

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND PFI
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2015**

Report from Fire and Rescue Service:

Strategic partnership (Delivering Differently in Partnership)

As indicated within the previous report, first year savings of £300,000 have been achieved with projected savings due to be met in line with the project plan. Furthermore the service has been able to find an additional £50,000 one off in year saving to support the council's budget gap.

People

Recruitment for retained duty system (RDS) staff is in progress to address vacancies at six of the ten stations across the Island, with availability of RDS personnel continuing to be problematic at most stations. The service continues to explore innovative ways to address this.

Watch manager Martin Poynter who sadly passed away earlier this year was remembered at an event held in his memory at Shanklin Cricket Club. The event, held on 12 August, saw past and present members of the Fire Service National Cricket Team come together for a match in his memory.

The 100 Here 100 There charity cycle ride continues to gather pace and build on the £44,000 raised in 2013. A team of 11, made up of cyclists and support crew, is set to depart the Island on the '100 There' event on 12 September. The team cycles from Caen in France to Monaco and back; progress can be followed on www.iow100.com. The event looks to raise money for a number of local charities to include Alzheimer's Café IW, Wessex Cancer Trust, Cruse Bereavement Care IW, IW branch of Parkinson's UK, Families of Ocean Ward and IW ASBA (Association of Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus).

Firefighter Alan Jones left for Oregon, USA on 21 August as part of a Hampshire and Isle of Wight six strong team to learn about wildfire firefighting. With the impact of significant wildfires that are currently hitting the local area and right across the state, Alan's progress will be updated via the Isle of Wight Fire website.

Community safety

The first Prince's Trust Team Programme, delivered on the Island by an Isle of Wight fire service member of staff alongside Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service concluded on 31 July, with a presentation event held at the Service Learning and Development Centre on the Ryde Fire Station site. Successfully completing the 12 week programme and receiving their achievement awards were 12 young people aged between 17 and 25. The event was attended by dignitaries, families and friends.

Building on the work being undertaken through My Life A Full Life (powered by Vanguard) and Age UK's Age Friendly Project, Sean Harrison from the Community Safety Team has visited Cheshire along with a colleague from Age UK and My Life A Full Life to learn lessons in developing a local programme to support vulnerable households on the Island. The concept, known in Cheshire and in other parts of the country as Springboard, would see a partnership approach to intelligence and data led targeted Home Safety Visits; when developed these will aim to work with and support vulnerable persons in their own homes for longer. Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service and Age UK Cheshire have been working successfully together since 2010 to deliver their programme that is now considered as good practice nationally.

Operational incidents

Since the last report the fire and rescue service has attended numerous incidents across the Island; these included nine dwelling fires, five non-domestic property fires and eight road traffic collisions (RTCs). Incidents of note which raised public and media interest were as follows:

- Marsh Green Farm, Brighstone - which saw two fire appliances and two water carriers deal with a fire in a large stack of used tyres.
- Island Learning Centre, Lake - where six fire appliances, two water carriers and the command unit were used to deal with a devastating fire which involved the entire main building. In addition, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's sniffer dog and handler supported the Fire Investigation Team and police's scenes of crime officers on scene, post incident.
- Old School Road, East Cowes - saw a property fire where three fire appliances and the command unit attended to deal with a fire caused by an e-cigarette charger. This incident attracted a high degree of publicity and social media interest due to the cause.
- Thorness Bay Holiday Park – the service were called to a fire in a caravan on site with three fire appliances attending the incident.

While there would have been a degree of property damage at each of these incidents, I am pleased to note that there were no reported injuries to either members of the public or staff over that period.

Business fire safety

As a result of the fire at Island Learning Centre the team has been working alongside council colleagues and other agencies to develop the former Hunnyhill Primary School site into a fit for purpose facility to host displaced students from Island Learning Centre for the start of the new academic year in September.

The team continues to work alongside community safety colleagues across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to raise awareness of the upcoming changes in legislation which affect private landlords through the Energy Act. The act, which is due to come into force in October 2015, among other aspects places a requirement on landlords to provide a minimum of one working smoke detector on each floor of the property and to provide working carbon monoxide detectors in areas of risk following an appropriate assessment.

Report from Public Health

Vanguard

The formal announcement of the Island 'vanguard' award has gone through. NHS England and its Five Year Forward View Partners have announced that the Island's My Life a Full Life initiative to promote the health and wellbeing of the Island population and to develop integrated care, focused on the needs of the person, is to receive a share of £41 million of new funding this year. This is to implement the programme at a scale and pace that would not otherwise be possible with current resources.

The Island was identified in March 2015 by NHS England and its five year forward view partners new models of care programme as one of the first 29 'vanguard' sites which would lead the way in developing new models of care for the rest of England. Following a successful two day visit to the Island in May 2015 by the team from NHS England and its partners, the Island was invited to bid for the funds required to implement My Life a Full Life more quickly, and there will be the opportunity to secure funding for further support over the coming years.

Pharmacies

The BBV (blood-borne virus) screening initiative that was short listed for Pharmaceutical Care Award has been awarded the overall award. I have no doubt that this will generate national interest in what is happening on the Isle of Wight as a previous one did about eight years ago.

Hepatitis C testing

I think we are starting to get some positive results from the Hepatitis C testing initiative. Community pharmacies are well placed to offer this type of support service. The unique relationship that exists between pharmacist and needle exchange service user means that pharmacy teams have regular contact with this high risk group. Accessing needle exchange services at a community pharmacy is often the only interaction this type of individual makes with a health care professional. This is invaluable with regard to BBV testing as this may well be the only opportunity they get to access testing services. It can be seen from the results to date that a high percentage of those who have tested positive for BBV infection do fall into the IDU (injection drug use) risk category.

The commissioning of BBV testing services via pharmacies can save the NHS large sums of money as early diagnosis offers a much better prognosis for patients. Recent treatment advances mean that early diagnosis and early engagement with treatment services can result in higher numbers of infected individuals benefiting from successful treatment outcomes. Successful treatment outcomes in turn, mean far fewer patients with active infection progress to advanced disease stages that can involve liver cirrhosis and or liver cancer. Both of these are extremely expensive to treat.

Integrated commissioning and joint working

This is moving forward at a good pace at the moment. Logistics are still being looked at.

Report from Regulatory Services

Trading Standards

Protecting vulnerable Island residents from doorstep crime and scams seminar

As part of Scams Awareness Month on Wednesday 22 July, the Trading Standards Service hosted an information day on how the service enforces legislation in connection with doorstep crime and the work done to support and advise victims of scams. Two trading standards officers provided presentations giving the local picture and Louise Baxter, manager of the Scams Hub of the National Trading Standards Board (NTSB), gave compelling evidence on the national picture with regard to scams.

The morning was dedicated to informing agencies both statutory and voluntary about the work we do in this field. Fifty agencies attended including representatives from local banks, housing associations, parish councils, Age UK, police and the fire service. The afternoon session provided information to local residents and their families.

Doorstep crime is one of the most-under reported crimes. Everyone needs to be on the lookout for strangers door-knocking in their area and report it to the Trading Standards Service or police. It is only in this way can we protect the most vulnerable members of our community.

West Wight Coastal Strategy

Work has continued on the West Wight Coastal Strategy, which takes a more detailed look at coastal defence issues for a stretch of the coastline of the Island that runs from East Cowes, west to Freshwater Bay. A consultation draft document will be available later in the autumn. This will be the first of two coastal strategies for the Island, which will help identify and cost potential coastal defence projects linked to funding availability. The council will be able to use the conclusions of the strategies to bid for national flood defence grant from the Environment Agency to help fund projects around the coast of the Island.

Car Parking Strategy

The current work on the Car Parking Strategy is well underway. In the early stages the work has involved data gathering and analysis to inform any future decisions. This has now been completed. The second stage of the policy review has identified all the relevant policy requirements at national, regional and local levels. This will form part of the draft report. The next stage which is currently being arranged is to consult relevant stakeholder groups to try to understand what the stakeholders

consider to be the key parking issues and their suggestions for improvements. It is hoped that the full report will be produced by the end of this calendar year.

Report of PFI Contract Management

Works on the core investment period programme remains at a high level.

Further to my comments in the last report relating to community engagement, a series of ward walkabouts involving local members, Island Roads and the contract management team have now commenced. These provide a useful route by which a variety of matters can be discussed on site and aids understanding of officers of the council and Island Roads employees of relevant local knowledge that can inform both work programmes and design solutions.

The unfortunate identification of structural issues on Wootton Bridge required the temporary overnight closure of the bridge while interim measures were undertaken. Without these a lower weight tonnage restriction would have needed to be imposed. The position has unfortunately led to the need for vehicles over the weight restriction to be diverted around a diversion route. Work to identify and programme a permanent solution which would then lead to the lifting of the current restrictions is underway and all are conscious of the desire to minimise the length of the current restrictions. The works are likely to require approval of outside agencies, but the council and Island Roads have emphasised to them that this crossing forms a vital part of the council's highway network.

Totland seawall

Works on the Totland seawall scheme are progressing well and it is hoped will be completed within the next couple of weeks. The local community are working with the council to prepare an official opening which will include free entertainment from Island performers.

Councillor Phil Jordan

Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI