

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Item 9

28 January 2015

Safer Portsmouth Partnership – the establishment of a Community Safety Company

Report of the Chief Officer

Contact: Neil Odin, Deputy Chief Officer – telephone: 07918 888077

Andy Lock, Group Manager – telephone: 07918 887759

1 Summary

- 1.1 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority is a partner of the Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP), which brings together local organisations to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, and reoffending in Portsmouth. Currently two members of the Fire Authority and one officer are members of the 'Responsible Authorities'¹ group, the officer having the role as the anti-social behaviour theme champion.
- 1.2 The Safer Portsmouth Partnership (SPP) began exploring alternative delivery models for community safety services in January 2013 in response to public sector cuts across partner organisations. After considering various options, it was agreed that the best and most flexible way forward is to form a company limited by guarantee. This company would deliver a range of services currently delivered on behalf of the SPP, and also seek to develop new and complementary services. To be successful, this community safety company will need the commitment and support of all the partners.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the contents of the report, and receives a further paper in April providing details of the business case for consideration.

3 Introduction and background

- 3.1 The 'Delivering Differently' programme was launched by the Cabinet Office in January 2014 with the support of the Local Government Association and the Department for Communities and Local Government. The aim of the programme is to support local authorities in reviewing strategic options for delivering services differently, thus reducing dependence on local authority funding and central government grants. The SPP agreed to support Portsmouth City Council's bid to become part of the programme and Portsmouth was successful in securing consultancy support from a consortium funded by the Cabinet Office.

¹ There are five 'responsible authorities' in relation to the Crime and Disorder Act; the local authority, the fire authority, the police service, the health service and the probation service. These organisations have a statutory responsibility to work together. They do this through the Safer Portsmouth Partnership. SPP's aim is to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, offending and reoffending.

- 3.2 Phase one of the work began in June 2014 and the responsible authorities, met in September to consider an options appraisal in relation to the delivery vehicle. It was agreed the best and most flexible option for all partners would be to set up a company limited by guarantee.
- 3.3 This proposal builds on previous valuable partnership work done in relation to the SPP in areas such as anti-social behaviour. In particular it supports the decision taken by the Responsible Authorities (partners) to proceed to set up a community safety company. The role of this company will be to deliver a range of services currently delivered on behalf of the SPP as well as to seek to develop new and complementary services. The aim is to reinvest income into services that may be less commercially viable, but provide clear 'social value' and minimise costs. There is clear impetus to seek to do things differently, introduce new areas of activity, new business, and ultimately a new landscape in which to operate.
- 3.4 The new company has the potential to develop existing services, in particular the management of CCTV, civil contingencies arrangements, consultancy, and community safety prevention services.

4 Business case

- 4.1 A business case and outline business plan is nearing completion and will provide detailed information enabling members and other partners to make a formal decision whether or not to set up the new social enterprise. The document is being prepared in two parts; part one will focus on the following four areas and part two sets out a transition plan.

<p>Part I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Risk analysis • Market analysis • Financial modelling 	<p>Part II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff consultation and communications • Transition plan
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- 4.2 The business case will be reported to the next meeting of this Committee, including any related risks and financial implications for consideration by members.

5 Participation in the company

- 5.1 The Responsible Authorities (partners), listed below, need to be able to exercise control over the company. It is therefore proposed that company members shall be:

Portsmouth City Council
 Hampshire Constabulary
 Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority
 Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group, and
 National Probation Service based in Portsmouth.

These partners will have the right to appoint the majority of the Board.

6 Supporting our corporate priorities and aims

- 6.1 Partnership working is one of the Authority's priorities. Strengthening our position towards the Safer Portsmouth Partnership and working closely with partners to do so will help to make our communities safer which sits at the heart of our work – every time we touch a life, we make life safer.

7 Risk analysis

- 7.1 As more work is undertaken on the proposal, which is a new business model, risks that are identified will be properly evaluated, reported, and treated as appropriate. These will be reported to the Committee. The partnership has its own risk management processes as will the company.

8 People Impact Assessment

- 8.1 The proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation. Any requirements for People Impact Assessments will be fulfilled as the proposal progresses.

9 Environmental and Sustainability impact assessment

- 9.1 There have been no impacts identified at this point.

10 Resource implications

10.1 Human Resources

No implications have been identified at this stage. Our involvement as a partner is included within existing resources.

10.2 Physical Resources and Information and Communications Technology Resources

No implications have been identified at this stage.

10.3 Financial Resources

- 10.3.1 Financial implications will be included in the business case.

- 10.3.2 Once the company has been set up, the Board will have responsibility for the financial probity accountability and governance requirements.

11 Consultation

- 11.1 The company will have a range of stakeholders in addition to the partners. These include the staff, those who use its services, those who do or might buy its services such as the Police and Crime Commissioner, and (due to the remit of the company) local businesses and residents, and the general public. Further work on the proposal will identify consultation requirements.

12 Conclusion

- 12.1 The Safer Portsmouth Partnership has made the decision to establish a community safety company. Being one of the responsible authorities (partners) gives HFRA the opportunity to strengthen our position with the SPP in delivering new and existing services. The aim is to reinvest income into services that may be less commercially viable, but provide clear 'social value', and minimise costs.
- 12.2 The role of the company will be to deliver a range of services currently delivered on whilst seeking to develop new and complementary services. The new company has the potential to develop existing services with the Responsible Authorities (partners) having a shared ownership of services.
- 12.3 It is important that the Responsible Authorities, who deliver on the objectives of the SPP, exercise control over the company. The contribution of the partners remains crucial to its success, with the company having an important community safety role to play in Portsmouth.
- 12.4 A further report with more detail will be made to this Committee for consideration once work has been completed on the business case.

13 Background papers

- 13.1 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.