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| REPORT REFERENCE NO. | DSFRA/21/25 |
| MEETING | DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY |
| DATE OF MEETING | 10 NOVEMBER 2021 |
| SUBJECT OF REPORT | DRAFT COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2027 |
| LEAD OFFICER | CHIEF FIRE OFFICER |
| RECOMMENDATIONS | <i>That, subject to incorporation of any amendments as may be agreed at this meeting, the draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-27 as appended to this report be approved for consultation purposes.</i> |
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | <p>The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires Fire and Rescue services to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan. In line with guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council and the recently published Fire Standard the Service is fulfilling this requirement by producing a Community Risk Management Plan (“the Plan”).</p> <p>The Plan covers the next five years and provides an overview of the foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks faced by the communities in Devon and Somerset and identifies the plans for tackling those risks through prevention, protection and emergency response activities.</p> <p>The range of incidents and activities attended by the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (“the Service”) is extremely broad and has increased over recent years. The role of the Service is to horizon scan and identify emerging risks and trends both across our communities and to its staff. The Service will ensure it considers within the Plan any emerging risks over the next five years and evaluates evidence to inform, support and develop the resilience of both the Service and the communities of Devon and Somerset.</p> <p>The document to be published for consultation purposes will be enhanced with suitable graphics and drafting modifications addressed. Any amendments as agreed by the Authority at this meeting will also be incorporated.</p> |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | N/A |
| EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS | The Service needs to use a range of activities and approaches to ensure equality of access in terms of its messaging, provision of services and employment. Working with individuals, representatives, groups and organisations from specific communities as well as in partnership with other statutory bodies such as County Councils, District Councils and the Police is essential to successfully meeting community needs. |

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| | <p>A full equality impact assessment will identify any disproportionate impacts on groups of people within the communities of Devon and Somerset. This will be further developed following any changes recommended by the Community Safety Committee.</p> <p>In terms of the draft Plan now presented, the proposed actions to mitigate the risk contained in the Plan do appear to have a positive impact on all members the community - some more positive than others, but all leading to a safer place in which to work and live. No negative impacts have been identified to date.</p> <p>The current Equality Impact Assessment for the draft Plan is appended to this report.</p> |
| APPENDICES | <p>A. Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2027</p> <p>B. Strategic Risk Analysis</p> <p>C. Equality Impact Assessment (November 2021)</p> |
| BACKGROUND PAPERS | <p>Report CSC/21/6 (Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-27) to the Community Safety Committee meeting on 2 November 2021 (together with Appendix A and Appendix B to that report).</p> |

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority (“the Authority”) is responsible for ensuring that the communities of Somerset, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are protected and supported by an effective and efficient fire and rescue service – the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (“the Service”).
- 1.2. The Authority has a statutory duty to assess and plan for threats and risks to the communities it serves. All fire and rescue services maintain a response capability to ensure that they can respond, along with partners as required, to foreseeable risks identified at a local, regional and national level. This requirement is met through the Community Risk Management Plan (“the Plan”), where key challenges and risks are identified together with how it is proposed to mitigate and address these risks.
- 1.3. The Service has an integrated approach to keeping its communities safe through prevention, protection and response activities. The Service aims to meet the requirements of over 1.8m people. In doing so, the Service will always seek to prevent incidents from occurring but when needed will also respond effectively and efficiently to minimise harm and economic loss.
- 1.4. Through the Plan the Service demonstrates how its protection, prevention and response activities have and will be used collectively to prevent and/or mitigate fires and other incidents to reduce the impact on communities (including the business sector), firefighters and to promote economic wellbeing.
- 1.5. The Plan should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Strategic Risk Analysis. This Analysis outlines future trends anticipated in the next five years and top level plans aimed at keeping communities and staff safe.
- 1.6. This report, together with the attached Community Risk Management Plan and Strategic Risk Analysis, have been considered by the Community Safety Committee at its meeting on 2 November 2021. The comments and proposals stemming from the Community Safety Committee meeting have been incorporated into the draft CRMP as attached to this report at Appendix A.

2. THE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires each fire and rescue service to prepare an Integrated Risk Management Plan. In line with guidance from the National Fire Chiefs Council and the recently published Fire Standard, the Service is fulfilling this requirement by producing a Community Risk Management Plan (“the Plan”). This Plan provides an overview of how the Service will align its activities to keep people safe from fire and rescue-related risks by balancing its resources across Prevention, Protection and Emergency Response. The Plan is underpinned by strategic duties and responsibilities including the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

- 2.2. The Plan now proposed covers a five-year period from 2022- 2027. It provides an overview of fire and rescue-related risks faced by the communities in Devon and Somerset and identifies the plans for tackling those risks through our prevention, protection and emergency response activities. The Plan provides the strategy to helping keep Devon and Somerset communities, its environment, homes and people safe from fire and other emergencies. The Service will ensure it considers any emerging risks over the next five years and evaluates evidence to inform, support and develop the resilience of both of services provided and the communities served. The impacts of extreme events can be devastating and far reaching for communities, therefore the Service will seek to improve community resilience through successful engagement and partnership working.

3. THE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

- 3.1. This is the process by which each fire and rescue service assesses foreseeable fire and rescue related risks in their area and drives how resources are used in the most effective way to save lives, improve public safety and reduce emergency incidents. The planning is a continuous process with three main stages.
- Stage 1 – identifying and assessing risk;
 - Stage 2 - managing and reducing risk; and
 - Stage 3 - measuring performance and evaluating impact.
- 3.2. In development of the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2027, the following Service priorities (as approved by the Authority) were used as key drivers:
- Priority 1: Targeted prevention and protection activities to reduce risks in communities, improving health, safety and wellbeing, and supporting the local economy;
 - Priority 2: Service operational resources will provide an effective emergency response to meet the local and national risks identified in the Community Risk Management Plan;
 - Priority 3: the Service is recognised as a great place to work: its staff feel valued, supported, safe, and well-trained to deliver a high performing fire and rescue service.
 - Priority 4: The Service is open and accountable, using its resources efficiently to deliver an effective, sustainable service that demonstrates improving public value.
- 3.3. The range of incidents and activities the Service attends is extremely broad and has increased over recent years along with the equipment needed to deal with each incident type. This range of incidents and emerging risks have been the focus in developing the five-year Plan now presented. In addition, the Service recognises its roll in horizon scanning to identify newly emerging risks and trends across both communities and its staff.

- 3.4. By examining data and listening to staff, partners and those who live and work in Devon and Somerset as part of a pre-engagement process, the Service has sought to identify the key fire and rescue-related risks and how it can work with its partners and communities to reduce those risks. The findings from these engagement events have been reflected in the draft Plan now presented.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. The Plan now presented has been the subject of extensive pre-engagement with both the Authority and key stakeholders including communities served, Service staff and partners. It has been informed both by analysis of incidents attended in recent years and by horizon scanning of newly emerging risks and trends across both communities and staff.
- 4.2. The Plan and associated Strategic Risk Analysis were considered by the Community Safety Committee at its meeting on 2 November. Any comments or proposals from that meeting will be reported to this meeting for consideration by the Authority alongside the Plan.
- 4.3. The Authority is now invited:
- (a) to consider the draft Plan now presented,; and
 - (b) subject to incorporation of any amendments as may be indicated at this meeting, to approve the Plan for the purposes of public consultation.
- 4.4. Responses from the public consultation will be reported to a future meeting of the Authority to inform a decision on adoption of a final Community Risk Management Plan for 2022-27.

LEE HOWELL
Chief Fire Officer