



Title	Chief Fire Officer Report Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Chief Fire Officer suite of Services	Fire and Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Registration Service, Coroner Service and Civil Protection Team.
Date of meeting	22 nd November 2017
Purpose of Report	To provide a strategic update on issues and key areas of service provision.

1. Fire and Rescue Service

1.1 Pay Award

Negotiations continue, with both sides of the National Joint Council expressing their commitment to identifying a mutually acceptable resolution.

A 1% pay rise with a full establishment of grey-book staff equates to circa £80k to cover a 9-month period from 1st July to 31st March 2018. For the 2018/19 base budget, the 1% pay rise represents a budget increase of £107k. A review of the Fire Authority's business continuity plans has been completed.

1.2 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)

Wendy Williams has been appointed as the Inspector for the South West and she will be visiting the Service on 14 November 2017 for an introductory meeting. The Service has been asked to be part of the pilot inspections planned for January to April 2018, as this will prepare us for our proper inspection sometime between April 2018 and May 2020. The new inspection will focus on 11 key lines of enquiry across three areas to include; Effectiveness, Efficiency and People.

1.3 Police/Fire/Ambulance and Collaboration Work

Following the recent Police and Crime Commissioner's governance report, a report by the Chief Fire Officer to the LCM has identified the current joint working arrangements that exist between the three emergency services. Key recommendations are made including establishing a three tier approach to collaboration. Each level will have a clear remit and be responsible for driving collaborative work forward.

- Blue-light Collaboration Board (High-level strategic direction) – GCC Cabinet Member for Fire, PCC, Chair of the SWAST and Chief Officers from Fire, Police and Ambulance.
- Blue-light Strategic Officer Group (Strategic) –Principal Officers from Fire, Police and Ambulance.
- Blue-light Working Group (Tactical and Operational) – Senior Managers from Fire, Police and Ambulance.

1.4 Quarterly Performance Monitoring Q2 2017/18

1.4.1 Arson and Secondary Fires

Arson fires

During the first quarter of 17/18, there were spates of deliberate fires in Kingsway, Coleford, Cheltenham Town Centre and Nailsworth. During Q2, more advanced data analysis was

carried out and arson mapping was produced allowing risk managers to identify trends and focus efforts in the right areas.

Targeted preventative action in these areas so far have reduced the number of arson fires by 30% from Q1 figures however, the figures inform us that we are 11% off the target and efforts to identify and prevent arson continue. Trends suggest that arson fires are consistently lower in the 3rd and 4th quarters due to seasonal weather.

1.4.2 Primary Fires

After an upward trend in the first quarter, primary fires have reduced again this quarter and are now almost back to the lowest number recorded in a quarter of 175 (Q1 14/15).

1.4.3 Dwelling Fires and casualties

Dwelling fires have reduced by 25% compared to the first two quarters of last year with a reduction of 44% in casualties (5) compared to the first two quarters of 2016-17 (9). In 2016-17, an overall reduction of 32% was recorded compared to 2015-16.

2. Civil Protection

2.1 Berkeley Nuclear Site Determination

Historically, Gloucestershire County Council had a statutory duty to prepare and maintain an Offsite Emergency Plan for Berkeley Nuclear Licensed Site. On the 13 September 2018, due to the significant reduction in the radiological hazard at the site, the Office for Nuclear Regulation confirmed that an Offsite Emergency Plan is no longer required under the Radioactive Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2001 (REPPiR).

Under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004), the County Council retains statutory duties to have general emergency planning arrangements in place. The site Operator Magnox Ltd also holds a legal duty to protect the public and have emergency procedures in place. The Civil Protection Team will continue to liaise with Magnox Ltd, the Emergency Services, Stroud District Council and other partners to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for the Berkeley Site.

3. Trading Standards

3.1 Sharing of Information Protocol with Gloucestershire Police

Trading Standards and Gloucestershire Fire, and Rescue Service have agreed a new protocol with Gloucestershire Constabulary for sharing information and support to each other during investigations. This will improve the profile of all teams involved and ensure the most appropriate Service takes the lead role. Joint working in this area will further demonstrate the determination and drive for greater collaboration following the recent Fire and Police Governance Review.