

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

10 September 2014

Item 10

Primary Authority Scheme

Report by the Chief Officer

Contact: Mark Wittcomb Telephone: 07918 887584

1 Summary

1.1 The Primary Authority Scheme (PAS) was extended to include the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on 6 April 2014. Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to developing an active participation in the Scheme. This paper provides Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority (HFRA) with an update on progress to date and plans to further improve the Scheme delivered by HFRS.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority endorse the further development of the Primary Authority Scheme and delegate authority to pursue this to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

3 Introduction and background

3.1 This paper follows the report presented to the HFRA on 3 December 2013 titled 'Primary Authority Scheme'.

3.2 Following a proposal from Central Government contained within the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013, the PAS was extended to include the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 on 6 April 2014.

3.3 Having actively participated in the national partnership pilots (January – June 2013), HFRS seconded an experienced Business Fire Safety Manager to establish and manage two partnerships for the purpose of a local pilot: one with Home Retail Group (Argos, Homebase and Habitat) and the other with B&Q Plc.

3.4 Following the success of the pilots and Central Government's decision to select the statutory PAS, the PAS Manager has been actively seeking partnerships in order to develop the Scheme and ensure its long term sustainability.

3.5 HFRS has currently registered nine partnerships on the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) register:

- a) Home Retail Group
- b) B&Q Plc
- c) Nuffield Health
- d) Royal Bank of Scotland
- e) Orchid Pub and Dining Group
- f) Majestic Wines
- g) Southern Cooperative
- h) Micheldever Tyres
- i) Sanctuary Housing Group

3.6 In addition to the nine partnerships already established, the PAS Manager is also in formal discussion with a number of other businesses in order to continue to develop the Scheme.

3.7 The current approach to developing the PAS within HFRS has been successful in establishing a solid foundation. In order to expand the business model further, a longer term strategy is required. This will be developed and, if agreed by HFRA, considered by the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee.

4 Supporting our corporate aims and objectives

4.1 Whilst active participation as a primary authority partner has contributed to the corporate objective contained within the Service Plan 2013-2018 '*to improve economic sustainability through effective business support*', the opportunity to seek financial support will also play an active role in supporting with the financial challenge facing the Service over the coming years.

5 Risk analysis

5.1 Two risks have been identified:

- Loss of funding
- Reputation

5.2 Loss of funding – this has been mitigated by ensuring the correct level of cost recovery.

Reputational – mitigated by the careful selection of the PAS Manager with the correct level of technical competence and support in order to undertake the role.

6 People Impact Assessment

The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

7 Resource implications (HR, Physical, ICT, Financial)

The scheme is being managed within existing resources with a second member of staff about to be added. All costs are recovered from the scheme meaning no additional burden for HFRS.

8 Conclusion

- 8.1 The Government's economic growth agenda is focussed on providing consistency of advice, enforcement and reducing regulatory burden on business. The Primary Authority Scheme acts as a key facilitator for this change.
- 8.2 The current PAS within HFRS has an established foundation. It is at a point where it needs to be further developed to fully achieve its potential. In order to expand the business model to do that, a longer term strategy needs to be developed. The proposal is for this to be presented for consideration to the Performance Review and Scrutiny Committee to take forward on behalf of the HFRA.

9 Background papers

- 9.1 The following documents disclose the facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of the report:

None

Note: The list excludes: (1) published works; and (2) documents that disclose exempt or confidential information defined in the Act.