

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 18 JUNE 1998

NOTE: A full copy of the report mentioned below has been sent to all members of the Environment Committee and other members who have requested it. Any queries on this report to: Joan Blake, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Tel: 01992 555560)

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY - LOCAL INITIATIVES AND THE HOME OFFICE "SAFE AS HOUSES" REPORT

There are no statutory regulations which apply to fire safety measures in the home and the fact that fire deaths continue to occur remains a cause for concern at both county and national levels.

The Home Office produced a consultation document in November 1997 entitled "Safe As Houses" which outlines some community fire safety proposals for the future, including a nationally co-ordinated approach. A further, more detailed report is expected shortly. Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service already have a number of community fire safety schemes in place but are committed to supporting a national framework should it be developed.

The Committee were advised of the fire safety work already underway and have agreed a number of short, medium and long term measures designed to ensure current initiatives continue alongside work to prepare the service for the future.

These measures are:-

Short Term

- continue existing community fire safety initiatives;
- utilise the service's "Management Information System" to build a statistical data base;
- monitor and support the development of the local data collection exercise which is underway at Garston as a pilot scheme.

Medium Term

- extend the local monitoring exercise to other stations;
- monitor the categories highlighted within the Home Office report, i.e. fires in dwellings, fire deaths, and non-fatal casualties;
- look for patterns or trends that identify "at risk" groups.

Long Term

- receive the final report from the Home Office;
- set up a member panel to review the recommendations within the report;
- comprehensively review the fire safety Education Strategy in light of Home Office recommendations and report back to Community Services Committee.

P V Goggins

Chairman

County Hall

Hertford

18 June 1998