

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 2013

REPORT OF: MRS HELYN CLACK - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

LEAD OFFICER: SARAH MITCHELL - STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE

SUBJECT: SURREY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN UPDATE



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Fire and Rescue Services are facing a changing demand. Sir Ken Knight's national review of efficiencies and operations in fire and rescue authorities in England ('Facing the Future', May 2013) set out that Fire and Rescue Services must adapt to provide more effective and efficient services. In particular, it identified that the biggest opportunities lie in wider transformative structural and collaborative approaches, requiring ambition and leadership to achieve this. The review advocated that authorities should not wait for national action before fully exploiting the large number of opportunities already within their grasp.

SFRS has established a long term plan, the Public Safety Plan 2011-2020. The service proposes to update and develop the Public Safety Plan to ensure it takes account of new information including the census data and intelligence regarding the changing environment, national and local demands.

Reviewing the plan at this point enables the Service to ensure the plan reflects the impacts of the revised Medium Term Financial Plan can be taken into account. The increasing financial pressures faced by public services emphasise the need to consider alternative models of delivery and operation to support the broadening range of activities delivered by fire and rescue services. This is in keeping with the emphasis on partnership and public service transformation.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, to develop further the strategic direction and activities of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Cabinet endorses a review of the PSP 2011-2020 and prepare an updated plan for presentation to Cabinet in October 2014.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. SFRS continues to modernise and adapt to changing demands and the community risk profile. With central government considering Sir Ken Knight's Review, the increasing challenges around public spending, transformational collaborative working opportunities and our Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) targets it is the right time to develop the PSP further.

DETAILS:

Public Safety Plan Vision

2. The PSP 2011-20 described the vision for SFRS and established a framework for future development, setting out the improvements the Service intended to make to the fire and rescue service in Surrey during this period. The vision remains largely unchanged and the improvements the Service intended to make continue to be delivered as planned. However there is continuous change locally and nationally and as a fire and rescue service it is essential that the organisation is able to adapt to and take advantage of these changes.
3. With austerity measures continuing to beyond 2020, this Service will seek every opportunity to improve service delivery at reduced cost in our statutory responsibilities whilst effectively assuring local, regional and national resilience response capabilities.
4. The Medium Term Financial Plan refresh may alter financial planning assumptions and the opportunity to revisit the PSP principles is timely given the Services' leadership in the blue-light services collaboration work.
5. An update to the long term plan for SFRS will enable an enhancement to the intelligence picture in respect of for example, the Government's response to the Sir Ken Knight Review, the census data and extrapolations about population growth and demographic shift, the impacts of climate change and likely business environmental factors e.g. power outages. This work is in keeping with that underway in the Local Resilience Forum re climate change and other global and national threats and trends.
6. Updating the PSP will ensure that SFRS continues to achieve its mission to provide a professional and well supported Fire and Rescue Service which reduces community risk in order to save lives, relieve suffering and protect the environment and property and support the delivery of the Corporate Strategy 2013-18 – Confident in our future.

CONSULTATION:

7. Consultation with staff and trade unions will be undertaken as part of the business planning activity. The Fire Brigades Union have been informed about the high level implications with regard to service budget and potential strategic implications on the PSP delivery.
8. Consultation with other stakeholder will be undertaken as the opportunities are explored and detailed stakeholder analysis has commenced.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

9. A risk register will be established as part of the process to ensure all risks are identified, reported and addressed through the various stages of the processes.
10. A similar model for delivery of the PSP 2040 will be adopted as that which was utilised for the PSP 2011-2020 development.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 11. The PSP will be reviewed and developed in keeping with the financial constraints set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan once approved. In the meantime the work will commence taking into account the proposals in the draft MTFP currently under scrutiny, pending approval in the new year.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

- 12. Finance will be fully involved in assessing the consequences of revisions to the PSP.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

- 13. Legal Services will continue to be instructed to review any legal implications as the details of the proposals develop.

Equalities and Diversity

- 14. Equality Impact Assessments will be completed as the strategic recommendations are developed and delivered.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 15. CFO Russell Pearson will:
 - Implement the recommendations stated above
 - Present to Cabinet an updated draft PSP prior to public consultation.

Contact Officer:

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| Liz Mills | Chief of Staff, Surrey Fire and Rescue | 01737 242444 |
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Consulted:

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| Kay Hammond | Cabinet Associate for Fire and Police Services |
| Sarah Mitchell | Strategic Director for Adult Social Care |
| Paul Carey-Kent | Strategic Finance Manager, Adult Social Care and Fire and Rescue |
| David Kelly | Corporate Group Legal Services Manager, Legal and Democratic Services |

Annexes:

None

Sources/background papers:

- Public Safety Plan 2011 -2020
- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- Fire and Rescue National Framework for England, July 2012

