

**City of York Council**

**Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

**North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service Update York**

**16 November 2016**

**Report of Group Manager Dave Dryburgh**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To advise members of the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee regarding Service Delivery activity involving North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) that have occurred between the 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and to provide an update regarding other relevant issues from within the York and Selby District.

**2.0 INTRODUCTION**

2.1 The following report covers the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**3.0 SERVICE DELIVERY**

3.1 The tables below provide an overview of the Community Safety initiatives conducted in the York area in the past 6 months and the work undertaken in the previous 12 months as a comparator.

3.2 It is of note that included within those items that fall within 'other community fire safety talks' we are now delivering water safety input during the freshers weeks at both York St John and the University of York ensuring that all new students residing in the City for the first time are made fully aware of the risks posed by the rivers in York, especially during their interaction with the night time economy.

3.3 The community safety activity is undertaken by a mixture of both operational firefighters and dedicated community safety officers.

3.4 Technical fire safety activity is undertaken at a low risk level by operational firefighters while more complex and higher risk inspections are undertaken by a specialist team. The specialist team

do not only carry out inspection audits but engage in educating the business community regarding their fire safety responsibilities.

<b>Community Fire Safety</b>	<b>Apr 16 to Sep 16</b>	<b>Apr 15 to Mar 16</b>
Number of Smoke Alarms fitted	252	611
Number of Home Fire Risk Assessments completed	168	461
Drive Alives	3	3
Matrix deployments	22	28
Targeted driving campaigns	4	11
School talks promoting community safety	13	41
Child Firesetters	0	9
Bonfire Awareness talks	3	4
Other community fire safety talks	75	128

<b>Technical Fire Safety</b>	<b>Apr 16 to Sep 16</b>	<b>Apr 15 to Mar 16</b>
Number of Fire Safety Audits Completed	228	448
All TFS job types completed	617	1208

#### **4.0 Fire Cover Review**

- 4.1 During 2014 and 2015 we carried out a review of fire cover across North Yorkshire and the City of York.
- 4.2 As this review of fire cover followed on from a review which had focused only on the City of York, which led to the construction of a new shift system fire station at Kent Street, the closure of the existing station at Clifford Street and the relocation of the aerial ladder platform and a fire appliance to the existing on call station at Huntington, there was no direct impact for the City of York other than the decision to upgrade and align the existing Water Rescue Unit with national standards.
- 4.3 However, following an appropriate consultation process the Fire Authority have agreed to make a number of changes in respect of how fire cover will be delivered across the Service;
  - To replace one wholetime crewed standard appliance with a Tactical Response Vehicle at Harrogate, Malton, Northallerton, Ripon, Scarborough and Tadcaster.

- The introduction of three District based Watch Managers to assist with retained recruitment as well as four wholetime Crew Managers and three wholetime firefighters to assist in the operational staffing reserve.

- 4.4 These changes will see a reduction in the number of wholetime firefighters based at Tadcaster Fire Station although there will be an increase in retained staff. This is due to the Tactical Response Vehicle, which will essentially be a small fire engine, with a pumping capability, requiring less staff to operate it. The Service hopes to manage the reduction in staff numbers at those locations detailed through naturally occurring leavers (retirements), station transfers and promotions to ensure the minimum disruption to staff.
- 4.5 It is anticipated that the whole project will take until 2020 to fully role out although Tadcaster will be amongst the first locations to 'go live' with a Tactical Response Vehicle during February 2017.

## **5.0 Operational Activity**

- 5.1 During the last twelve months and since the last report we made to the committee there has been a considerable amount of operational activity which has either directly impacted or had a large pull on our resources within the City of York.
- 5.2 Most notable have been the large waste fire at the former Wagstaffs waste recycling site at Long Lane, Great Heck which ran for several months and was finally resolved from an operational fire perspective towards the end of 2015 and the flooding involving the City of York and the wider area over Christmas and New Year of 2015/16.
- 5.3 During that period the Service received an unusually high number of calls which resulted in our attendance at 535 incidents; 387 of which were flood related.
- 5.4 The widespread flooding led to the mobilisation of National Resilience assets from around the Country to assist with the Service's response. Due to the widespread nature of the incident these resources were deployed in and around the City of York which freed our existing appliances to respond to other emergencies such as road traffic collisions and property fires that occurred independent of the flooding.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 That Members note the activities that have taken place.

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