

# Communities Committee

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service – Community Safety Strategy</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>5 September 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	<b>Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is at the heart of community protection in Norfolk. The core role of the service is focused on preventing emergencies, protecting our communities and emergency response. With the ever increasing demand on public services, Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service has a key role in working with partners, other agencies and local communities to support residents living longer, healthier and safer within their own homes.	

## Executive summary

Community safety activity (prevention and protection) is at the heart of the work of Norfolk's Fire and Rescue Service. Given the importance and reach of this work, a Community Development Strategy has been developed with the following vision:-

“To work together effectively to save life, reduce harm and make Norfolk a safer place for everyone”

The Strategy sets out five overarching priorities to guide work over the Strategy period:-

1. Reduce the volume, impact and harm from all emergency incidents
2. Help those most at risk through early intervention
3. Work in partnership to deliver inclusive educational and development engagement with young adults and children
4. Work with our communities and other regulators to inspect and protect our businesses and buildings
5. Work collaboratively to strengthen our local partnerships and the impact of our activities

### Recommendations:

1. **To approve the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Strategy 2018-20, as set out in Appendix A.**
2. **To note the intention to carry out an annual assessment of community safety risk, and include it with the Fire and Rescue Service - Service Delivery Plan which is considered annually by the Committee.**

## 1. Legislative context

### 1.1. The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004

- 1.1.1. This is the main piece of legislation under which fire and rescue services operate. The Act defines a set of 'core functions' which in respect of community

safety (prevention and protection) includes “promoting fire safety”.

## 1.2. **Fire and Rescue National Framework**

1.2.1. Alongside the Act, the Home Office also introduced a national framework setting out Government’s expectations and requirements for fire and rescue authorities. The framework recognises that community risk is managed by three interventions:-

- **Prevention** – the practice of trying to prevent emergencies from happening in the first place
- **Protection** – the practice of ensuring fire safety standards in buildings as appropriate
- **Response** – the practice of minimising the impact of emergencies through well-trained, well-equipped firefighters responding to them quickly and effectively.

## 1.3. **The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005**

1.3.1. This is the legislation under which fire safety standards in almost all buildings are controlled. Fire and rescue authorities are responsible for enforcing the provision of the order by undertaking risk-based inspection programmes, including carrying out audits of fire safety arrangements in areas of greatest risk.

## 2. **Strategic context**

2.1. The statutory Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) sets out the vision for the fire and rescue service in Norfolk, and how we will achieve this. The IRMP sets out the strategic context for fire and rescue provision in Norfolk.

2.2. The way that the service is organised in terms of operational delivery flows from the IRMP.

2.3. The current IRMP runs until 2020. Work to develop a new IRMP for 2020 and beyond has started and a report on the scope of this work will be presented to this Committee at the next meeting.

## 3. **Community Safety Strategy**

3.1. The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service’s impact and work around community safety is through its prevention and protection activity. Community safety and fire prevention is at the heart of our work. Clearly the service has critical emergency capability but, in general terms, the majority of our time is usually spent working with local communities on prevention or planning and training for emergency events.

3.2. To recognise the importance of our community safety activities, and to ensure there is clear direction in terms of priorities, we have developed a proposed new Community Safety Strategy – see Appendix A.

3.3. The Strategy is intended to complement the provision in the IRMP by setting out clear overarching priorities for prevention and protection activity to address the community risks defined in the IRMP.

3.4. The proposed vision for the strategy is:-

“To work together effectively to save life, reduce harm and make Norfolk a

safer place for everyone”

3.5. To deliver this vision, our Community Safety Strategy 2018/20 establishes 5 key overarching priority areas which are focussed on reducing community risk. These priority areas take into account the direction and expectations set by the communities we serve through Norfolk County Council and direction from the Home Office.

3.6. The Strategy will cover the remaining period of the IRMP and therefore will run until 2020. It will be re-freshed and reviewed as part of the work to develop a new IRMP, and the new Strategy (if needed) will run concurrently to the IRMP period.

## **4. Delivery plan**

4.1. In terms of activities and tasks, the priorities for this financial year are already defined in the Service Delivery Plan 2018/19 approved by the Committee in March. A copy of the relevant section of this Plan is included at Appendix B, for ease of reference. In practice, there will be a number of detailed team and other plans developed and implemented as part of business as usual. Where possible, we will continue to seek to develop shared and joint delivery plans and programmes with others e.g. Police service colleagues.

4.2. To help ensure that our activities are targeted in the areas where they can have the greatest impact, we will be carrying out an annual assessment of community safety risk. The intention is to include this assessment with our annual Service Delivery Plan to enable Members to consider it regularly.

## **5. Financial Implications**

5.1. The activity in the strategy will be delivered from within existing NFRS budgets.

## **6. Issues, risks and innovation**

### **6.1. Collaboration and joint working opportunities**

6.1.1. There are significant collaborative, joint and partnership working arrangements across our community safety activity. However, we are not complacent and are committed to closer working with other public service colleagues and partners.

6.1.2. This year, we have already:-

- Worked with colleagues to put in place a new co-located multi-agency community safety team based in Wymondham, bringing together colleagues from fire and rescue, Police and other teams/agencies to work together on community safety activities;
- With Adult Social Care colleagues, developed a more integrated approach to our home fire safety checks, and pilot projects are underway.

### **6.2. Measuring the impact of our activities**

6.2.1. Measuring the success and impact of prevention and protection activity is, by nature, complex and it is challenging to align performance levels to the activities carried out. For example, it is very difficult to determine whether our arson prevention activities are impacting on the number of arson incidents.

- 6.2.2. We will continue to work with others to identify ways that we can more definitively assess the impact of our activities, to help us to target our resources as effectively as possible. The Member Working Group for KSI's is currently attempting to assess the impact that road casualty reduction measures has on KSI figures, and will provide a useful basis for our thinking.

## 7. Background

- 7.1. [Norfolk Fire and Rescue – Service Delivery Plan 2018/19](#) – approved by this Committee March 2018

[Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority Statement of Assurance 2016/17](#) – approved by this Committee March 2018

[Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan 2016/2020](#)

### Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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