

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 18 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**Statement from: Councillor P A Robinson, Executive Councillor for  
Fire & Rescue, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards,  
Equality and Diversity**

### **Fire and Rescue**

#### **Fire Ambulance Project**

The joint project between our Fire Service and East Midlands Ambulance Service continues to draw interest from around the country as an innovative collaborative approach to delivering better more effective outcomes to Lincolnshire's communities.

To date the 3 fire stations taking part in the pilot have attended nearly 1,000 medical emergencies and transported over 230 people to hospital. Whilst the evaluation of the project is still being carried out, early headline statistics suggest that on average patients who are transported by the project are reaching hospital on average some 20 minutes earlier than in the same period last year. Work is also underway to gauge patient satisfaction with the project and assess the Social Return on the investment to date.

The final report will be presented to the project board in the next couple of months so that decisions on the next steps may be made.

Also worthy of note is the nomination of our Fire Service and East Midlands Ambulance Service in the 'Value in Health Service' category in the prestigious Health Service Journal annual awards. We shall find out on 22 September if the nomination has been successful.

#### **New Fire Stations for Louth**

The new fire station covering Louth and the surrounding area has been completed and the crews started to respond from the station on a 24 hours basis from the beginning of September. The new station will provide our fire crews with an excellent work base at the heart of the community.

#### **Prince's Trust Team Programme**

Unfortunately, due to national funding cuts, the number of Prince's Trust Team Programmes for this year has had to be reduced. I am sure councillors will share my disappointment in this but officers are working hard to look at alternative funding streams to secure the longer term provision of this valuable service.

### **Emergency Planning**

On 18 July 150 Lincolnshire children as young as five through to teenagers from youth groups attended the Waddington training centre to take part in various activities and to receive the first ever Duke of Cornwall Community Safety Awards. This is a national scheme inspired by HRH Prince Charles. Alongside county police officers and firefighters, they took part in a series of age-related activities designed to be both fun and informative. These activities included finding their way through a derailed train, escaping from a smoke-damaged house and investigating a crime scene.

At the end of the activities, the young people received from the Lord Lieutenant, Mr Toby Dennis, one of the following awards:

- The Heroes Award (ages 5-11)
- The Neighbourhood Award (ages 10-14)
- The Community Award (ages 14-18)

On 22 September a Leaders' Resilience Summit will take place at F&R HQ, to update representatives from District Councils, the County Council, the Police and local communities on the work of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), the community leadership role of elected members and the engagement of local communities to ensure they are well prepared for civil emergencies in Lincolnshire.

On Thursday 12 November, the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum will be working with 3 local communities (Anderby, Wyberton and 'Suttons on the Wash') and the voluntary sector in the county to demonstrate how local communities can be a part of the response to civil emergencies in the county during Exercise Barnes Wallis.

The exercise, which will include 'live' play at Anderby and 'table-top' exercises at Wyberton and 'Suttons on the Wash', will test how well the emergency services and other responders (such as our council) can work with local communities who have their own emergency plans – and in particular, how to make best use of local knowledge, skills and facilities to support those affected by emergencies. The exercise builds on learning from the Tidal Surge in 2013 that local communities should be seen as part of the response and recovery arrangements in Lincolnshire.

We will also use the exercise to encourage more communities in Lincolnshire to engage in local emergency planning.

### **Trading Standards**

Recently, Public Health England announced that E-cigarettes are at least 95% safer than traditionally smoked tobacco. However, due to the rapid rise in demand for vaping products, some of these items may be unsafe if not used and kept properly. Safety concerns were brought to the fore following a number of serious fires and poisoning incidents. The risk posed by some of these products arises because E-cigarettes generally use a lithium battery as a power source. Some of these batteries have been manufactured without cut-off devices that prevent over charging, and this has resulted in devices over-heating, exploding & catching fire.

Nicotine in liquid form within the E-liquid is toxic. It is able to be absorbed through the skin and even relatively low doses of nicotine in this form can be fatal to small children and pets. Symptoms of nicotine poisoning include vomiting, nausea and difficulty breathing. The Trading Standards service have sent letters to all businesses known to be selling these products reminding them of their responsibilities under the General Product Safety Regulations to check that the products are safe and to ensure consumers are aware of the hazards and how to use the products properly. Posters highlighting the warnings have also have been provided for display in business premises.