

**16<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Environment Committee**

**Fire Authority Partnership Arrangements**

**Report of:** Roy Ormsby – Head of Street Scene

**Wards Affected:** All

**This report is:** Public

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 It is recognised that all Council's need to identify alternative ways of delivering services, and that the high expectations of residents cannot be delivered by the Council alone.
- 1.2 It is the intention of this Council to identify all opportunities to work in partnership with other agencies to enhance our communities, and take action on the issues that impact on their lives.
- 1.3 To start this process it is intended to have discussions with the Fire Authority, to look at how we can work together to make a difference across the Borough through working in partnership on environmental schemes.

**2. Recommendation(s)**

- 2.1 Agree that Members will provide Officers with information on potential areas for joint working to feed into the discussions.**
- 2.2 Agree that Officers commence discussions with the Fire Authority to identify any opportunities to develop joint working to enhance our communities.**

**3. Introduction and Background**

- 3.1 All Council's recognise that they must continually identify opportunities to work in partnership with other agencies, as a single organisation alone cannot deliver the high expectations of our communities.

- 3.2 This work commenced through a trial during the winter of 2013/14, when the Fire Authority leased a vehicle to provide a gritting service for the Council. Although there was a mild winter, it provided an enhanced service for our residents, as two agencies working together could cover larger areas of the Borough.
- 3.3 The Council already provide services through the Neighbourhood Action Team, and through the Essex Ranger Service. The discussions would focus on how these, and Fire Authority resources could be joined to provide an enhanced community service.
- 3.4 Officers from both agencies will identify the most effective and efficient way to use resources on community schemes, that would be identified by the community, and brought forward by Ward Members for approval.

#### **4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 4.1 This scheme would provide an enhanced service for the community through partnership working.

#### **5. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 To provide an enhanced community service for our residents.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 This will be done through the development of schemes within communities.

#### **7. References to Corporate Plan**

- 7.1 Partnership working is a key part of the Corporate Plan, as is working closely with community groups to enhance the environment.

#### **8. Implications**

##### **Financial Implications**

**Name & Title:** Jo-Anne Ireland, Acting Chief Executive

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- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications at this stage.

**Legal Implications**

**Name & Title:** Chris Potter, Monitoring Officer and Head of Support Services

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8.2 None

**Other Implications** (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

8.3 None

**9. Background Papers** (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 None

**10. Appendices to this report**

None

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