

Policy and Scrutiny

**Open Report on behalf of Nick Borrill,
Chief Fire Officer – Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue**

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 July 2018
Subject:	Fire and Rescue – Prevention and Protection Strategies

Summary:

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue have a number of strategies for reducing the risk to the communities of Lincolnshire. Prevention and Protection are the two strategies which engage with the community with the aim of preventing fires occurring. These areas of service delivery rarely make the headlines and members of the community are not always well informed about the extent of the activities delivered to support the strategies.

The Local Government Association Fire Peer Challenge took place in September last year. One of the observations being that councillors would benefit from a clearer understanding of the Prevention and Protection work carried out by the Service.

Our Integrated Risk Management Plan sets out the Service Prevention and Protection Strategy, our Annual Service Plan and Service policy identifies how we will deliver the strategy and within that, the Community Safety Framework (Appendix 1) sets out the main activities undertaken. Key fire safety targets and activities are also set out in the Annual Service Plan.

The aim of this paper is to inform councillors of the Prevention and Protection activities undertaken in support of our Prevention and Protection Strategies.

Actions Required:

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the contents of the submission and highlight any points for further consideration.

1. Background

In this document there are many references to Community Fire Safety, Fire Prevention and Fire Protection. For clarity, Fire Prevention and Community Fire Safety relate to education and advice to members of the public. Whereas Fire

Protection relates to the enforcement of fire law and the provision of information and support to business.

2. Introduction

Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to make provision for the purpose of promoting fire safety in its area and in particular to provide information, publicity and encouragement around the steps to be taken to prevent fires and death or injury by fire. Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue is expected to deliver this by giving advice, on request, about:

- How to prevent fires,
- Restrict their spread in buildings and other property,
- The means of escape from buildings and other property in case of fire.

The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework, also makes clear the expectation that Fire and Rescue Services will make appropriate provision for effective fire prevention and protection activities. In doing so it requires Fire and Rescue Services to:

- Work with a range of agencies to target the most vulnerable and provide home safety advice to mitigate the risk from fire.
- Set out a risk based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Fire Safety Order

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 states that the Fire and Rescue Authority will carry out enforcement. In Lincolnshire, the County Council are the Fire and Rescue Authority and the Chief Fire Officer exercises that function on its behalf.

Our IRMP baseline document sets out the strategies for fulfilling the duties and expectations placed on Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, namely the prevention and protection strategies. These strategies are delivered through a broad range of activities detailed in our Community Safety Framework (Appendix 1). Key fire safety targets and activities are also set out in our Annual Service Plan.

3. Community Safety Framework

The framework sets out our aims and priorities in order to improve and enhance the safety of our communities. It describes our community safety activities and sets out how they will be delivered.

The framework encompasses the following functions:

- Community Fire Prevention
- Community Fire Protection

3.1 Prevention

Our Community safety team promotes Community Safety using a wide range of methods which can influence attitudes and behaviours in respect of risk reduction. These can be used singly or in combination, and can include;

- Education
- Intervention
- Engagement
- Partnership working

The Fire and Rescue Services Act (2004) Part 2 Section 6 places a statutory duty on Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue to promote fire safety throughout Lincolnshire. We discharge this important function primarily through our Community Fire Safety team and operational response personnel. The following Service Plan objectives are identified as the main drivers for the Prevention activities:

- Provide home safety advice and support
- Conduct arson reduction activities
- Provide road safety prevention activities in conjunction with the road safety partnership
- Improve the health and resilience of Children and Young People
- Implement key aspects of the National Fire Chiefs' Council Health Strategy (such as safe and well visits)

All of our employees have a role to play in the delivery of prevention activities. However, key to delivering the strategy are our operational crews, who deliver a wide range of activities and our Community Fire Safety Advocates, who are equipped to deal with the more vulnerable individuals in our communities.

Risk Based Approach

We adopt a risk based approach to ensure the best use of resources. There are three factors that influence the level of risk and the prioritisation for a particular activity:

- Likelihood – the probability of having a fire
- Severity – the risk factors of the individual based on lifestyle
- Outcome – the interventions required to reduce the risk

Safeguarding

Current legislation imparts a statutory responsibility on all public bodies, to ensure the safeguarding of children and adults. We also recognise that in delivering community safety activities and responding to incidents, our personnel are often in a position to identify people at risk of harm or abuse.

3.2 Protection

The Fire and Rescue Authority's fire safety duties are, in the main, delegated to and discharged by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue. The main duties are to:

- Enforce the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in non-domestic premises
- Promote fire safety by providing information, publicity and encouragement.
- Giving advice on request about prevention of fires, restriction of fire spread and means of escape from fire.
- Enforcement of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Regulations 2014 at Petrol filling stations within Lincolnshire.
- Enforcement of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act 1975 at Designated Sportsgrounds and Certificated Stands.

Risk Area Profiling

We use a standard methodology for defining risk associated with non-domestic premises. This methodology is then supported by a workflow that clearly outlines the development and management of the Service Risk Based Inspection Programme and local Inspection Programmes.

Primary Authority

Primary Authority Schemes were introduced in 2009 under the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008. They are aimed at Local Authority Regulators reducing the burden on business through better, more efficient, co-ordinated activity. Primary Authority Schemes govern the way enforcement activities are undertaken with organisations who have partnered with a Fire and Rescue Authority (The Primary Authority). As the Primary Authority's representative, we act as an advocate for the business, providing advice that is assured and also ensuring that fire safety enforcement relating to their premises is fair and appropriate across whole country, regardless of which Authority's area it falls in. Under this arrangement we currently have 23 partnerships in place.

Unwanted Fire Signals

An Unwanted Fire Signal is defined as a fire signal transmitted by an Automatic Fire Detection system (fire alarm), where, upon arrival of the fire service, it is found that a fire has not occurred (false alarm). Unwanted Fire Signals are a drain on resources and commit vital assets which would otherwise be available to attend real incidents.

Our Unwanted Fire Signals policy seeks to reduce the incidence of false alarms through support, specialist advice and enforcement. The core elements of our reduction strategy are:

- Challenging calls where the only indication of fire is the alarm sounding
- Employing statutory powers under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to improve the management of premises where the management of Unwanted Fire Signals is poor.

- Charging where little effort is being made to effectively reduce the incidence of excessive Unwanted Fire Signals.

4. Community Safety Framework

Our Community Safety Framework, which can be found at Appendix 1, provides a detailed description of all the key activities that we deliver across the communities of Lincolnshire in delivering our prevention and protection strategies. An explanation of the key activities will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee, offering an opportunity for members to ask questions and gain a greater understanding of our work in support of their local communities. The Community Safety Framework, being a working document, contains many abbreviations and acronyms common to the Fire Service, a Glossary of Terms has been provided (Appendix 2) to support members when reading this document.

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Community Safety Framework 2017-2020
Appendix B	Community Safety Framework Document - Glossary of Terms

6. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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