

## **Environment, Communities and Fire Select Committee**

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

### **Proposed Savings for Fire Service Operations and Public Protection for 2019/20**

**Report by Executive Director Communities and Public Protection and Director of Operations and Director of Public Protection**

#### **Summary**

It is proposed to save £600,000 from Fire Service Operations budget in 2019/20 and £100,000 from the Public Protection budget to contribute to the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) savings requirements £145m by 2021.

The proposals will be subject to staff consultation from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Following the close of consultation on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 a final decision will be made by the Executive Director of Communities and Public Protection on the impacts, outcomes and whether to proceed with the current or modified proposals following consultation with staff and representative bodies.

If approved any service changes would be implemented by June 2019.

#### **Focus for Scrutiny**

- (1) The Committee is asked to consider the proposals and their potential impact, in the light of the evidence, and the other options considered.

## **Proposal**

### **1. Background and Context**

In order to achieve the savings required by the County Council each of the Directorates has been asked to review their spending and identify areas where potential savings can be made. The Operations and Public Protection directorate has reviewed the services that are delivered and the supporting functions and have developed a set of proposals to deliver savings in 2019/20.

### **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Proposed reduction in Intervention and Prevention activities saving £400,000. Details are in paragraph 4 below.
- 2.2 Proposed review and restructure of the Technical Rescue Unit saving £200,000. Details are in paragraph 4 below.
- 2.3 Restructure of Resilience and Emergencies Team saving £100,000

### **3. Resources**

- 3.1 The savings will require resources to plan, coordinate and deliver the action plans through an agreed period and will be managed through the Fire and Rescue Service savings board which is part of the Customer Centred Value for Money Board. This is one of the four boards that support the delivery of the Fire & Rescue Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan.

### **Factors taken into account**

#### **4. Issues for consideration by the Select Committee**

- 4.1 The Committees views on the possible outcomes from the proposals:

##### **Operations**

- Restructure of Intervention and Protection team. This would result in the following reduction in delivery:
  - Cessation of FireBreak courses
  - Cessation of Safe Drive Stay Alive courses
  - Reduction in Schools education visits
  - Cessation of working with local cadets
  - Cessation of working with National Citizens Service
  - Cessation of electric blanket testing
- Restructure of Technical Rescue Unit terms, conditions and operations. This may result in a reduction in the delivery of some specialist capability.

##### **Public Protection**

- Reduction in the number of posts in the Resilience and Emergencies Team. This would result in the following reduction in delivery:
  - Removal of 'Duke of Cornwall' courses
  - Removal of 'What If' community resilience training to parishes
  - Reduction in assistance to WSCC Directorates in terms of business continuity plan preparations
  - Reduction in assistance to the Sussex Resilience Forum

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Initial communications with staff and representative bodies has taken place. Formal staff consultation will begin 13<sup>th</sup> December. Consultation to close 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019.
- 5.2 Debate and discussion at Environment, Communities and Fire Services Select Committee 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The meeting will be webcast.

## **6 Risk Management Implications**

- 6.1 Reduction of discretionary services to residents. Following risk analysis we will remain able to deliver our statutory duties to a reasonable and safe level.

## **7 Other Options Considered**

- 7.1 The decision to propose these savings was based upon an assessment of the Fire & Rescue portfolio and the planned reviews within the Integrated Risk Management Plan. This considered the following functions and ruled them out for any reductions in this round:
- a. Emergency response: There is a planned review of the emergency response standard commencing early 2019. This will enable the Fire Authority to articulate any proposed change to the current standard with the associated assessment of the resources required to deliver that standard.
  - b. Business Fire Safety: Following the Grenfell Tower disaster there has been a significant additional workload placed on the Fire Safety enforcement team and it is not appropriate to consider any reduction in the team at this time.
  - c. Collaboration/Partnerships: The improvement of existing and development of new collaborative opportunities will continue is expected to yield efficiencies. To date the efficiencies gained have already been considered and there are none available to consider for this period.

## **8 Equality Duty**

- 8.1 The equality impact risk assessment has been carried out for each area, there are no negative impacts indicated.

## **9 Social Value**

- 9.1 In terms of environmental sustainability the reduction of activity will mean a reduction in the environmental impact of operations.

## **10 Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 10.1 There are no implications identified.

## **11. Human Rights Implications**

- 11.1 There are no implications identified

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**Background Papers:**

None