton arriving 3 minutes 47 seconds later.

On arrival, crews were met with a well-developed fire located in outbuildings in the garden of a domestic property. A third appliance, from Tiverton, was mobilised to support the incident.

The victim was discovered with severe burns.

Evidence at the scene indicated that it was likely that the fire was started by the victim.

The fire service had no previous contact with the victim and there is no indication that he was known to partner agencies.

Actions

- Following a fatal fire review, it was determined that in this instance there were no indications available to the Service that the victim may have been at risk.

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Objective 2.1: we will maintain accurate, timely and relevant risk information, enabling our operational crews to understand and be prepared to respond to the demand and risks present in their local communities.

Table 10: KPIs that are requiring improvement

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.1.4.2	Percentage of operational risk information in date - level 4 tactical plans	32.1%	98.0%	-65.9%	Higher is better

Table 11: KPIs that are near to achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.1.4.1	Percentage of operational risk information in date - level 3 SSRI	85.8%	94.0%	-8.2%	Higher is better

Table 12: KPIs that are achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.1.1.1	Number of local exercises completed	41	9	355.6%	Higher is better
2.1.1.2	Number of crossborder exercises completed	8	3	166.7%	Higher is better
2.1.1.3	Number of national exercises completed	6	1	500.0%	Higher is better

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Exception report: percentage of operational risk information in date - level 4 tactical plans

This KPI reports on the percentage of premises with a level 4 tactical plan that are in date for revalidation.

A site or premises ranked as level 4 requires the completion of a Tactical Plan. This may be in addition to an SSRI, but an SSRI is not a pre-requisite for the production of a Tactical Plan. A Tactical Plan is a detailed document with information relevant to Level 2 and 3 Incident Commanders about the response to an incident at a specific site should it be likely to be complex or protracted.

Analysis

The KPI is in exception as of 30th June 2023, with just 32.1% of level 4 sites in date for revalidation, 65.9% below the 98.0% target.

Table 13: performance status - percentage of operational risk information in date - level 4 tactical plans

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.1.4.2	Percentage of operational risk information in date - level 4 tactical plans	32.1%	98.0%	-65.9%	Higher is better

Performance remains well below target, with quarter one of 2023/24 seeing a significant deterioration.

The issue was caused by multiple plans having similar review dates, which led to demand outstripping capacity.

Actions

- An action plan has been implemented. All plans will be in date by 1st September 2023.
- Plan review dates are now based on risk to prevent a surge in demand next year. This has allowed high risk plans to be reviewed annually and low risk over a longer period (the maximum being three years).

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Objective 2.2: We will monitor changes in risk to ensure that our resources are most available in the locations necessary to mitigate them

Table 14: KPIs that are requiring improvement

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.2.3.2	Percentage of road traffic collisions attended within 15 minutes of call answer	75.0%	75.0%	0.0%	Higher is better

Table 15: KPIs that are near to achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.2.3.1	Percentage of dwelling fires attended within 10 minutes of call answer	70.7%	75.0%	-4.3%	Higher is better

Table 16: KPIs that are achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
--	No KPIs are currently achieving target.	--	--	--	--

Objective 2.4: we will support the effective delivery of our frontline services by seeking improvements to our operational resourcing, mobilising and communications functions.

Table 17: KPIs that are requiring improvement

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
--	No KPIs are currently requiring improvement.	--	--	--	--

Table 18: KPIs that are near to achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.4.1.1	Risk prioritised pump availability (percentage)	93.0%	98.0%	-5.0%	Higher is better
2.4.1.2	Standard pump availability (percentage)	76.7%	85.0%	-8.3%	Higher is better
2.4.3.1	Percentage of calls handled within target time (call answer to resource mobilisation)	88.5%	90.0%	-1.5%	Higher is better
2.4.3.3	Average turnout time for emergency incidents - on-call duty system (median)	316	300	5.3%	Lower is better

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Table 19: KPIs that are achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.4.3.2	Average turnout time for emergency incidents - wholetime duty system (median)	84	90	-6.7%	Lower is better

Objective 2.8: we will be prepared to respond to major incidents and support partner agencies.

Table 20: KPIs that are requiring improvement

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
--	No KPIs are currently requiring improvement.	--	--	--	--

Table 21: KPIs that are near to achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
--	No KPIs are currently near to achieving target.	--	--	--	--

Table 22: KPIs that are achieving target

KPI Ref	Description	Current	Target	% Diff.	Aim
2.8.1.1	Availability of national resilience assets (percentage)	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	Higher is better
2.8.1.2	National resilience competencies in date	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	Higher is better

Glossary

Most terms and definitions can be found within the Home Office Fire Statistics Definitions document: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-statistics-guidance/fire-statistics-definitions

Some other terms are listed below:

Operational risk information: this information is focused on location specific risks posed to firefighters.

Site specific risk information (SSRI): this information is captured for locations that are particularly complex and pose greater levels of risk to our fire-fighters. Visits are made to these locations, hazards identified and plans made on how to respond if an incident occurs.

Risk prioritised pump: there are 33 priority fire engines in areas that present higher levels risk <u>or</u> demand which are essential to enabling us to effectively manage risk levels. There is an expectation that each of these appliances will be available to respond a minimum of 98% of the time.

Standard pump: there are 89 fire engines located in areas of lower risk or lesser demand, but which are still key to ensuring that we are keeping our communities safe. These are all crewed by on-call or volunteer firefighters and there is an expectation that each fire engine will be available at least 85% of the time.

Home fire safety visits: these are visits that are carried out at people's homes by our home safety technicians and wholetime firefighters.

Fire safety checks: FSCs are delivered by our operational crews and provide a basic assessment of fire safety standards within businesses. Where potential issues are identified premises will be referred for a fire safety audit that is conducted by one of our professional fire safety officers.

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REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/23/9
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	8 SEPTEMBER 2023
SUBJECT OF REPORT	PLANNING AND THE ROLE OF THE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
LEAD OFFICER	Assistant Chief Fire Officer - Service Delivery
RECOMMENDATIONS	*That the report be noted.*
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This is an information paper to explain the planning process and how the fire and rescue service is consulted.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Business as usual. No resource request
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	N/A
APPENDICES	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

1. PLANNING

1.1. Built development including new buildings, refurbishments, engineering operations and changes of use will require planning permission unless defined as 'permitted development' in legislation. Most decisions will be made by local planning authorities (LPAs), who are part of local authorities (county councils, district councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan districts, or borough councils)

1.2. When developers apply for planning permission for buildings or refurbishments, they have two options, namely:

- They can seek a full planning permission from the local planning authority; or

- they can first seek outline planning permission concerning the principle of development, then deal with the details by submitting a reserved matters application as a second stage.

1.3. After this, most non-minor development will need full plans permission from building control. After work starts the development will also be inspected by various consenting regimes in order to check work is being carried out in accordance with the approved plans. Following completion of the development, planning carry out monitoring and enforcement activities in response to reports of breaches of the permission.

2. ROLE OF THE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

2.1. The Fire & Rescue Service can be consulted by both planning and building control to ensure that plans support the ongoing fire safety/ prevention agenda. As far as planning is concerned, this especially relates to access for firefighters, and water supply. Planning do not, however, have powers to sign off applications as fire safe (Fire Safety Order).

2.2. When a planning application is submitted to the local Planning Department the Fire Service may be consulted and where relevant, invited to make comment on the appropriate fire safety requirements for the application.

2.3. When there is a new development, both planning and building control may consult with the fire service. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 says that:

"Fire and Rescue Authorities must provide "advice, on request, about:

- how to prevent fires and restrict their spread in buildings and other property; and

- the means of escape from buildings and other property in case of fire".

2.4. Fire services do not have powers to refuse applications based on fire safety of building design or materials.

3. ENGAGEMENT WITH DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

3.1. The main ways the Fire Service engages with development applications are:

- Considering access and facilities for the fire service, and water supply, in planning applications; and

- Being consulted by building control on the details of how to deal with fires while they are burning, for example means of escape.

3.2. When Fire Services are sent applications, procedural guidance suggests allowing them 15 days to respond. However, they are not compelled to comment.

3.3. The main goal of providing advice to building control is to help the applicant ensure building work complies with the Regulatory Reform and Fire Safety Order (2005).
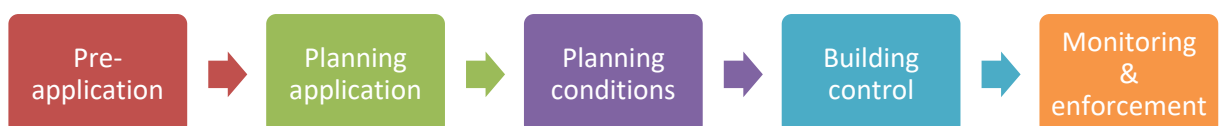
4. DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Building Control

4.1. Building control bodies are responsible for checking for compliance with the requirements of the Building Regulations. The Regulations are concerned with building work and with material changes of use (which may give rise to requirements for building work) and the requirements for fire safety will apply to most buildings. These requirements are intended to ensure that the necessary measures for the safe use of the building are incorporated into the design and construction of the building.

Fire Service

4.2. The fire safety enforcing authority is responsible for the enforcement of the Fire Safety Order, which concerns the safety of people in relation to the operation, management and use of certain buildings once occupied.

4.3. The Service was consulted on 1315 building regulation submissions in 2022-23 with over 99% being completed within the 15 day consultation period.

Summary of Process

Pre-application → Planning application → Planning conditions → Building control → Monitoring & enforcement

4.4.   Fire and Rescue Services may be approached for advice during the planning stages. Fire and Rescue Services are statutory consultees at the building control phase and the Fire Safety Order does not come into force until the building is occupied.

5.   ADVICE

5.1.   Dependent upon the type and size of the project, advice will concentrate on four key factors which are:

- Access and facilities for the Fire Service;
- Water supplies for Firefighting;
- Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005 ;and
- Goodwill Advice (including housing developments).

5.2.   Each of these factors is addressed in more depth below.

6.   ACCESS AND FACILITIES FOR THE FIRE SERVICE

6.1.   If the application involves the construction of a building the applicant will be required to provide reasonable facilities for the Fire Service. In most circumstances this will mean providing vehicular access for fire appliances.

7.   WATER SUPPLIES FOR FIREFIGHTING

7.1.   The Local Government Association (LGA) / Water UK National Guidance Document details minimum flow rates and location of fire hydrants necessary for firefighting, in particular risk categories where new developments are under construction

8.   REGULATORY REFORM (FIRE SAFETY ORDER) 2005

8.1.   The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order applies to all premises apart from single private dwellings. Once the buildings are in use, they become subject to the Fire Safety Order, imposing requirements that may be additional to those of the Building Regulations

9.   GOODWILL ADVICE (INCLUDING HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS)

9.1.   Safeguarding people from the danger of fire in their homes and places of work is an emotive subject and unfortunately the fire services experience the consequences of failure on a regular basis. An example of goodwill advice might be to install sprinklers.

10.   CHALLENGES

10.1.   Planning consultations are becoming more complicated with emerging technologies, often with fire engineered solutions. This is an important and growing area of non-statutory work, but we must consider embedding in our FRS due to its importance on firefighter & community safety, operational and risk implications of some proposals, community and environmental impact.

10.2.   Under the new Building Safety Regime, in scope (more than 6 storeys and over 18 m) will be required to go through the Building Safety Regime Gateway process and must provide a comprehensive fire strategy at planning stage.

10.3.   The Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are encouraging applicants to engage Fire and Rescue Services around Battery Energy Storage sites before submitting an application to local planning authorities. Applicants currently have no statutory requirement to engage with fire and rescue services other than this recommendation.

11.   CONCLUSION

11.1.   Fire and Rescue Services are generally consulted by both planning and building control. The planning applications need to consider both access for the fire service and access to water supplies. Both access for fire appliances and access to hydrants is a crucial element of fire service response to incidents.

11.2.   Building control consultations seek advice from fire and rescue with regard to building design being compliant with the fire safety order.

11.3.   Other considerations may include good will advise such as promoting the use of sprinklers in buildings both commercial and residential.

11.4.   Although there are minimum requirements for fire safety it is important to promote best practice and highlight options that will further enhance fire safety in the built environment and the optimum conditions for operational response.

GERALD TAYLOR
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Delivery

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REPORT REFERENCE NO.	**CSC/23/10**
MEETING	**COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**
DATE OF MEETING	**8 SEPTEMBER 2023**
SUBJECT OF REPORT	**PARTNERSHIPS**
LEAD OFFICER	**ACFO Gerald Taylor, Director of Service Delivery**
RECOMMENDATIONS	*That the report be noted.*
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	This report explains how the Service's Prevention team works with partner agencies to targeted individuals in high risk groups for fire safety checks.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Business as usual. No resource request
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	Partnership officers network in the community to ensure equality of access to services
APPENDICES	None
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1.   A Home Safety Partnership is a partnership arranged by the Service with an external organisation in order to help support the targeted generation or delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits.

1.2.   Partners sign a partnership agreement with the Service which outlines how both organisations will work together and covers data sharing requirements. Partners are provided with Training which gives an overview of what a Home Safety Visit is, how to make a referral, and how to identify if someone would benefit from a visit.

1.3.   Once agreements are signed, partners are added to a central register and provided with a unique reference number which makes their referrals eligible for visits. When they visit a client in the everyday course of their work, they are able to recognise if the client would benefit from being referred to the fire service, and if they meet the criteria the service sets to be eligible for a home safety visit.

2. WHY DO WE HAVE PARTNERSHIPS?

2.1.   Fire deaths in the Southwest have been studied over the past 10 years. The following factors have been identified as being common risk factors:

- Mental health;

- Poor housekeeping (hoarding);

- Alcohol;

- Smoking;

- Drugs (prescription or illegal);

- Limited mobility;

- Living alone; and

- Age (Over 65 and especially over 80).

2.2.   When cases have been examined, it was frequently found that victims were known to other agencies who had the opportunity to influence the victim's lifestyle and behaviour and could have referred these individuals to the fire service for fire safety advice and intervention activity.

2.3.   Partnership working allows the Service access to individuals who are at risk of fire. These individuals would not self-identify to the Service as tis approach gives access to other, harder to reach communities.

2.4.   Partnerships allow the Service to target highly vulnerable individuals with fire safety advice, helping to achieve it's mission of reducing preventable fires and fire deaths.

2.5.   In addition to the above fatal fire indicators, the Service also targets and considers the following vulnerabilities:

- Children and families;

- Disabilities;

- Domestic abuse;

- Fuel poverty;

- Sensory (hearing or sight impairments); and

- Underrepresented communities (protected characteristics).

3.   HOW ARE PARTNERSHIPS MANAGED?

3.1.   The partnership team consists of one partnerships co-ordinator to oversee and manage partnerships for the Service together with three partnership leads co-ordinating in the geographical areas. These individuals manage partnerships across the Service area.

3.2.   There are currently 382 active partnerships which covers a range of campaigns, teams and agency types. Organisations which actively refer for Home Safety Visits includes health providers/National Health Service (NHS), care agencies, local authorities, charities/voluntary services, housing providers, and other organisations that are able to refer high risk individuals that fit the risk profile. It is the role of the co-ordinators in the three geographical areas to network and identify partners that can assist with these referrals.

3.3.   The Service also has specialist partnerships which involve funding agreements. This includes a child safety visit offer, where child safety equipment is installed as part of a home safety visit. This is a part-funding arrangement which allow the Service access into highly vulnerable families. Another specialist partnership is the Wales and West Utilities agreement which provides free carbon monoxide alarms for the Service to deliver to eligible vulnerable customers.

3.4.   All partners are reviewed regularly. This includes reviewing the number of referrals received, offering and delivering Training sessions, resources and addressing any identified issues.

3.5.   Training sessions are face to face delivery of a presentation which covers:

- why their clients are at increased risk of fire;

- what a home safety visit is;

- how to identify someone at risk; and

- how to make a referral for a home safety visit.

3.6.   Alternative arrangements also help the Service to target and deliver fire safety information in various ways, for example, through delivery of fire safety talks to Sheltered Accommodation schemes or talks at English language classes for those learning English for the first time. The partnership officers network in the community to ensure equality of access to services.

4.   RISK IDENTIFIED THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

4.1.   Between October 2018 to March 2023, 28,410 dwellings were identified through partnerships which had the following risks:

Risk Identified	Dwellings
Over 65	18,315
Limited Mobility	13,169
Living alone	10,778
Over 85	6,344
Sensory Loss such as hearing or visual	6,305
Disability	5,855
Smokers	4,204
Poor housekeeping	4,169
Hoarding	3,029
No Working Smoke Alarm	2,265
Under 12	2,194
Alcohol	765
Drugs	306
Under 18	208

5.   PARTNERSHIP REFERRALS FOR HSVS (OVERALL)

5.1.   The blue line shows the total number of partner referrals received each month between January 2020 to March 2023.
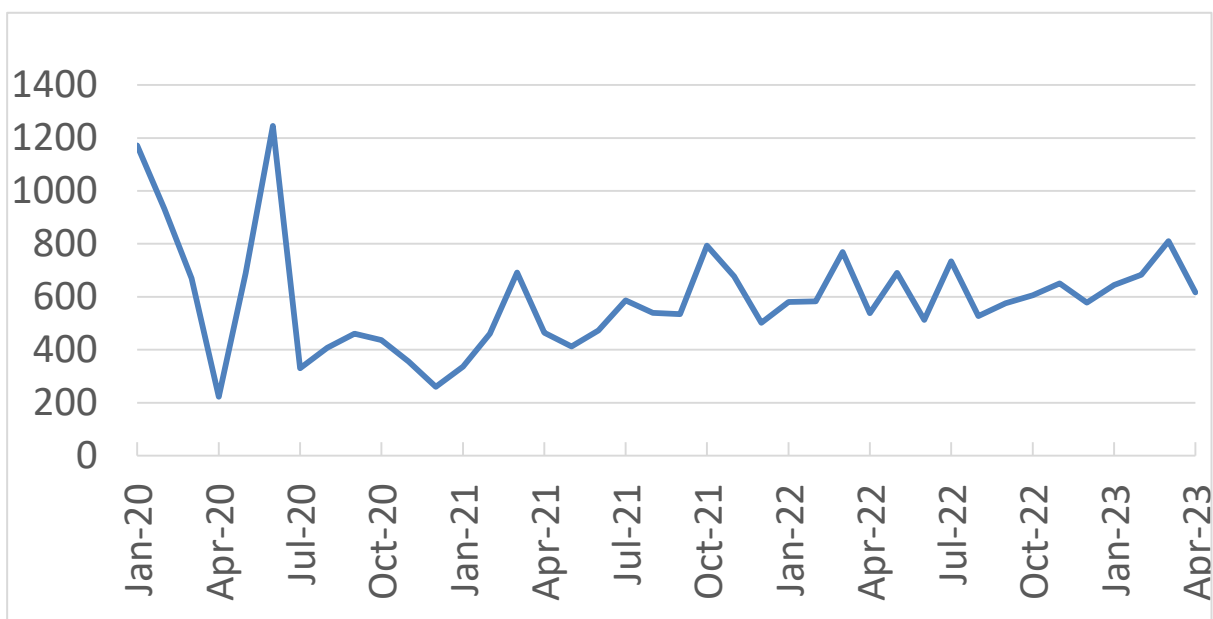
5.2.   Other referral strategies include self-referral through the Service's website and the online home fire safety check, along with the telephone option and referrals from our operational crews.

6. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

6.1.   The Service approach to collaborating with partner agencies allows us to target those individuals identified as being at high risk of having a fire in our communities using the well-established networks of other organisations.

6.2.   The constant review process ensures that the quality of partnership referrals remains focused and targeted ensuring efficiency and effectiveness. Partnerships is also an essential element of the Service's community safety strategy, ensuring synergy between agencies.

GERALD TAYLOR
Assistant Chief Fire Officer – Service Delivery

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REPORT REFERENCE NO.	CSC/23/11
MEETING	COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	8 SEPTEMBER 2023
SUBJECT OF REPORT	HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY & FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS) AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Fire Officer
RECOMMENDATIONS	*That the Committee reviews progress in delivery of the action plan.*
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	On Wednesday 27th July 2022 HMICFRS published the DSFRS 2022 inspection report. The inspection report identified one Cause of Concern and 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs). Of these AFIs, two have been linked to the Community Safety Committee. The paper appended to this report outlines the progress that has been made against the HMICFRS Areas for Improvement action plan since the last update in April 2023. The key highlights are that: • Delivery of the Areas for Improvement action plan is on track.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	Considered within the Action Plan where appropriate.
APPENDICES	A: HMI Community Safety Committee Update
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None

HMICFRS ACTION PLAN – COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. On Wednesday 27th July 2022 HMICFRS published the DSFRS 2022 inspection report. The inspection report identified one Cause of Concern and 14 Areas for Improvement (AFIs).

1.2. This report provides an update on the Areas For Improvement action plan that has been produced following the inspection, which concluded in October 2021.

## 2. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN COMPLETION STATUS

2.1. Table 1 lists the Areas For Improvement linked to the Community Safety Committee and their individual implementation status.

Table 1:

Reference	Description	Target Completion	Status
HMI-1.2-202203	The service should evaluate its prevention activity so it understands what works.	~~31/01/2024~~ 29/02/2024	In Progress (On Track)
HMI-1.2-202204	Safeguarding training should be provided to all staff.	~~30/11/2023~~ 30/04/2024	In Progress (On Track)

2.2. Figure 1 below outlines the completion status of all actions designed to address the Areas For Improvement linked to the Community Safety Committee, as outlined above.

Figure 1: Community Safety Committee Action Status - September 2023

Number of Actions
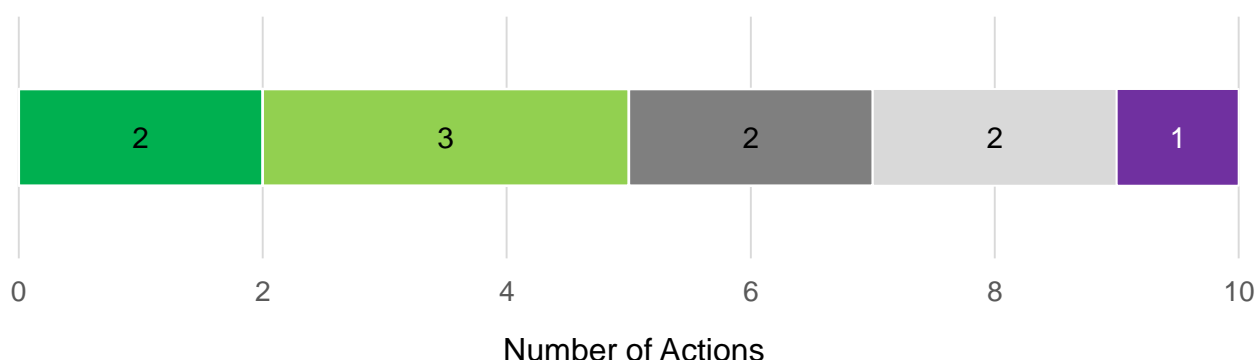
- Completed
- In Progress - On Track
- Not Started - On Track
- Not Started - On Track (Evidence and Assurance)
- No Longer Required/ Paused

2.3. Table 2 below outlines the completion status of these actions in table view.

Table 2: Summary of progress against the individual actions						
Areas For Improvement (Community Safety Committee)						
Not started (on track)	Not started (off track)	In progress (on track)	In progress (off track)	Completed	Closed	No Longer Required
4 (→ at 4)	0 (→ at 0)	3 (↓ from 6)	0 (→ at 0)	2 (↑ from 0)	0 (→ at 0)	1 (↑ from 0)

∗ Please note that 2 of the actions which have not yet started are the evidence and assurance required once all other actions have been completed.

3. IMPROVEMENT AREAS MARKED AS 'NO LONGER REQUIRED'

3.1. Table 3 below outlines one action which has been marked as 'No Longer Required' since April 2023.

Table 3:

Action	Status
Use the ISO9000 framework to identify and implement best practices for Quality management within the Prevention Department of DSFRS. (3.04)	No Longer Required
Reason for status change	
This action has been marked as 'No Longer Required' as quality assurance does not need to meet ISO accreditation. The quality assurance officer is using the ISO framework as a benchmark.	

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