

**REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC PROTECTION AND PFI
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 JANUARY 2016**

Report from the Fire and Rescue Service

Strategic Partnership (Delivering Differently in Partnership – DDiP)

DDiP Products continue to be developed between Isle of Wight and Hampshire staff. The process to identify a provider for the feasibility study to determine future options relating to data and knowledge management is nearing conclusion, with evaluation against the bids having taken place. One key aspect of the study will be to identify options for the future provision of fire control mobilising and call out functions. The current contract with Surrey is due to end on 31 March 2017.

Projects

Another key project being supported and delivered within service is the Emergency Services Mobile Communications Programme (ESMCP) which is a national project to provide a resilient solution to replace the current Airwave telecommunications platform for emergency services. The project is at the point of sign off for the fire authority with a pack, to include a financial breakdown for the future Emergency Services Network (ESN), being made available.

Community and road safety

The Road Safety Team continues to deliver activities to key risk groups with a Head On road safety event in late November at Medina College for Year 11 students, weekly Bikeability sessions are delivered to primary school pupils which is funded by the Department for Transport (DfT) and two Driver Awareness Training (DAT) intervention sessions are delivered every week to target road users caught for road traffic offences which raises income for the authority.

The Community Safety Team continues to develop the holistic Safe and Well visit for vulnerable households, linking to the Prevention and Early Intervention workstream under MLAFV Vanguard. In addition 15 fire safety school visits have taken place for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students, along with cub pack visits to give input against the fire safety badge.

Operational Incidents

Since the last report the fire and rescue service has attended 147 incidents across the Island between 13 November and 31 December. Of these we attended 15 property fires, seven road traffic collisions and 29 special services.

Report from Public Health

We are currently planning for a Public Health and Social Education (PHSE) health day - working with the Isle of Wight College and Health and Social Care Team - to explore student involvement in the planning for the next 'Bump And Beyond' event.

Due in February, Phase 2 of local area coordination recruitment is to begin by recruiting three new coordinators to be based in East Ryde (including Seaview, Nettlestone and St Helens), Sandown (including Lake, Sandown and Newchurch) and Ventnor (including Chale, Niton, Whitwell, Wroxall and Godshell).

Formative evaluation of local area coordination started and an initial report is to be produced March/April.

A memorandum of understanding with Southampton Solent University has led to access to the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) to appoint a research assistant/evaluation to evaluate local area coordination on the Isle of Wight for a year which could also lead into a co-funded three-year PhD. This will ensure local area coordination is robustly investigated on the Isle of Wight.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy is now completed and out to print – distribution will begin shortly.

Work is to begin on an Addiction Strategy as part of a wider Public Health initiative and we are working on a Vanguard proposition to digitally transform the way health care services are provided locally.

Report from Regulatory Services

Regulatory services are mostly statutory duties so budget pressures impact the overall service.

Around 50 per cent of food inspections have been completed and a forecast for the end of March is 65 per cent to 70 per cent completed.

This financial year around £170,000 of savings have been found from a budget of about £1.2 million.

A number of enforcement cases have taken place, or are to take place shortly, across food and social care areas of service and a successful rogue trader case has now been completed with a further case being prepared for prosecution.

The Buy with Confidence scheme will continue through a working partnership with Isle Help and some small income streams are being found through highways and licencing.

Community safety

The Community Safety Partnership held a meeting at the end of November; reports were received on: reducing re-offending, domestic abuse, domestic homicide review and strategic assessment. The strategic assessment is currently being produced and will then inform a partnership strategic plan. As part of the assessment community consultation was carried out by the community safety officers. The majority of people who were asked said they do feel safe on the Island but are concerned about the following: child sexual exploitation, anti-social behaviour (ASB), drugs and alcohol and road safety.

The Community Safety Partnership has re-established the ASB practitioner multi-agency group and have held their first meeting. The group will meet every month and will consider complex ASB cases and work together to reduce ASB on the Island and adopt a partnership approach to dealing with it using the new tools and powers.

Prevent training is currently being cascaded throughout the council (members and staff) and to wider partners. The training will help staff to understand what radicalisation is and why people can be vulnerable, to know what measures are available to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism, how to challenge extremism and access support for people who may be exploited by radicalising influences.

Trading Standards

Savings made to Island consumers (1/4/15 to 31/12/15) - £122,357.30 (following interaction by Trading Standards).

Environmental Health

Almost 90 per cent of the 2,052 Isle of Wight businesses that serve food have a four or five out of five rating for food hygiene standards.

The government's food hygiene rating scheme celebrated its fifth birthday in December and has been used by the Isle of Wight Council since 2011. The scheme rates businesses from nought, which means 'urgent improvement necessary', to five which means 'very good'.

Council food hygiene inspectors, who carry out unannounced visits, check everything from hygiene practices, compliance with regulations and management of the business before awarding a score. Organisations are given a sticker showing their rating which they can display in their window.

Car parking

We expect the finalised consultants parking report shortly (within weeks) and that will be available and published accordingly.

For clarity, the consultants work is the start of the parking strategy process and the finalised report will advise and inform the next stage of the parking policy and strategy work in the next phase of wider public consultation process.

No timescales have been imposed on this work but it is expected to be brought forward as a finished policy document during the current calendar year.

Income from parking is just over budget and there are two new enforcement officers recently in place bringing the current total to 13.

Work continues to find suitable parking spaces within car parks to provide for eco charging by electric.

Eight worst condition parking machines have been replaced with new equipment and we are moving to metric/electronic machinery across the Island.

As part of financial pressures and good commercial management we are considering removing card payment facilities within car parks as the overall income is currently around £600 annually and the annual cost of provision is around £5,000.

PFI Highways

Work by Atkins is now complete.

The whole contractual dispute process with the service provider continues and we are currently in ongoing discussions over complex contractual issues.

It is not possible to identify those matters publicly but an informal meeting has taken place just before the end of 2015 with the chair of Audit to provide an informal update on the current commercial and financial position.

We have raised the issue of bringing the current Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process, which presently sits under the service provider, back into the authority as it is now evident it is not best placed under the contract to deliver a robust and efficient service.

Currently, we have recruited two extra engineering officers into the Contract Management Team and they are working on ongoing and daily operational issues, as well as the outstanding works request list which now surpasses 1,400 job requests.

Councillor Phil Jordan
Executive Member for Public Health, Public Protection and PFI