

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	13 September 2006	agenda item number

REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

DRAFT COMMUNITY SAFETY PLAN 2007– 2010

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present to Members the draft Community Safety Plan 2007-2010 and seek approval for it to be consulted upon.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The requirement for a Fire & Rescue Service to produce a local plan was first specified in Fire Service Circular 7/2003 under the title of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP). The process has since become embedded in legislation through the Fire Services Act 2004 and its associated National Framework.

2.2 In 2006, the Authority moved to mainstream its IRMP process within its wider business framework. This ensured that its future plans linked with its financial projections contained within the medium term financial planning process. The Authority also moved to a three year outlook, to ensure that opportunity existed to take longer term decisions on how the Service intends to meet its vision of "A safer Nottinghamshire, by putting Safety at the heart of the Community".

3. REPORT

3.1 The principles and rationale behind the Authority's vision are about targeting the organisation's resources on the reduction of accidents and injuries throughout the community. This theme has been a key focus of the Authority since 2003, and each subsequent plan has built on these principles.

3.2 The current Community Safety Plan 2006/2009, was the first time the Authority has laid out a longer term vision, and it presented an excellent opportunity to look at the longer term process. The plan not only consolidated previous work, but also set a challenging agenda for the forthcoming years, taking account of both internal and external drivers.

3.3 In the period between the inception of the 2006-2009 Community Safety Plan, and the proposals contained within the 2007-2010 plan, the Authority has already made significant progress and the following are presented for Members' note :

- The appropriate land and planning permission have been obtained for a new Fire Station on Hassocks Lane. This will see the proposed merger of the existing Dunkirk and Beeston sites.

- The provision of Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) has been installed in all of the Service's operational fleet.
- The Service is a partner in the new Local Area Agreement.
- Of its proposed 25,000 Home Safety Checks the Service has achieved ?? to date.
- A Best Value Review on partnerships has been carried out and a new partnership strategy is being produced.
- The Service has procured and installed a performance software system to assist in its Performance Management.
- A revised Governance structure has been implemented.
- A new shift system has been devised and agreed for implementation on 3 January 2007.
- Six new fire appliances have been ordered to start replacing and updating the existing fleet.

This list is not exhaustive and other achievements have been made that contribute to the Authority's vision of "A safer Nottinghamshire by putting safety at the heart of the Community."

- 3.4 To ensure that the proposals were robust, the Authority undertook a comprehensive programme of consultation both internally and externally using the professional service of Opinion Research Services. Feedback on the proposals was positive.
- 3.5 The Community Safety Plan 2007/2010 forms part of the Authority's three year planning process, but updates the agenda so that proposals remain relevant in a dynamic environment of change. The plan continues to build on previous proposals, and allows for the Service to react to external influences.
- 3.6 As part of the planning process, the Service has a duty to consult the public and other stakeholders on its proposals. As the Service undertook such a comprehensive programme of consultation during Autumn 2005, it is proposed this year to consult on a more efficient scale. The Service will still engage with its employees, the public and other stakeholders on its proposals, but will utilise existing services (e.g. libraries, internet) as the basis of its consultation framework. The Service will follow Cabinet Office guidelines and consult for 12 weeks.
- 3.7 The Community Safety Plan 2007/2010 follows the same principles of the current plan. It has also been re-aligned with the 2006/2008 National Framework to ensure that the Service can clearly demonstrate how it is addressing the areas identified by Central Government as key to improve service delivery.
- 3.8 In summary these are:-
- Fire Prevention & Risk Management
 - Working Together – The Regional Approach
 - Effective Response
 - Resilience & New Dimension
 - Fire & Rescue Service Staff

- Workforce Development
- Finance
- Performance Management
- Research

3.9 It is proposed to run consultation on the proposals from Monday 18 September 2006 until Friday 1 December 2006. All responses received during this process will be collated and a summary report presented to Members. Members will be kept informed during the consultation process. Following a detailed analysis, the final plan will be presented to the Authority in February 2007 with a recommendation for formal adoption.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Community Safety Plan 2007/2010 demonstrates clearly how the Service is proposing to use its future budgets in the delivery of its services. Some of the initiatives generate savings, others will generate costs. The proposals are expected to balance with the Fire & Rescue Authority being able to demonstrate appropriate efficiencies and value for money.

4.2 The Community Safety Plan will also form the basis of assisting the Service with the preparation of its 2007/2008 budget as well as presenting the opportunity to update its future financial predictions.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

The Community Safety Plan outlines how the Authority will use the personnel it employs to deliver its services to the public. Any specific personnel issues will be dealt with as part of the implementation process.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 An initial impact assessment has been carried out and identified the need for this publication to be available to all areas of the community. This will form part of the consultation strategy.

6.2 Specific equalities issues on the recruitment and retention of a more diverse workforce are contained within the plan itself.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The requirement to produce a plan associated with the IRMP process is laid down within the Fire & Rescue Services National Framework 2006/2008. Failure to produce a plan would see the Authority failing to meet its duty under the Act and could lead to intervention by the Secretary of State.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Members approve the attached document for consultation with the public and stakeholders.

8.2 That Members approve that consultation should run for 12 weeks commencing Monday 18 September 2006.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 ;
- Fire Service Circular 7/2003 ;
- Government White Paper "Our Fire & Rescue Service" ;
- Fire & Rescue National Framework 2006/2008.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER