

AGENDA



For a meeting of the
COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
to be held on
THURSDAY, 5 JANUARY 2012
at
2.30 PM
in
THE WITHAM ROOM, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM
Beverly Agass, Chief Executive

Group Members:	Councillor Kelham Cooke, Councillor Breda Griffin, Councillor Charmaine Morgan, Councillor John Nicholson (Chairman), Councillor Mrs Jean Taylor, Councillor Jeff Thompson (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Raymond Wootten
Portfolio Holders:	Councillor Terl Bryant (Housing) Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright (Economic Development) Councillor John Smith (Healthy Environment)
Support Officer:	Jo Toomey (01476 40 61 52) j.toomey@southkesteven.gov.uk

Members of the Group are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.

1. COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Group to be notified of any substitute members.

3. APOLOGIES

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare an interest in matters for consideration at the meeting.

5. ACTION NOTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2011

(Enclosure)

6. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Rural Broadband

7. FEEDBACK FROM THE EXECUTIVE

8. ENERGY REDUCTION AND CARBON MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

The PDG will receive a presentation.

9. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The PDG will consider the draft Lincolnshire Child Poverty Strategy.

(Enclosure)

10. FIRE AND RESCUE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR ENGLAND – CONSULTATION

The PDG will consider the draft Fire and Rescue National Framework for England consultation document.

(Enclosure)

11. WORK PROGRAMME

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS, WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DECIDES IS URGENT

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

**THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2011
2.30 PM**



GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Bob Adams
Councillor Kelham Cooke
Councillor Breda Griffin
Councillor Charmaine Morgan

Councillor John Nicholson
(Chairman)
Councillor Jeff Thompson (Vice-
Chairman)
Councillor Raymond Wootten

OFFICERS

Head of Environmental Services
(David Banks)
Environmental Health Services
Manager (David Price)
Food, Health and Safety Officer
(Judy Hulland)
Climate Change Co-ordinator
(Michael Rickard)
Principal Democracy Officer (Jo
Toomey)

PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Councillor Terl Bryant
Councillor Mrs Frances Cartwright
Councillor John Smith (Healthy
Environment)

25. MEMBERSHIP

The PDG was advised that Councillor Adams was substituting for Councillor Mrs Taylor for this meeting only.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

27. ACTION NOTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

The action notes from the meeting held on 1 September 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

28. FEEDBACK FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Portfolio Holder for Engagement and Corporate Services had forwarded a 'Driving for Life' leaflet. The programme was a driver awareness course for mature drivers.

Action point:

Display a copy of the 'Driving for Life' leaflet in the Members' Lounge.

29. SKIN PIERCING

The Environmental Health Service Manager presented report number ENV555 about the registration of premises and skin piercers relating to the activities of body piercing and semi-permanent skin-colouring. Implementation of the proposed byelaw would cover five areas of skin piercing: tattooing, acupuncture, cosmetic piercing (including ear piercing), electrolysis and semi-permanent skin-colouring. Mr Price clarified this did not include tanning processes like spray tans and sunbeds, only skin-colouring services where the skin was pierced. A presentation showed different examples of skin piercing and colouring, together with its potential consequences.

The proposed byelaw was designed to prevent the spread of blood-borne viruses and infections. It was estimated 20 additional registrations would come forward in the first year, with five a year thereafter, if the byelaw was introduced. The Council would keep a public register, which would be available on its website.

Concern was raised over whether registering with the Council could be interpreted by members of the public as a guarantee, and expose the Council to liability if anything went wrong. Officers stated that registration would convey approval and confidence but could not guarantee that nothing would go wrong. Council records would show whether a premise took satisfactory measures at the time of its last inspection (annually for tattooists and body piercing (excluding ear piercing), and every three years for the other establishments).

Officers confirmed that the only form of skin piercing that had a legal

minimum age was tattooing. Councillors expressed concern about safeguarding children and the actions taken by studios to ensure a young person has the consent of their parent/carer. It was queried whether there was any form of protection that could be written into the byelaw. Guidance from the legal officer indicated that the Council could only make additions relating to cleanliness of fittings, persons and persons-assisting, and the cleaning and sterilisation of materials and equipment.

The issue was raised over whether tighter regulation would drive people to businesses outside the district.

Action Point

Find out whether neighbouring authorities have adopted skin piercing byelaws and whether their terms differ from the model byelaw.

The following points were also raised as part of discussion:

- Whether record-keeping could be written into the draft byelaw – it would not be enforceable and, as it did not fit the cleanliness theme, could prevent the byelaw's adoption. Details of arrangements could be requested as part of registration process.
- The Council had power of entry through a warrant from the Magistrates Court. If a premise refused access for a routine inspection, they would have committed an offence.
- The Head of Environmental Services stated that the byelaw was introduced in Nottingham to control and improve establishments. Since its implementation the number of complaints had reduced.
- The Council could not compel skin-piercing establishments to carry out CRB checks on staff. Councillors were particularly concerned about unsupervised procedures on children. A strong recommendation for parents to be present for procedures on children could be built into the application process together with a warning for operators who fail to heed this.
- Education work has been carried out in schools as part of Personal, Social and Health Education lessons.
- The wording stating that premises should use disposable equipment "where possible" related to establishments that used older equipment, which was fully sterilised in a special unit
- The proposed byelaw was scheduled for Cabinet consideration

in December 2011/January 2012 before submission to Council in March 2012.

Recommendation

Cabinet recommend that Council:

- 1. Adopt by resolution sections 14 to 17 of Part VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) in their entirety to come into force at a date to be set, within the administrative area of SKDC for the proper regulation of persons carrying out the practices of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis.**
- 2. Authorise the making of byelaws regulating the practice of acupuncture under Section 14(7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as soon as Section 14 of that Act is adopted as in Point 1 (above) within the administrative area of SKDC**
- 3. Authorise the making of byelaws regulating the practices of tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis under Section 15 (7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as soon as Section 15 of that Act is adopted as in point 1 (above) within the administrative area of SKDC**
- 4. Authorise the Head of Environmental Services to make the consolidated byelaw as attached at Appendix A of report ENV555 made under the provisions of Section 14 (7) and 15 (7) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended, and take all necessary steps to secure their confirmation with the Secretary of State and carry them into effect.**

The PDG also recommends the following be incorporated into the registration/application process:

- Details of how records will be kept and what they will include**
- Parents/carers/guardians should be present at procedures performed on those under 18 years**

Action point

Feedback amended registration procedures to the PDG reflecting the recommendations.

30. ENERGY REDUCTION AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

The Head of Environmental Services and Climate Change Co-ordinator gave a presentation on carbon management:

- There was increasing reliance on imported energy and a decline in natural resources, together with increasing costs for gas, electricity and road fuel.
- Several policies and drivers had been discontinued, however new and updated policies had been produced or were in production.
- Carbon management supported several of the Council's priorities: growing economy; keeping SK clean, green and healthy and good housing for all.
- SKDC had taken a number of steps to reduce energy use, including voltage optimisation, lighting upgrades, smarter driving training and upgrading the pool car fleet.
- Photovoltaic cells were being installed on council buildings.
- Services had provided a risk assessment of their service area in respect to sustainability and the impact of weather. Sustainability was being incorporated in service planning.
- Work supporting businesses was undertaken and would continue through sharing best practice.
- Guidance was provided for residents and information made available on the Council's website.
- Options for future activity include a move towards a sustainable future for energy use and mitigation against the effects of climate change were highlighted.

Councillors discussed the presentation:

- National sustainable planning policies were emerging. Councils could choose to go beyond this, for example using the Merton Rule.
- Any new Council policy would be subject to consultation, including consultation with different departments, to ensure a consistent approach.
- Greener driving habits were promoted to council employees; these were included in a handbook being produced for staff members. A version could be produced for wider publication.
- Taxi driver newsletters could highlight the impact of idling vehicle engines at taxi ranks.

- When looking to replace the council's fleet of vans, vehicles with 'stop/go' technology where the engine died down, should be considered.

The Head of Environmental Services explained that a draft energy management and climate change policy would be produced for the PDG's consideration on 5 January 2012. It would focus on the issues raised in the presentation. Cabinet would consider the policy in March 2012. Specific projects would be included in action plans that sit behind the policy.

31. QUESTIONS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 20 OCTOBER 2011

Question:

Significant changes to secure tenancy are proposed under the Government's Localism Bill including the restriction of security of tenure for only 2 years for council tenants. Current proposals could impact on both existing and future council tenants, with consequences for private tenants/landlords and neighbouring owner-occupiers, as well. There will also be likely increased degradation of council assets.

Given it is up to individual councils to choose whether, and how to adopt this part of the Bill, please advise when this matter will be debated in Full Council.

A draft response was prepared by the Acting Head of Housing and Neighbourhoods. The proposed changes to the security of tenure (for future tenants) were discretionary. The contents of the Localism Bill were continually changing, making it difficult to predict the final details that would be in the Act.

One member advised that in 2008, the Council resolved that existing council tenants' agreements should not be terminated. The PDG felt that when the legislation was passed and enacted, and new policies prepared, they should be presented to them for consultation and consideration. The Portfolio Holder commented this would happen if implementation dates permitted sufficient time. PDG members said they would be prepared to hold an additional meeting if required.

Answer:

We are aware that the proposed changes to the security of tenure (of future tenants) will be discretionary for each Council and are currently working through the many proposed changes arising from

the Localism Bill. Reports will be presented to Cabinet and Council depending on the issue and policy proposal for change, or otherwise, as and when the relevant parts of the Bill are enacted and the Regulations are in force.

Question:

In response to concerns received over the potential risks to local heritage and community assets please provide the number and location of conservation areas; listed buildings; tree preservation orders and allotments – both existing and planned, within South Kesteven District Council.

Does the council believe that current protection is adequate?

A briefing note detailing conservation areas, listed buildings, tree preservation orders and allotments was circulated at the meeting. The Planning Policy and Partnerships Service Manager, who produced the report concluded that she felt current protections were adequate. The Economic Development Portfolio Holder clarified that each tree preservation orders did not necessarily protect a single tree.

The PDG member who had proposed the question summarised her reason for asking: a Grade II listed building in Grantham was demolished and she explained that English Heritage only looked at buildings considered of national importance. Despite recognition when the council identified buildings of value and in the townscape assessment, the building was not protected.

Discussion ensued around conservation areas, comparing the street scenes of Grantham and Stamford. Conservation areas across the district were reviewed on an ongoing basis. Some areas may not have been adopted because too many adaptations to buildings' exteriors may already have taken place. The Councillor who asked the question felt that conservation area work in Grantham was concentrated around the town centre and the very old parts of town. She felt that without the protection of a conservation area, there was no legal protection for heritage buildings.

The response from the Planning Policy and Partnerships Service Manager was noted.

32. WORK PROGRAMME

Upcoming topics for PDG consideration were noted.

33. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Following a trip to Oakham, one PDG member asked whether the Council operated a food hygiene rating scheme. She was advised the Council did run a scheme, however it was being superseded by a national scheme. The criteria within the national scheme were not as stringent as the local scheme. When asked whether award criteria could be more stringent, the PDG was advised that all criteria had to be standard.

34. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting was closed at 16:26.

Improving life chances and economic prosperity through raised aspirations

Lincolnshire's approach to tackling child poverty



BRILLIANT LINCOLNSHIRE



Lincolnshire's vision for children and young people

“That every child in every part of the County should achieve their potential”

The Strategy and Action Plan

This document sets out the key strategic themes that need to be addressed in order to tackle Child Poverty and to ensure we deliver the vision for all Children and Young People in Lincolnshire. This strategy will be used to inform an action plan with targeted tasks to improve life chances and economic prosperity for Lincolnshire citizens.

What is child poverty?

Child poverty is one of the key risk factors that can negatively influence a child's life chances. Children that live in poverty are at greater risk of social exclusion which, in turn, can lead to poor outcomes for the individual and for society as a whole.

In Lincolnshire we consider that poverty is not only a matter of having limited financial resources but that it is also about the ability of families to access the means of lifting themselves out of poverty and of having the aspiration to do so. The following four key strategic themes have emerged from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and will form the basis of this strategy: Economic Poverty, Poverty of Access, Poverty of Aspiration and Best Use of Resources.

Definitions of Child Poverty

The Child Poverty Act received Royal assent on 25th March 2010 and at this point the national definition of Child Poverty was based on the National Performance Indicator NI 116: The proportion of Children living in Poverty.

This technical definition of child poverty measures the proportion of children living in households with an equivalized income of below 60% of the national median, which is currently around £347 per week for a couple with two children.

NI 116 is, therefore, a measure of *relative poverty* as it compares the level of household income to the wider population's average.

Other measures of poverty include:

- Severe poverty, which is similar to the above definition but based on equivalized income of below 50% of the national median.
- Absolute poverty, which identifies a specific value of household income required to sustain life essentials, such as food, shelter and warmth. The value of absolute poverty can vary from country to country.

Relative poverty is considered to be the inability of the individual to:

- Have access to living conditions and amenities considered to be ordinary and
- To be able to participate fully in the society in which he or she lives

Examples of other proxy measures of child poverty include inequalities in education, Early Years and Health Outcomes, numbers of young people Not in Education Training or Employment (NEET) and number of people of working age that are in receipt of benefits.

In Lincolnshire we shall use the number of families with children age 0 – 19 where parents are in receipt of out of work benefits as a baseline for child poverty. This will measure the number of Children aged 0 to 19 that are living in poverty. We shall monitor this strategy against that baseline.

Why we need to tackle child poverty

Social and moral case

In Lincolnshire we believe that a child's life chances should not be limited by being born into a family from a low socio economic group but rather he or she should have the same opportunities for economic and social advancement as his or her better off peers.

In the national child poverty strategy¹ produced jointly by the Department for Work and pensions and the Department for Education, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions emphasises the issue of social justice as being the best starting point for long term, sustainable progress and the need to unlock barriers of entrenched poverty.

Children born into poverty are more likely to be at risk of poor educational attainment, poor health with a reduced life expectancy and greater exposure to crime. This can then lead to them not obtaining the skills and qualifications they need in order to be able to secure well paid employment, which then results in their not having the money they need to support their own families; a cycle of poverty is then created.

Economic business case

Direct cost to society:

The risk factors associated with living in poverty lead to considerable strain on ever decreasing public sector resources, with tax payers needing to fund ongoing public sector interventions including health, social care, the criminal justice system and benefit payments. These costs run into multiples of millions of pounds.

Cost to society from loss of revenue:

Worklessness not only puts a strain on resources because of direct costs relating to benefit payments but there is also considerable loss of revenue from lack of tax and National Insurance contributions. In 2007 research² into the cost of unemployment to the nation was estimated to be £2,810 for every household in Britain, with an average loss to the Treasury of £7,703 per claimant in potential revenue.

Legal obligation

Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 requires responsible local authorities and their partners to cooperate to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas. The Act places a duty on responsible local authorities, i.e. those with top-tier functions, to put in place arrangements to work with partner authorities named in the Act to conduct a needs assessment and develop a strategy for tackling child poverty. The Act requires named partner authorities to cooperate with the local authority in these arrangements.

¹ "A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives" (April 2011),

² Daily Mail report 3 January 2007 on the research commissioned by Mark Hoban, Conservative Treasury Spokesman, 2007

Child Poverty in Lincolnshire

Based on the most recent data available for NI 116 (2008) the rate of child poverty in Lincolnshire is lower than the national levels and also lower than some of our benchmark local authorities³. We believe that this success story is, in part, attributable to the positive and pragmatic approach to partnership working arrangements in the County.

According to the latest figures there are just over 142,950 children and young people aged between 0 and 19 living in Lincolnshire, of which 22,730 (15.9%) live in poverty; of the total of those aged under 16 (121,636), 16.5% live in poverty. These figures are below the national averages of 21.6% for under 16s and 20.9% for 0-19s. However, the data collected as part of our on going needs assessment has identified areas where there are high concentrations of children living in poverty, mainly in pockets within the major conurbations of Lincoln, Boston, Grantham and Gainsborough.

The evidence from NI 116 data for 2007 and 2008 together with recent statistics produced by the Department for Work and Pensions regarding children living in benefit claimant households shows that the wards with the highest number of children living in poverty have remained constant for the last four years. The table below shows the 15 wards with the highest number of children living in poverty from 2007 to 2010:

Wards ranked by the highest number of children living in poverty from 2007 to 2010					
Ward	District	2007	2008	2009	2010
Earlesfield	South Kesteven	1	1	2	1
Glebe	Lincoln	2	2	1	2
Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	3	3	3	4
Birchwood	Lincoln	4	4	4	3
Moorland	Lincoln	5	5	5	5
Fenside	Boston	6	6	6	6
Park	Lincoln	7	8	7	8
Abbey	Lincoln	8	9	10	7
Minster	Lincoln	9	7	13	10
Harrowby	South Kesteven	10	13	9	11
Gainsborough South	West Lindsey	11	14	11	13
Scarborough	East Lindsey	12	11	14	12
Castle	Lincoln	13	12	12	14
Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	14	10	8	9
St Clement's	East Lindsey	15	15	15	15

Statistical analysis shows a correlation between wards where there is a high proportion of children living in poverty and:

- those where there is a high proportion of children not achieving a score of 78+ with 6+ at PSE and CLL
- those where there is a high proportion of young people not achieving 5 GCSEs grades A* - C, including Maths and English

These same wards also show that the numbers of young people not in either education, employment or training are higher than in more affluent areas.

A provisional analysis of health data suggests there may also be correlations in these areas with health inequalities.

³ Statistical neighbours: Derbyshire (16.0%), Norfolk (17.5%), Nottinghamshire (16.8%)

As part of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment, NI 116 2008 data relating to high numbers of children living in poverty was analysed at Lower Super Output Area (LSOA)⁴ level, which showed that 25% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire lived in 30 of 413 LSOAs in the County.

See Annex A for a full list of the 30 LSOAs.

It is likely that both the contributory factors and successful approaches to tackling child poverty will be different in each area, taking account of sub district variations and local need; for example, the cost of transport affects people in all parts of the County but the lack of public transport is of particular concern in the coastal and remote rural areas.

It is also important to understand that the future child poverty picture nationally and in Lincolnshire will be influenced by the national economic situation and there is a real risk that the number of children living in poverty will increase. There are also likely to be changes in the characteristics of people experiencing child poverty in the future, brought about by a combination of the recession and subsequent national spending cuts that will result in more people being pushed towards poverty that do not fit the historic profile.

Nevertheless, Lincolnshire is committed to decreasing the number of children living in poverty and recognises that proposed solutions will need to take account of the needs of individuals, families and communities.

This strategy has been developed using findings from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment: Part I – Evidence Base and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). See Annex B for summary key findings.

Information from the evidence base has been shared with a number of key stakeholders across the County. The full ongoing Needs Assessment is also available at <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk>

An assessment of resources is also being completed in order to identify gaps in provision and coordinate services more effectively.

In addition, parents in areas of high child poverty in East Lindsey and Lincoln have been surveyed regarding barriers to learning and employment and how to make better use of household income. The findings from this have also been used to inform the development of this strategy.

How can we improve children's life chances?

The traditional approach

In economic terms, the only sure way to address child poverty is to increase household income. Previous national government approaches have, therefore, focussed on increasing the value of benefits and reducing the number of unemployed parents. However, it is now broadly acknowledged that if long term outcomes are to be realised and sustained it is necessary to tackle the root causes of poverty rather than simply increasing benefit payments.

The Governments Work Programme, which seeks to move people from benefit dependency into self sufficient employment, will be critical to reducing pure economic child poverty. The roles of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Employment and Skills Board and Economic Development teams will also be critical to ensure there are sufficient well paid jobs into which people can progress.

However, if we are to break the cycle of poverty we shall require a much more holistic approach that seeks to improve people's life chances and economic prosperity, not just address household income deficits.

A fresh approach

It is essential to understand that this Child Poverty Strategy is not a Children's Services Strategy, nor that of any other single agency; it is fundamentally a joint strategy that will require all stakeholders to work together in an integrated way to target shared priorities.

⁴ LSOAs have between 1000 and 3000 residents

The Child Poverty Act lists key stakeholders that are required to be engaged with this strategy; however we believe that it is important to work with all stakeholders not just those listed in statute. We should, therefore, like to hear from anyone that feels they can make a contribution to this agenda.

In Lincolnshire we recognise that the responsibility for bringing up children rests with the parents. Where families are able, we need to ensure that support is available for parents to achieve and maintain good levels of health, wellbeing and to develop high aspirations for themselves and their children.

This strategy must, therefore, be family focused, cut across traditional partnership boundaries and ensure that parents are an intrinsic part of the subsequent action plan.

By using an Early Intervention and Preventative approach to tackling the root causes of poverty, key stakeholders can be more effective by targeting activities in an integrated way and at those families with the greatest needs. This will also increase the probability of improving life chances and economic prosperity.

In particular, families with multiple complex needs are statistically likely to have poorer life chances than those with a single issue problem. It therefore makes economic sense for agencies and stakeholders to work in an integrated way to tackle families with multiple complex needs. This is likely to reduce duplication of effort and increase synergies of operation that will deliver better use of existing resources.

The Lincolnshire Community Budget Pilot: Families Working Together, which addresses the needs of families with complex needs, has already been able to demonstrate that this approach can make a considerable difference to the lives of families and to individual family members. This strategy will need to build on this approach to ensure that those families that require multi agency intervention are provided with services as efficiently and effectively as possible.

This strategy will seek to encourage all stakeholders to target available resources in those localities with identified high levels of child poverty. The second targeting approach will focus on families with multiple complex needs. In this way we shall ensure that there is a County wide safety net that provides support to those that are most vulnerable.

Key Strategic Themes

In Lincolnshire we believe that the following four strategic themes, on which our strategy is based, will provide the foundation for tackling child poverty and improving the life chances of children, young people and their families in our County. Our action plan will identify specific tasks linked to each of these strategic themes in order to improve outcomes.

Economic Poverty

Economic poverty is concerned with levels of household income and focuses on whether or not families have the means to access living conditions and amenities that are considered to be ordinary and normal for the society in which they live. Children living in poorer households can be considerably disadvantaged by not having access to the same facilities as their better off peers; for example, poor diet and lack of heating in the home are likely to be affected by low income and can impact on a child's health and development.

The greatest contributory factor to household income is the employment status of the resident adults of working age and the Government is introducing initiatives to support people into employment and to reduce benefits dependency.

The Government's Welfare Reform Bill sets out plans to make work pay and will, undoubtedly, put more pressure on unemployed adults to find work; however, in the low pay, low skills economy of Lincolnshire and with the high cost of transport in such a rural County, something we need to consider is helping people to think not so much in terms of how much better off they are likely to be but that they should not be worse off by taking a job and reducing their dependency on benefits.

In Lincolnshire the problem is exacerbated by the low pay, low skills economy, so even where parents of dependent children are in employment, for many the level of wage they earn keeps them below the poverty line; in addition, the seasonal nature of the work on the coastal strip and in the largely rural south result in inconsistent employment opportunities for the local population.

Other factors likely to impact on a household's disposable income include weak financial management skills and high levels of debt: the needs assessment has revealed that many families in debt are those that live in areas where unemployment is high.

Strategies to address economic poverty will need to include:

- attracting business investment in order to increase the number of employment opportunities, particularly where levels of unemployment are high
- increasing the demand for higher level skills and to ensure clear progression routes to enable people of working age to move into well paid employment
- upskilling the present and potential workforce so that people of working age have the appropriate skills and qualifications in order to increase their chances of finding well paid employment
- provide quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) in relation to learning and work to enable people to make well informed, realistic decision about their future career plans
- ensuring that people have access to information about money management and support with debt, particularly where the latter poses a risk to life essentials

Overall, the strategy needs to ensure that services are co-ordinated and, wherever possible, co-located in order to have the greatest impact.

The table in Annex D outlines actions that are likely to contribute to achieving the aims set out above.

Poverty of Access

If families are to climb out of poverty we must strive to remove the barriers that prevent them from accessing well paid employment and mitigate the impact of low income.

Factors that contribute to worklessness include poor health, lack of qualifications and skills, childcare commitments, a history of offending, substance misuse and, particularly in a rural county such as Lincolnshire, lack of public transport links. All of these need to be considered if people are to be supported into the work place.

This strategy seeks to overcome the barriers that prevent adults and young people of working age entering education, well paid employment and training. In particular, the key activities and resources of Schools, Academies, the 14 to 19 Partnership, Adult Education providers, Public Health professionals, the Drug and Alcohol Treatment (DAAT) service, prison and probation services and local transport networks will be of significant importance in addressing these barriers.

Our strategy will seek to ensure that the activities of these stakeholders are informed by child poverty intelligence and, wherever possible, ensure activities and resources are targeted on shared priorities and in the areas of greatest need.

Poverty of Access is of particular concern with regard to vulnerable groups that are greater risk of poor outcomes than their peers. Families with multiple complex needs are statistically more likely to have poor life chances so access to additional support is critical. Lessons learnt from Children's Centres and pilot projects, such as Families Working Together are, therefore, key to this strategic theme.

In addition, children and young people that are exposed to multiple risk factors are also likely to have poor outcomes and place greater resources on local and national resources. It is logical, therefore, that stakeholders prioritise provision to these vulnerable people. Annex C provides a list of vulnerable groups of particular concern in the County.

Poverty of aspiration

We need to break the cycle of poverty by raising the aspirations of children, young people and their parents/ carers in order to prevent today's children themselves becoming the parents of children living in poverty.

"Brilliant Lincolnshire", the partnership banner of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, symbolizes the importance of having high aspirations for the children and young people of Lincolnshire as well as for their families.

"Children will grow into the space we create for them....."

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

Encouraging Families to have self-belief is, therefore, a key part of our strategy and all stakeholders have a role to play in promoting this message. Low aspirations can be due to a number of factors, including a lack of awareness of what is available and/or achievable, peer pressure, cultural beliefs and a perception that worklessness is the norm.

This strategy needs to look at how parents can be encouraged to consider the long term benefits of learning, training, working and volunteering and how this can improve life chances for themselves and for their children.

Our strategies relating to poverty of aspiration will need to address factors that prevent children, young people and adults from aspiring to and achieving the skills and qualifications that are likely to eventually lead to them obtaining well paid employment; the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) will, therefore, be key in helping to drive up the demand for higher level skills and creating more highly paid employment opportunities.

Best use of resources

A fundamental part of this strategy is to ensure that all key stakeholders that can contribute to reducing child poverty and improving the life chances of children and young people, operate in a more joined up and co-ordinated way and focus on shared priorities. This will ensure that activities are not duplicated and that resources are utilised more effectively.

There are already significant resources deployed across the County that address many of the root causes of poverty; for example, The Governments Work Programme, the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership, Public Health expenditure and the work of the voluntary sector. Our Resource Analysis, which is part of the on going Child Poverty Needs Assessment, has highlighted many other activities that are either in progress or planned across Lincolnshire that can further contribute to this agenda.

As part of the consultation exercise relating to this strategy we should like to hear from anyone that is either currently completing or planning activities that may help to address child poverty, particularly in the areas identified in Annex A. The intelligence provided will be added to the Resource Analysis which, in turn, will be utilized to broker improved integrated working at locality level.

The benefits of this joined up approach will include:

- joining up existing projects and initiatives and using additional resources to fill gaps in provision
- avoiding duplication of effort
- looking at how existing services can be targeted to ensure that those with the greatest need are prioritized
- ensuring Early Intervention and Prevention to secure improved outcomes and reduced demand on resources
- maximizing impact

The table in Annex D includes suggestions of how child poverty will be tackled in Lincolnshire.

Next steps

Following the end of this consultation we shall:

- update and formally publish this strategy
- complete the Resource Analysis
- develop an action plan to deliver our strategic objectives
- establish governance arrangements for tackling child poverty
- reinforce links to other key strategies and initiatives
- update the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Resource Analysis on an on going basis
- continue to identify gaps in provision and how they may be best addressed
- review and evaluate this strategy annually

Proposed Governance Arrangements for this Strategy

The current recommendation is to establish formal governance arrangements under the umbrella of the new Health and Well Being Board, the exact structure, of which, is still to be confirmed. It is likely, however, that monitoring and evaluation of its effectiveness will be undertaken by a sub group covering wider Prevention and Early Intervention activities, with a specific focus on child poverty and the associated key strategic themes. There will also be links with the work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and the Employment and Skills Board.

A further recommendation is that local delivery networks be established around the County, with a particular focus on those Lower Super Output Areas listed in Annex A and those where there are high numbers of families with multiple complex needs. These networks will help to inform the ongoing needs assessment activities and co-ordinate the focusing of local resources in order to maximize local impact.

Other key local strategies and Initiatives

A major piece of work in progress is the development of an Early Intervention and Prevention Strategy for Lincolnshire, of which the Child Poverty Strategy will form an important strand.

Prevention is concerned with activities that can help to prevent negative outcomes happening in the first instance; Early Intervention, on the other hand, may do the same but also has a focus on ultimately achieving outcomes that are positive.

Other key local strategies and initiatives linked to this strategy include the Local Economic Assessment⁵, the Lincolnshire Economic Strategy⁶, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, related Health and Wellbeing Strategies, the Children and Young People's Plan⁷, the Childcare Sufficiency Action Plan⁸, the Financial Inclusion Strategy⁹ and the Community Budget Pilot: Families Working Together¹⁰.

⁵ Lincolnshire – a Local Economic Assessment 2011: <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk>

⁶ Lincolnshire Assembly – Lincolnshire Economic Strategy 2008-2012: turning the corner

⁷ Lincolnshire Children and Young People's Plan

⁸ Lincolnshire Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2011, undertaken by QA Research, commissioned by Lincolnshire County Council Children's Services

⁹ "A Financial inclusion Strategy for Lincolnshire" produced by Lincolnshire County Council Trading Standards, 2009

¹⁰ Families Working Together: community budget's pilot for families with complex needs

How will success be measured?

Performance and impact measurement will be monitored and evaluated using a scorecard methodology; this will be developed on a locality basis using key performance indicators from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Child Poverty Needs Assessment, the Children and Young People's Plan and the Local Enterprise Partnership. The exact measures will be agreed following the consultation stage and are likely to include the following:

- a reduction in the number of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire
- an increase in the level of attainment at all stages of children's education
- a reduction in the number of young people not in either education, employment or training
- an increase in the number of working age adults that hold a full Level 2 qualification
- a reduction in the number of workless parents
- a reduction in the number of families that have high levels of priority debt
- an increase in positive health outcomes at all stages of children's development

As part of the consultation we shall seek views on which key performance measures should be considered for inclusion in the scorecard approach. It should be noted, however, that there will be a limit on the number of overall measures and it may not be possible to include all recommendations.

We are keen to receive comments relating to the proposed activities listed in the table in Annex D and suggestions as to how these may be delivered more effectively, particularly to families that have complex needs and to children and young people in vulnerable groups, as listed in Annex C.

Developing an Action Plan

Annex D provides examples of the key actions in the short, medium and long term, to tackle child poverty, improve children's life chances and economic prosperity through raised aspirations. We shall welcome views regarding the likely effectiveness of these actions and suggestions about additional ones that ought to be included.

Further information regarding tackling child poverty in Lincolnshire can be found by visiting the Lincolnshire Research Observatory web site at <http://www.research-lincs.org.uk/Home.aspx> and by using the search facility in the Document Library.

Comments and/or recommendations in relation to this strategy can be made either by returning the attached consultation form to the address below or by e-mailing to childpoverty@lincolnshire.gov.uk by **Tuesday 31st January 2012**.

Lincolnshire Child Poverty Strategy
c/o Children's Commissioning Team
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

Areas with high numbers of children living in poverty

The table below includes data from NI 116 (2008) and shows 30 of the 413 LSOAs in Lincolnshire with the highest numbers of children living in poverty. Wards and districts have been included to show geographical spread:

Children living in poverty by LSOA				
LSOA	Ward	District	No.	%
E01026129	Birchwood	Lincoln	335	50.8%
E01026011	Fenside	Boston	310	38.3%
E01026173	Moorland	Lincoln	290	53.7%
E01026312	Earlesfield	South Kesteven	290	53.6%
E01026152	Glebe	Lincoln	275	47.6%
E01026308	Earlesfield	South Kesteven	225	43.9%
E01026108	Trinity	East Lindsey	210	35.6%
E01026010	Fenside	Boston	200	45.3%
E01026083	St Clement's	East Lindsey	190	42.7%
E01026374	Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	190	42.0%
E01026156	Glebe	Lincoln	175	38.2%
E01026270	Spalding St Paul's	South Holland	175	40.1%
E01026026	Skirbeck	Boston	165	32.0%
E01026123	Abbey	Lincoln	165	34.2%
E01026154	Glebe	Lincoln	165	37.8%
E01026168	Minster	Lincoln	165	39.8%
E01026328	Harrowby	South Kesteven	165	37.2%
E01026375	Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	165	41.4%
E01026378	Gainsborough North	West Lindsey	165	33.2%
E01026019	Kirton	Boston	160	25.7%
E01026377	Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	160	27.0%
E01026127	Birchwood	Lincoln	155	37.2%
E01026376	Gainsborough East	West Lindsey	150	36.0%
E01026072	Mablethorpe Central	East Lindsey	145	39.1%
E01026310	Earlesfield	South Kesteven	145	37.2%
E01026073	Mablethorpe East	East Lindsey	140	36.6%
E01026150	Castle	Lincoln	140	41.8%
E01026183	Billingham	North Kesteven	140	23.7%
E01026092	Scarborough	East Lindsey	135	34.2%
E01026094	Scarborough	East Lindsey	135	38.1%
Total			5,625	

The total number of children living in poverty in the 30 LSOAs listed above represent 25% of children living in poverty in Lincolnshire.

Key findings from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- There are pockets of high deprivation across Lincolnshire
- 25% of children living in poverty live in 30 of 413 LSOAs in the County (NI 116 2008)
- Since 2007 15 wards have consistently had the highest number of children living in poverty, over half of which are in the district of Lincoln
- 50% of children living in poverty live in Lone Parent households in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)/ Income Support (IS)
- 29% of Children living in poverty live in households where their parents are in employment
- Employment opportunities in some parts of the County are limited, particularly in East Lindsey and South Holland, where much of the work is seasonal
- Household poverty is exacerbated by benefit dependency, lack of well paid employment and poor money management
- Lack of transport and the cost of transport present barriers to accessing employment in the county, particularly for people living in remote rural areas
- The number of working age adults without a full Level 2 qualification is continually being topped up by young people leaving school without having achieved at least 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C
- Many households defined as living in poverty are also in debt; the problem for those people, therefore, may be much greater than the child poverty data alone would suggest
- The latest data shows that the % of households in fuel poverty in all districts of Lincolnshire is higher than the national average
- The gap in achievement between children from low and high socio economic positions widens as they grow older
- There are variations in health outcomes for Children & Young People across Lincolnshire. In particular:
 - Prevalence of Breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks ranges across Children's Centre Reach Areas from 22.2% to 69.6%
 - The number of Hospital Admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to CYP ranges across Children's Centre Reach Areas from 0% to 55.74%
 - The prevalence of Obesity in Reception ranges across Children's Centre Reach Areas from 4.2% to 25%

Vulnerable groups

In Lincolnshire, we recognise that there are vulnerable children and young people are likely to require intensive support if they are to achieve positive outcomes. The following at risk groups are of particular concern:

- Additional Educational Needs
- Becoming Looked After children and young people
- Children and young people from transient communities
- Children and young people that either are or have been subject to a Child Protection plan
- Children and young people that have either been excluded or are at risk of being excluded from school/ Academies
- Children with disabilities
- Looked after children and young people
- Mental Health problems
- NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training)
- Teenage parents
- Young carers
- Young offenders

In planning services, children and young people in these groups will be considered as priority.

	What do we need to do to tackle child poverty?	How can we do this?	Short term (3m – 6m)	Medium term (7m – 18m)	Long term (19m – 3yrs)	KPIs	Key Partners
Poverty of Economy	Reduce the number of children living in poverty	Reduce the number of children living in workless households by supporting parents to access well paid employment	Provide IAG	Increase the number of parents entering employment	Increase the number of parents in high pay, high skilled employment	No. of children and young people living in poverty reduced to 10% of the 0-19 population	JCP, Next Step
	Reduce the number of young people not in either Employment, Education or Training	Support young people by removing barriers to accessing Employment, Education and Training	Provide IAG. Identify barriers. Refer to support, e.g. work readiness project, mentoring.	Support young parents into leaning through the Care to learn programme Reduce the rate of attrition from EET.		Reduce the number of young people that are NEET by x%. Reduce the rate of attrition by x%.	LCC, YPLA, WBA
		Increase the number of Apprenticeship opportunities for young people	Increase the number of CLAS opportunities.	Convert existing jobs with training into apprenticeships.		Increase the no. of apprenticeship opportunities by x%	LCC, EBP, WBA
	Reduce the level of debt	Improve skills in money management	Provide information packs about money management Deliver workshops in target Wards	Increase the number of Credit Unions		Reduce the no. of families with dependent children that are in debt	District Councils CABs Money Advice Service
	Reduce the number of vulnerable families living in non-suitable accommodation	Prioritize families with greatest need	Prioritize housing for vulnerable families	Support development of affordable/social housing ★		Increased availability of affordable housing ★	District Councils Social Housing
	Reduce the number of families living in fuel poverty	Support families to make the most of energy saving initiatives and cheaper fuel options	Promote the HELP service to families in target LSOAs Provide information about cheaper fuel provision	Increase the no. of families accessing support for home insulation		Reduce the no. of families living in fuel poverty by x%	District Councils CABs

	What do we need to do to tackle child poverty?	How can we do this?	Short term (3m – 6m)	Medium term (7m – 18m)	Long term (19m – 3yrs)	KPIs	Key Partners
Poverty of Access	Reduce health inequalities	Effectively identify areas where children and young people are likely to be at risk of poor health; ensure relevant agencies are notified and engaged in appropriate prevention and early intervention activities	Promote healthy lifestyles ☼	Target current health provision in key Wards	Develop additional services through Children's Centres	Reduce the number of children and young people that are disadvantaged by ill health	Health LCC
	Remove barriers to well paid employment	Ensure sufficient, affordable childcare	Provide information to parents and employers about childcare provision Promote childcare vouchers to employers ❖	Develop additional childcare places in target Ward clusters Schools encouraged to offer extended services to all age groups ❖	Secure sufficient childcare within all areas of Lincolnshire to meet the needs of working parents ❖	Ensure sufficiency of affordable childcare places in key Ward clusters	LCC
		Improve transport links	Subsidize transport costs				
		Increase the availability of well paid employment opportunities	Market Lincolnshire to attract and retain investors ★	Drive up the demand for higher level skills	Increased levels of business start up ★ Increased levels of inward investment ★	Increase the number of people in well paid employment	LEPs
		Improve the skills and qualifications of working age adults in line with the needs of the local economy	Provide IAG Provide LMI Promote workforce development to Lincolnshire employers ★	Increase the number of people of working age that are working towards a full Level 2/3 qualification Increase the number of people of working age that are working towards a full Level 2/3 qualification	Increase the number of people of working age that have achieved a full Level 2/3 qualification	Increase of skills in the workforce, with more people qualified to Levels 2 and 3 ★	LCC Nextstep FE providers HE providers
		Increase the provision of information, advice and guidance in relation to learning and employment	Target provision of IAG, in key Wards	Increase the provision of IAG in areas where worklessness is high			Next Step LCC Careers Service
		Support those with a history of offending	Provide IAG, including advice on disclosing offending history			Increase the no. of ex-offenders entering employment	LCC Probation Service

	What do we need to do to tackle child poverty?	How can we do this?	Short term (3m – 6m)	Medium term (7m – 18m)	Long term (19m – 3yrs)	KPIs	Key Partners
Poverty of Access		Support those with a history of substance misuse	Provide support through DAAT				LCC
		Improve transition from education to the labour market	Ensure high quality local labour market information, advice and guidance is available to young people, their schools and Careers Advisers ■	Develop pathways to employment for young people, particularly those from vulnerable groups		Increase the no. of vulnerable young people entering EET. LCC	LCC
		Improve “work readiness”	Provide high quality work experience	Ensure vulnerable young people are referred to the Work Readiness provision		Increase the no. of young people entering either Apprenticeships or employment.	LCC YPLA EBP
		Promote entrepreneurship as a viable career option	Provide IAG			Increase the number of young people setting up their own businesses	LCC EBP
	Reduce the number of working age adults that have either no or low level qualifications	Increase the number of young people that achieve a full level 2 qualification prior to leaving full time, compulsory education	Raise awareness of skills development and job opportunities within deprived communities ★			Increase the no. of young people that achieve 5 GCSEs grade A* - C, (Inc. M & E)	LCC CfBT
Poverty of Aspiration	Raise the aspirations of children and young people in vulnerable groups and enable all children and young people to reach their potential	Narrow the gap in attainment between children and young people in vulnerable groups and the rest	Increase take up of Early Years entitlement in targeted areas ❖	Increase access to childcare places and extended services for children with disabilities, children from travelling families and for those with English as a second language ❖ Reduce the number of school exclusions *	Increase number of Early Years settings ❖	Narrow the gap in attainment by x%	LCC Careers Service

	What do we need to do to tackle child poverty?	How can we do this?	Short term (3m – 6m)	Medium term (7m – 18m)	Long term (19m – 3yrs)	KPIs	Key Partners
Poverty of Aspiration		Widen participation in further and higher education by young people in vulnerable groups	Provide information, advice and guidance	Increase the number of applications to FE/HE from young people living in target LSOAs	Increase the number of young people working towards a qualification at Level 3/4	Increase the no. of vulnerable young people entering FE and HE by x%	LCC Careers Service FE Providers HE Providers
		Ensure early intervention to prevent problems escalating, i.e. with children, young people and their families				Reduce the no. of children, young people and families needing higher level, specialist provision by x%	LCC Health
Best Use of Resources	Ensure resources are used to maximum benefit	Target resources in areas of greatest need	Ensure key providers are aware of the CPNA: Evidence Base	Key providers include child poverty in their business plans and make a series of pledges			
		Avoid duplication of effort	Share information about services				
		Continue to improve commissioning					
		Develop integrated working					
	Break the cycle of intergenerational worklessness	Ensure early intervention to prevent problems escalating, i.e. with children, young people and their families					
		Support families with complex needs				Reduce the no. of families with complex needs.	LCC Health Police Probation Service

* Children and Young people's Plan 2011 (draft)

★ Lincolnshire Economic Strategy 2008 – 2012: turning the corner

■ Towards a better place to work and learn: an employment and skills plan for Lincolnshire and Rutland

❖ Childcare Sufficiency Action plan

⊕ Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2011

**Improving life
chances and
economic prosperity
through raised
aspirations**

BRILLIANT LINCOLNSHIRE



Child Poverty Strategy

Consultation

BRILLIANT LINCOLNSHIRE

Lincolnshire County Council is pleased to present the draft of the Child Poverty Strategy. This document has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes statistical information from key datasets and national indicators, feedback from a survey of parents and discussions with a number of statutory partners. We now wish to carry out a consultation on the approach we are proposing in Lincolnshire, which is to target resources where there is the greatest need and to encourage providers to co-ordinate their services wherever possible.

This document includes a number of suggested actions; we shall welcome your views and comments regarding these and also suggestions about anything in addition that may help us to achieve positive outcomes for children and young people in our County. We shall be grateful, therefore, if you will answer the questions below and return this consultation form to the address below or by e-mailing to childpoverty@lincolnshire.gov.uk by

Tuesday 31st January 2012.

Lincolnshire Child Poverty Strategy
c/o Children's Commissioning Team
County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

ACTIONS

1. What do you think are the top 5 actions that can be taken by stakeholders to tackle child poverty, improve life chances and economic prosperity in Lincolnshire?

Highlight text and replace

2. Considering child poverty as a priority for you and/or for your organisation, what can you and/or your organisation do differently that will make a greater impact on improving life chances and economic prosperity?

Highlight text and replace

3. What advice and support would you and/or your organisation need in order for you to make a contribution to this agenda?

Highlight text and replace

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT (this information will inform the Resource Mapping and will help to co-ordinate partnership working)

4. What resources can you and/or your organisation contribute to the delivery of this strategy?

Currently providing:

Highlight text and replace

Planning to provide:

Highlight text and replace

5. Where are you currently targeting/planning to target those resources or activities?

Currently targeting

Highlight text and replace

Planning to target

Highlight text and replace

GOVERNANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

6. Proposed Governance arrangements are outlined in the draft strategy document. Are there any other Partnerships or Boards you feel need to be kept informed?

Highlight text and replace

7. Performance Scorecards will be developed that will be used to monitor the impact of this strategy. What are the performance indicators you feel ought to be included? (please see Annex D of the draft Strategy)

Highlight text and replace

8. Which of the above indicators can you and your organisation help to achieve?

Highlight text and replace

9. Which key stakeholders would you and/or your organisation work with to achieve the performance indicators listed in Q7?

Highlight text and replace

Organisation Highlight text and replace

Name Highlight text and replace

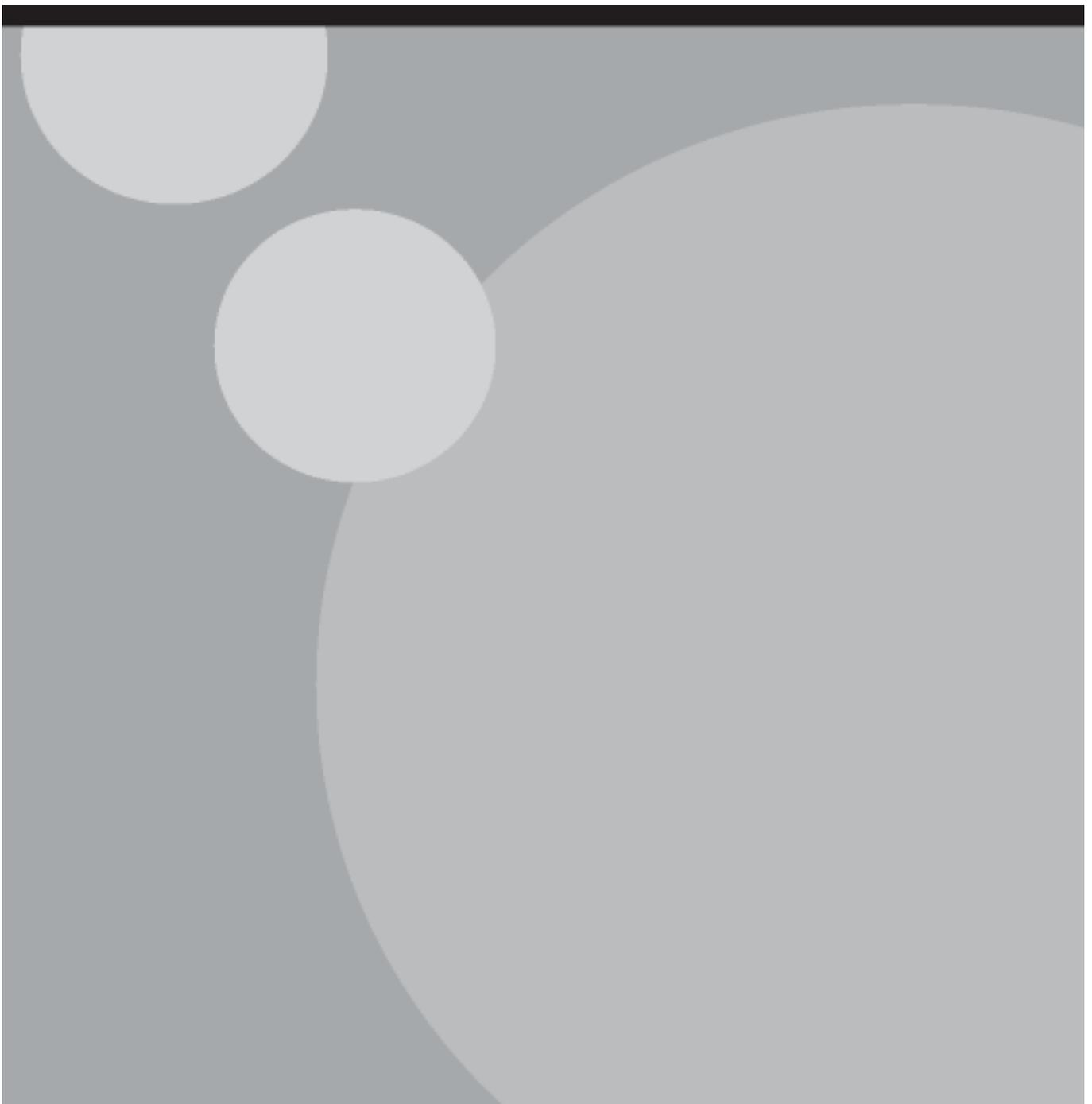
Position Highlight text and replace

Thank you



Fire and Rescue National Framework for England

Consultation



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Any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

December 2011

ISBN: 978-1-4098- 3238-6

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Ministerial foreword

Local fire and rescue authorities play a central role in keeping our communities safe and the public rightly holds our firefighters in high esteem.

The coroner's report into the 7 July 2005 bombings in London, published earlier this year, praised the 'extraordinary courage, composure and compassion' of the fire and rescue service crews and all responders who had to deal with the terrible events unfolding that day.

But firefighters are not only there to come to our rescue when fires or other emergencies occur, they also work to stop fires starting in the first place. The prevention activities developed by fire and rescue authorities have helped halve the number of deaths from accidental fires in our homes since the late 1980s.

Across the country, fire and rescue authorities have become involved in a range of community activities, from home fire safety visits to the elderly and vulnerable to running schemes that provide important role models for young people, offering them the inspiration and respect to fulfil their potential and contribute to a stronger society: all based on local assessments of risk and the most effective action that can be taken to mitigate them. Also, through their work with businesses fire and rescue authorities can minimise the impact of fire on the economy and on jobs.

More recently, we have again seen the dedication of our firefighters who, in the face of shameful criminal behaviour by rioters, battled to put out fires, whilst at times finding themselves under attack. The professionalism of fire crews during the riots was outstanding and inspirational.

The best thing central government can do to improve the services provided by fire and rescue authorities and the professionals they employ is not to micro manage from the centre, but to provide an overall strategic direction and support, to empower and encourage them but not to interfere in the way in which they serve their communities. Through provisions in the Localism Act, fire and rescue authorities will have even more freedom and flexibility to take responsibility and deliver innovative services specific to the communities they serve.

Fire and rescue authorities are free to configure their services in a way that makes sense to them locally. This includes working collectively with other fire and rescue authorities and collaboratively with a wide range of other organisations to improve public safety and cost effectiveness.

Ultimately, it is to local communities, not central government, that fire and rescue authorities are accountable.

Occasionally, however, we may be faced with incidents of such scale or complexity that all available resources could be overwhelmed, even if pooled or reconfigured. Government will retain over-arching responsibility for ensuring we are resilient as a nation to such risks but this must be based on and drawn from local capability, expertise, knowledge and leadership.

This draft Framework sets out how the Government will work in partnership with fire and rescue authorities and the wider community to make our communities safer. I look forward to receiving comments on it and to working with fire and rescue authorities and other organisations to make our communities even safer.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Neill', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Neill MP
Minister for the Fire and Rescue Service

Consultation questions

This consultation gives fire and rescue authorities, members of the fire and rescue services, professional and representative bodies, industry, charities, and the general public an opportunity to help shape this draft Fire and Rescue National Framework.

Consultees are invited to respond in particular to the following questions.

Question 1

Is the content of each chapter clear, specific and proportionate?

Question 2

Does the draft National Framework set clear and appropriate expectations of fire and rescue authorities? If not, how could it be improved?

Question 3

Are the respective roles of fire and rescue authorities and the Government set out clearly? If not, how could they be improved or made clearer?

Question 4

Do the requirements for fire and rescue authorities on scrutiny, access to comparable performance data and assurance go too far or not far enough?

Responses are required by **19 March 2012** and should be sent to:
firenationalframework@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Introduction

1. The Government has a responsibility to ensure that the public is adequately protected. For fires and other emergencies it does this by providing significant financial resources, giving authorities the power to raise additional local funding, and maintaining a statutory framework within which local fire and rescue authorities operate.
2. This document – the draft Fire and Rescue National Framework - sets out the Government’s priorities and objectives for fire and rescue authorities in England¹. The Framework sets out high level expectations. It does not prescribe operational matters. These are best determined locally by fire and rescue authorities, in consultation with their communities. The Framework builds on existing notable practice shown by fire and rescue authorities across the full range of their functions.
3. **The priorities in this Framework are for fire and rescue authorities to:**
 - **identify and assess the full range of fire and rescue related risks their areas face, make provision for prevention and protection activities and respond to incidents appropriately**
 - **work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally to deliver their service; and**
 - **be accountable to communities for the service they provide.**
4. Fire and rescue authorities need to assess all fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities (from local fires to terrorist attacks) and put in place arrangements to mitigate these risks, either through adjusting existing provision, more effective collaboration and partnership working or building new capability. They need to deliver prevention and protection activities and be ready to respond to incidents within their areas and across the country to keep communities safe.
5. Fire and rescue authorities need to plan for and occasionally respond to incidents of such scale and/or complexity that local resources may be overwhelmed even when taking into account mutual aid agreements, pooling and reconfiguration of resources and collective action. This Framework sets clear roles and responsibilities to manage such risks.
6. The Government retains strategic responsibility for national resilience. In meeting this responsibility, it relies on the leadership role of fire and rescue authorities and recognises that national resilience is best built on the basis of local professional expertise and understanding of risk.

7. Fire and rescue authorities need to have strong partnership arrangements in place so that they are able to deliver a service that meets their statutory duties and the requirements set out in this Framework.
8. In demonstrating their accountability to communities for the service they provide, fire and rescue authorities need to:
 - be transparent and accountable to their communities for their decisions and actions, and to provide the opportunity for communities to help to plan their local service through effective consultation and involvement
 - have scrutiny arrangements in place that reflect the high standard communities expect for an important public safety service; and
 - provide assurance to their communities and to government, on financial, governance and operational matters and on national resilience capability.

Chapter 1

Safer communities

- 1.1 Fire and rescue authorities need to identify and assess all fire and rescue related risks their communities may face. To keep their communities safe, authorities need to deliver effective prevention and protection activities and to plan for and respond to incidents within their areas and in other areas as reflected in their integrated risk management plans². Resilience is secured through a combination of the activities of fire and rescue authorities, other emergency services and government.
- 1.2 Each fire and rescue authority's integrated risk management plan provides an opportunity to demonstrate how they will discharge their responsibilities, in a way that is open and transparent to its community and others with an interest.

Identify and assess

- 1.3 **Each fire and rescue authority must produce an integrated risk management plan that identifies and assesses all fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities, including those of a cross-border, multi-authority and/or national nature. The Plan must have regard to the Community Risk Registers produced by Local Resilience Forums and any other local risk analyses as appropriate³.**
- 1.4 The Government will monitor the risks that the United Kingdom could face through the National Risk Assessment process, led by the Cabinet Office, and through other relevant risk assessment and horizon-scanning processes⁴. The Government provides guidance to Local Resilience Forums on how to interpret the likelihood and impact of these risks for their local area. This ensures there is a fully integrated risk assessment process between the Government and Local Resilience Forums; fire and rescue authorities are key members of such forums.
- 1.5 The Government will also define the consequences of those risks and set a benchmark of generic capability needed to ensure the United Kingdom can both respond to and recover from a range of potential emergencies. The Government does this through the National Resilience Planning Assumptions, led by the Cabinet Office⁵.

Prevent and protect

- 1.6 **Fire and rescue authorities must work with communities to identify and protect them from risk and to prevent incidents from occurring.**
- 1.7 **Fire and rescue authorities' integrated risk management plan must:**
- **demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a cost effective way; and**
 - **set out their management strategy and risk based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the current Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators and Enforcement Concordat.**

Respond

- 1.8 **Fire and rescue authorities must make provision to respond to incidents such as fires, road traffic accidents and emergencies within their area and in other areas in line with their mutual aid agreements and reflect this in their integrated risk management plans⁶.**
- 1.9 Fire and rescue authorities are required to enter into reinforcement schemes, or mutual aid agreements, with other fire and rescue authorities for securing mutual assistance, so far as practicable. These are important tools for fire and rescue authorities to be prepared to respond to incidents.
- 1.10 It is for fire and rescue authorities to consider and identify areas where collaborative working could improve service delivery, achieve efficiencies and ensure an effective response to incidents.
- 1.11 **Fire and rescue authorities must have effective business continuity arrangements in place to meet the full range of service delivery risks.** Business continuity plans should not be developed on the basis of Armed Forces assistance being available. Fire and rescue authorities should ensure that arrangements are in place for heightening public awareness of safety issues during periods of emergency cover⁷.
- 1.12 **Fire and rescue authorities must collaborate with other fire and rescue authorities to deliver intraoperability.**

- 1.13 Intraoperability between fire and rescue authorities includes, but is not limited to:
- common communications systems, control rooms and equipment
 - common command, control and co-ordination arrangements
 - effective information, intelligence and data sharing
 - common operational procedures, guidance and terminology
 - compatible training and exercising (both individually and collectively); and
 - cross border working with other English fire and rescue authorities and those in the devolved administrations.
- 1.14 **Fire and rescue authorities must collaborate with other fire and rescue authorities, other emergency services, wider Category 1 and 2 responders and Local Resilience Forums to ensure interoperability⁸.**
- 1.15 Interoperability between fire and rescue authorities and other responders includes, but is not limited to:
- compatible communications systems, control rooms and equipment, as appropriate
 - compatible command, control and co-ordination arrangements
 - effective inter-agency working and liaison and, where appropriate, information, intelligence and data sharing
 - shared understanding of respective operational procedures, guidance and terminology
 - robust multi-agency plans for managing risks identified in the National Risk Assessment and Community Risk Registers
 - multi-agency training and exercising; and
 - cross border working with other responders in England and the devolved administrations.
- 1.16 The Government has committed to work at a national level and with the devolved administrations to improve the ability of the emergency services to work together during emergencies⁹.
- 1.17 In addition, during emergencies, the Department for Communities and Local Government will work with other government departments, fire partner organisations and the devolved administrations to co-ordinate the

deployment arrangements for specialist fire and rescue assets as set out in the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework¹⁰.

Resilience

- 1.18 In delivering the requirements set out above, fire and rescue authorities need to have the necessary capability in place to manage the majority of risks that may face their area, either individually or collectively through collaborative arrangements with other fire and rescue authorities and responders.
- 1.19 For the purposes of this document, national resilience in the context of fire and rescue authorities is defined as the capacity and capability of fire and rescue authorities to work together and with other Category 1 and 2 responders to deliver a sustained, effective response to major incidents, emergencies and disruptive challenges, such as (but not limited to) those identified in the National Risk Assessment. It refers to risks that need to be planned for on a strategic, national basis because their impacts and consequences would be of such scale and/or complexity that local resources would be overwhelmed, even when taking into account mutual aid arrangements, pooling and reconfiguration of resources and collective action.
- 1.20 To enhance resilience to such risks, the Government has already committed significant financial resources to build specialist capability, for example: additional, specialist urban search and rescue capability; high volume pumps; mass decontamination equipment; detection, identification and monitoring equipment for chemical, biological and nuclear incidents; and, additional command and control capability. The Government continues to fund these existing national resilience capabilities.
- 1.21 In order to ensure continued resilience, fire and rescue authorities and the Government need to work in partnership to agree whether and/or how potential gaps in capability may be met.

Collective engagement

- 1.22 **Fire and rescue authorities must engage with agreed strategic governance arrangements in order to support discussions and decision making in relation to national resilience.**
- 1.23 The Department for Communities and Local Government will ensure that appropriate, agreed strategic governance arrangements are in place to enable fire and rescue authorities to collectively engage with the Government on national resilience issues¹¹.

Gap analysis

- 1.24 **Fire and rescue authorities' risk assessments must include an analysis of any gaps between their existing capability and that needed to ensure national resilience (as defined above).**
- 1.25 Fire and rescue authorities are required to assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning. To do this effectively, fire and rescue authorities are expected to assess their existing capability and identify any gaps as part of the integrated risk management planning process. This gap analysis needs to be conducted by fire and rescue authorities individually and collectively to obtain an overall picture of their ability to meet the full range of risks in their areas.
- 1.26 **As part of their analysis, fire and rescue authorities must highlight to the Department for Communities and Local Government, through agreed strategic governance arrangements, any capability gaps that they believe cannot be met even when taking into account mutual aid arrangements, pooling and reconfiguration of resources and collective action.**
- 1.27 The Department for Communities and Local Government, in liaison with other government departments and the devolved administrations, will support fire and rescue authorities in considering and defining the gap between existing capability and the capability required to ensure national resilience.

Capability building

- 1.28 **Fire and rescue authorities must work collectively, through agreed strategic governance arrangements, with the Department for Communities and Local Government to agree whether and/or how to address any capability gap, identified through the gap analysis.**
- 1.29 Where it is agreed that there is a gap, capability building will take into account the full range of options available and will be subject to the principles of proportionality. If necessary, this will involve careful consideration of the case for funding new national resilience capabilities, in line with the new burdens doctrine¹².
- 1.30 Where the Government commissions provision from fire and rescue authorities to deliver the agreed capability, fire and rescue authorities will need to work together collectively to procure, maintain and manage the new capability.
- 1.31 Final decisions on whether new capability is required will be for Ministers to take, informed by recommendations made in accordance with agreed strategic governance arrangements.

Working in partnership

- 1.32 **In order to meet the requirements of this Framework, fire and rescue authorities must work in partnership with their communities and a wide range of partners locally and nationally.**
- 1.33 Strong partnership arrangements by fire and rescue authorities with communities and local groups will deliver better prevention and protection activities, while close collaboration with other Category 1 and 2 responders is essential to enable an effective response to incidents.

Chapter 2

Accountable to communities

- 2.1 Fire and rescue authorities are accountable to their communities for their actions and decision making. They need to have transparent processes in place to deliver this and engage with their communities to provide them with the opportunity to influence their local service. Local accountability is a vital check on the services provided by fire and rescue authorities.

Communities planning their local fire and rescue service

- 2.2 The integrated risk management planning process is an opportunity for fire and rescue authorities to have an ongoing conversation with communities and to inform them through the provision of up-to-date, accessible data on risk. Through this transparent approach communities can better influence local plans and how their authority meets risks both within their area and as part of mutual aid agreements.

- 2.3 **Fire and rescue authorities' integrated risk management plans must:**

- **be easily accessible and publicly available**
- **reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners**
- **cover at least a three-year timespan and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that fire and rescue authorities are able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework; and**
- **reflect up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes.**

Scrutiny arrangements transparent to communities

- 2.4 **The fire and rescue authority must hold their Chief Fire Officer/Chief Executive to account for the delivery of the fire and rescue service.**
- 2.5 **Fire and rescue authorities must have arrangements in place to ensure that their decisions are open to scrutiny.**
- 2.6 Opening up decision making to challenge enhances local governance and accountability. Fire and rescue authorities need to satisfy themselves that the arrangements they put in place provide the level of scrutiny their communities expect. Many authorities already have a number of

processes in place for scrutiny. Some allow for the separation of powers within the authority to allow members to have independent oversight. Processes used in the delivery of some local services include inviting members of the upper tier authorities in the areas in which they operate to sit on a scrutiny panel; or, by inviting other locally elected members to sit on a scrutiny panel.

Transparent data enables communities to hold service providers to account

- 2.7 To hold fire and rescue authorities to account, communities need to be able to compare the performance of their fire and rescue authority with others. Both the Government and fire and rescue authorities need to have an open approach towards data and information to provide transparency for communities.
- 2.8 **Fire and rescue authorities must make their communities aware of how they can access comparable data and information on their performance.**
- 2.9 Meeting this requirement includes, but is not limited to:
- meeting the current code of recommended practice for local authorities on data transparency
 - publishing pay policy statements (a duty in the Localism Act)
 - raising awareness of sources of comparable data and how to access these e.g. linking to government websites and data returns to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
 - linking to: tools provided by organisations such as the Local Government Group and the Chief Fire Officers' Association; and, best practice guidance
 - acting in accordance with the Freedom Of Information Act and publication schemes set by the Information Commissioner
 - publishing any peer reviews, self assessments; and
 - publishing any other locally held data that fire and rescue authorities feel will aid transparency to their communities.
- 2.10 The Government is committed to publishing all the data it holds within the bounds of data protection and security, for example by publishing statistics on the internet and by making large data files available.

Chapter 3

Assurance

- 3.1 Given the public safety functions provided by fire and rescue authorities and the nature of the risks, robust mechanisms should be in place to provide independent assurance to communities and to the Government. Chapter 2 details important measures that will ensure that fire and rescue authorities provide local scrutiny arrangements and access to a range of information to help communities influence and be assured of the robustness of local delivery arrangements. This chapter details mechanisms that are in addition to these accountability, scrutiny and transparency requirements: they are designed to supplement, not duplicate, the wider accountability regimes that cover the whole of local government.

Assurance

- 3.2 **Fire and rescue authorities must provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in this Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance.**
- 3.3 The Government will work with fire and rescue authorities to determine the nature of the assurance statements, but would expect the political and professional leadership to lead on ensuring an element of independent scrutiny of the statement. The contents of the statement will be defined with communities and the Government in mind. It is likely that the contents of these assurance statements already exist in the information held or published by fire and rescue authorities, for example as part of their annual report or service plan.

National resilience assurance

- 3.4 **In addition to the assurance arrangements detailed above, fire and rescue authorities must work collectively to provide assurance to government, through agreed strategic governance arrangements, that:**
- **risks are assessed, plans are in place and any gaps between existing capability and that needed to ensure national resilience are identified**

- **existing specialist national resilience capabilities are fit-for-purpose and resilient; and**
- **any new capabilities that fire and rescue authorities are commissioned to deliver by government are procured, maintained and managed in the most cost-effective manner that delivers value for money whilst ensuring capabilities are fit-for-purpose and resilient.**

3.5 The Government will work with fire and rescue authorities to ensure that appropriate assurance mechanisms are in place, which are transparent and robust, with an appropriate degree of independence.

Chapter 4

Legislative context, timescale, scope

Legislation

- 4.1 Section 21 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 provides the statutory authority for the National Framework and requires:
- the Secretary of State to prepare a National Framework for fire and rescue authorities
 - the Secretary of State to consult with representatives of fire and rescue authorities and their employees before making significant changes to the Framework
 - the Secretary of State to bring the Framework and any significant revisions to it, into effect by a statutory instrument subject to annulment in either of the Houses of Parliament; and
 - fire and rescue authorities to have regard to the Framework in carrying out their functions.
- 4.2 The role of the National Framework is not to repeat all the duties placed on fire and rescue authorities in connection with the discharge of their functions or more generally as a public service provider and employer. These are day to day functions of which authorities are aware e.g. fire and rescue authorities need to be aware of the importance of complying with the requirements of the general and specific duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 and the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011 in all of their functions, both as employer and service provider, and the various health and safety legislation and regulations.
- 4.3 The expectation of the Government is that fire and rescue authorities and the political and professional leadership will put in place processes to provide support and lead improvement in the event of potential service failure, or potential failure to act in accordance with the Framework. In this context, improvement is delivered through peer led responses and effective partnership working.
- 4.4 The Government intends to use its intervention powers only as a last resort, for example where the risk of failure is deemed so serious as to require immediate and directive government action to resolve¹³. Any use of intervention powers will be in accordance with the Local Government Intervention Protocol¹⁴.
- 4.5 Ministers may also ask the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser as a designated Her Majesty's Inspector under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, to lead an investigation into instances of serious concerns regarding

operational performance. Ministers may also seek additional and separate assurance from the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, or other advisers, in respect of specific issues.

- 4.6 The Secretary of State has the power by order to confer on a fire and rescue authority functions relating to emergencies¹⁵. Also, in the event of a particular fire or emergency, the Secretary of State has the power to direct a fire and rescue authority to act¹⁶. These may include actions outside of the authority's area.
- 4.7 The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Service (Emergencies)(England) Order 2007 provide fire and rescue authorities with mandatory functions for fire and road traffic accidents and in connection with key types of emergencies (specifically chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear emergencies and urban search and rescue emergencies). In addition, as Category 1 responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, fire and rescue authorities are subject to the full set of civil protection duties, including assessing the risk of emergencies occurring (ranging from widespread flooding to terrorist attacks) and using this to inform contingency planning, and ensuring that emergency plans and business continuity management arrangements are in place¹⁷. Also, the Civil Contingencies Act requires fire and rescue authorities to co-operate with other Category 1 and 2 responders and other organisations engaged in response activities in the same local resilience area. Category 1 responders are also encouraged to co-operate outside the Local Resilience Forum framework¹⁸.
- 4.8 Fire and rescue authorities have a duty to exercise their functions in a way that prevents crime and disorder in their area¹⁹.

Timescales

- 4.9 This National Framework has an open ended duration. The Secretary of State continues to be responsible for keeping the terms of the Framework under review under section 21(3) of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and is required to prepare a biennial report to Parliament on the extent to which fire and rescue authorities are acting in accordance with the Framework, under section 25. From time to time, we will discuss with partners whether changes need to be made to the document.

Scope

- 4.10 The National Framework covers England only. It does not apply to Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales where responsibility for their fire and rescue services is fully devolved.

Endnotes

Introduction

1. Chapter 4 sets out the legislative context for the National Framework along with timescales and scope.

Chapter 1- Safer communities

2. The requirement for fire and rescue authorities to produce an integrated risk management plan is included throughout this document, reflecting its role in making communities safer in a way which is transparent and accountable to communities. See the annex for the complete requirement.

3. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires emergency responders in England and Wales to co-operate in maintaining a public Community Risk Register. These are approved and published by Local Resilience Forums which include representatives from local emergency responders as well as public, private and voluntary organisations. Further information is available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/risk-assessment> .

4. The National Risk Assessment is agreed by Ministers on an annual basis and sets out the collectively agreed assessment of the types of malicious and non-malicious disruptive events that would cause significant harm and disruption to the United Kingdom. The public facing version of the National Risk Assessment is the National Risk Register, available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/national-risk-register>.

5. The National Resilience Planning Assumptions distil the information in the National Risk Assessment into twenty common consequences that should be planned for in order to be prepared for the risks in the National Risk Assessment. For each of these consequences, the National Resilience Planning Assumptions set an upper limit of the level of capability required in each instance. The National Resilience Planning Assumptions do not define the capability requirements of individual responders, for example, fire and rescue authorities.
6. Section 13 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires fire and rescue authorities to enter into reinforcement schemes with other fire and rescue authorities for securing mutual assistance. Section 16 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 enables fire and rescue authorities to enter into arrangements for the discharge of their functions by others. The National Mutual Aid Protocol for Serious Incidents sets out the terms under

which fire and rescue authorities may expect to request or provide assistance to each other in the event of a serious incident. The Protocol is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/fire/pdf/151879.pdf>.

7. The Civil Contingencies Act requires fire and rescue authorities to put in place business continuity management arrangements to ensure that they can continue to perform their functions in the event of an emergency, so far as is reasonably practicable. Further information is available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/civil-contingencies-act>.

8. The Civil Contingencies Act divides responders into two categories, imposing a different set of duties on each. Category 1 responders are those organisations at the core of the response to most emergencies, and they are subject to the full set of civil protection duties. Category 2 responders are co-operating bodies that will primarily be involved in incidents that affect their sector, and they have a lesser set of duties. Fire and rescue authorities are Category 1 responders. Further information is available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/civil-contingencies-act>.

9. This commitment has been made in both the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the counter-terrorism strategy - CONTEST. These documents are available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/strategic-defence-and-security-review-securing-britain-age-uncertainty> ; *and*

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/counter-terrorism/uk-counter-terrorism-strat/>.

10. The National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework is a structure which offers assistance during incidents which have national significance or require national co-ordination. Further information is available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/fire/opguidancencaf>.

11. The detailed structure, terms of reference and membership of the strategic governance arrangements will be developed through consultation with key fire partner organisations. These arrangements will not be detailed in the new National Framework, but will be supplementary to it.

12. A new burden is defined as any policy or initiative which increases the cost of providing local authority services. The doctrine seeks to keep the pressure on council tax down. It covers all types of local authority that either raise council tax or set a precept. This includes parishes, police and fire and rescue authorities. The new burdens doctrine only applies where central government requires or exhorts authorities to do something new or

additional. Action to ensure that they adequately fulfil a role for which they are already funded is not a new burden. Available at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/newburdens2011>.

Chapter 4 – Legislative context, timescale, scope

13. Section 22 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

14. Protocol on Engagement and Intervention in Poorly Performing Local Authorities and jointly signed by the Local Government Association and Government in 2003.

15. Section 9 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

16. Section 10 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004.

17. The full set of civil protection duties are to:

- assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning
- put in place emergency plans
- put in place business continuity management arrangements
- put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
- share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination; and
- co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency.

Further information on the Civil Contingencies Act is available at:

<http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/content/civil-contingencies-act>

18. Each local resilience area is based on a police area. The principal mechanism for multi-agency co-operation between Category 1 responders is the Local Resilience Forum. The Local Resilience Forum is not a statutory body, but it is a statutory process.

19. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

Annex

Complete integrated risk management plan requirement

For completeness, each integrated risk management plan requirement is repeated below.

Integrated risk management planning plays a key role in identifying, assessing and mitigating fire and rescue related risks.

Paragraph 1.3

Each fire and rescue authority must produce an integrated risk management plan that identifies and assesses all fire and rescue related risks that could affect their communities, including those of a cross-border, multi-authority and/or national nature. The Plan must have regard to the community risk registers produced by Local Resilience Forums and any other local risk analyses as appropriate.

Fire and rescue authorities' integrated risk management plan must:

Paragraph 1.7

- **demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a cost effective way; and**
- **set out their management strategy and risk based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the current Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators and Enforcement Concordat.**

Paragraph 2.3

- **be easily accessible and publicly available**
- **reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners**

- **cover at least a three-year timespan and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that fire and rescue authorities are able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework; and**
- **reflect up to date risk analyses and the evaluation of service delivery outcomes.**

Paragraph 1.8

Fire and rescue authorities must make provision to respond to incidents such as fires, road traffic accidents and emergencies within their area and in other areas in line with their mutual aid agreements and reflect this in their integrated risk management plans.

Paragraph 3.2

Fire and rescue authorities must provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters and show how they have had due regard to the expectations set out in their integrated risk management plan and the requirements included in this Framework. To provide assurance, fire and rescue authorities must publish an annual statement of assurance.

The Government does not plan to issue additional integrated risk management plan-related guidance. The Department for Communities and Local Government values the multi-partner Integrated Risk Management Plan Steering Group, put in place to take this work forward.

About this consultation

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Code of Practice on Consultation issued by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and are in line with the consultation criteria except that the consultation period is longer (14 weeks). The consultation criteria are:

- formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome
- consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible
- consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals
- consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach
- keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained
- consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation; and
- officials running consultations should seek guidance in how to run an effective consultation exercise and share what they have learned from the experience.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent, and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but

we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested. Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed these criteria? If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please contact the Department.

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