

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 8

MEETING: 6 NOVEMBER 2017

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2017-20 – REPORT OF
CONSULTATION**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK
TO THE AUTHORITY) THE STRATEGIC FINANCE OFFICER AND THE
PERSONNEL ADVISOR TO THE AUTHORITY**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report provides members with the results of the consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the draft Community Safety Strategy 2107-2020 (“the strategy”) and seeks approval for publication of the strategy.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Strategic Community Safety Plan (SCSP) sets out the Authority’s commitment to our communities; the strategy underpins the SCSP, sitting alongside the Organisational Development and Medium Term Financial strategies to form the overarching strands of the strategic planning framework. Together these strategies support community, personal and organisational performance, as well as ensuring value for money and good governance. The underpinning policies, procedures and action plans provide the appropriate framework and guidance to support the delivery of the Authority’s commitments to the communities of Tyne and Wear.
- 2.2 At the September Fire Authority meeting, members approved the release of the draft strategy for consultation with partners and key stakeholders.

3 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 The strategy was emailed to partners and key stakeholders namely Community Safety Partnership members across all five local authority areas, Northumbria LRF partners, TWFRS’s Community Forum, Fire Authority members and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria.
- 3.2 Respondents were encouraged to complete an online survey (Appendix A) consisting of quantitative and qualitative questions or provide an email or hard copy response.

4 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 4.1 Fourteen responses were received from a range of stakeholders namely North Tyneside Business Forum, North East Ambulance Service, Newcastle City Council, NHS Newcastle Gateshead CCG, Changing Lives, GMB union, TWFRS Volunteers, Northumbria Police, Fire Authority Members and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria. Eleven responses were on the online survey and three were letter or email.
- 4.2 The quantitative responses to the online survey are shown in the table below:

Question	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
Do you feel the draft Community Safety Strategy adequately explains its purpose?	100%	0%
Do you believe the Challenges sections capture fully the main challenges for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service?	100%	0%
With regards to our Outcomes, do you feel these focus on the most important areas to improve the safety of our Communities?	100%	0%
Do you feel the Community Safety Strategy effectively meets the challenges facing Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service over the next three years?	100%	0%

- 4.3 Responses to the qualitative online survey questions are detailed in Appendix A.
- 4.4 A summary of comments from written responses are detailed below:
- We are fully supportive of the main thrust of the document and in particular the vital role which you play based on the current financial constraints;
 - Safetyworks! facilities were championed;
 - The strategy would benefit from a greater level of financial information;
 - The plan only has a short reference to terrorism;
 - The expansion of collaboration and partnership activities needs to be more explicit across the strategy, especially enhancing collaboration with blue light services such as Northumbria Police and adjoining fire and rescue services;
 - The outcomes would benefit from being linked to the priorities and goals of the service, to allow the golden thread to be evidenced.
- 4.5 Some comments made during the consultation were not directly related to the strategy and these have been forwarded to the relevant area of the service for consideration and action where appropriate.

5 AMENDMENTS FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Following a review of the feedback from the consultation process the following amendments have been made to the strategy:

- 5.2 “Our Challenges” section has been expanded to include more economic pressures information to highlight the financial constraints the service has faced and will face over the coming years of the strategy.
- 5.3 The focus on “collaboration and partnership” has been enhanced across the whole strategy with specific acknowledgement of the importance of collaboration with Northumbria Police and other blue light emergency services.
- 5.4 To ensure enough cognisance is taken of terrorism and its threats references are included within the Our Challenges and Resilience sections and forms part of Outcome Seven.
- 5.5 Outcome Three has been amended to allow the associated policy to identify measurable performance indicators.
- 5.6 The outcomes have been mapped across to the priorities, goals, mission and vision of the service to demonstrate the ‘golden thread’.
- 5.7 The strategy makes it explicit that the service will maintain focus against the outcomes by producing associated policy and action plans that will formally document our standards and expectations and will report annually against key performance indicators derived from these policies.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 By considering and setting out clear organisational strategies in line with the Authority’s strategic planning framework the Authority are demonstrating a strong commitment to effective corporate governance. The development and implementation of these strategies helps to mitigate the potential risks of not undertaking appropriate future planning.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

8 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 The Authority is recommended to:

- a) Endorse the contents of this report;
 - b) Note the amended content of the draft Community Safety Strategy;
 - c) Subject to any amendments they may wish to make in light of the consultation exercise, approve the Community Safety Strategy;
 - d) Approve the publishing and marketing of the Community Safety Strategy to our communities, partners and stakeholders;
 - e) Receive further reports as appropriate.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report:

Fire Authority 11 September 2017 Part I Item 08 – Draft Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020

Amended Draft Community Safety Strategy 2017-2020

Appendix A

- Do you feel the draft Community Safety Strategy adequately explains its purpose?
 - Two comments were received, both positive, an example being “Well structured clear and concise our Corporate management team felt it was a helpful document which demonstrates the full role of the Fire and Rescue Service”
- Do you believe the Challenges sections capture fully the main challenges for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service?
 - Three comments were received, all positive an example being “The Corporate management team felt the document clearly demonstrated the challenges for the Fire and Rescue service some members were surprised at the diverse role undertaken by the service”
- Do you have any comments on the content within the Prevention section?
 - Nine comments were received. Two comments focused on increasing collaboration opportunities with the others neutral or positive with Safetyworks! and the visual images being highlighted.
- Do you have any comments on the content within the Protection section?
 - Nine comments were received all positive with the protection role and partnership working specifically mentioned. One example is “The focus on intelligence led approaches to safety appears to be sensible given the economic realities. Partnership working is key to more effective use of resources and better engagement. It is helpful, therefore to see this identified as the approach to be taken with business.”
- Do you have any comments on the content within the Response section?
 - Nine comments were received, eight positive and one noting “The close working relationship that TWFRS have with Northumbria Police & North East Ambulance Service could be accentuated.”
- Do you have any comments on the content within the Resilience section?
 - Nine comments were received, eight positive, for example “gave assurance of the resilience and the processes the fire and rescue service would have in place” and one noting “very top level ambitions / plans but limited detail around how these are going to be achieved.”
- Do you have any comments on the content within the Conclusion section?

- Eight comments were received, with five being “no” and the rest positive with the most comprehensive noting “the document was impressive and demonstrated the wide role played by the service for the community probably needs greater publicity to the general public about wide ranging role not just fire.”
- With regards to our Outcomes, do you feel these focus on the most important areas to improve the safety of our Communities?
 - Three comments were received one highlighting “Yes very clear and helpful focus on the important issues” whilst the two others noted the importance of the outcomes being measurable and one specifically referencing outcome three.
- Do you have any further comments on the Community Safety Strategy?
 - Nine comments were received, with five being “no” or similar. One highlighted “the strategy is very comprehensive and simplistic and sets out the way fire services currently prevent, and respond to safety and how this will be achieved in the future” with the other two focusing on the marketing and publishing of the strategy – “Need to publish widely across the community when finalised to demonstrate the full range of responsibilities of the Fire and Rescue Service” and “How are you planning to market the 'strategy' across all sectors and communities?”
- Are there any omissions or errors within the Community Safety Strategy as drafted?
 - Nine comments were received, with all noting “no”, “none” or equivalent.
- Do you feel any aspects of the Strategy could be improved and if so why?
 - Nine comments were received, with six noting “no” or equivalent, one noting it was “very comprehensive yet easy to read document”, one noting it “looks really good” and one requesting “more detail on outcomes.”