



Cabinet 11 February 2009

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Draft Fire Action Plan 2009-2010

1. The Suffolk Fire and Rescue Authority is required to undertake public consultation on major proposals associated with its Annual Community Safety Work Programme. Elected members are important stakeholders in this consultation process, and all Members were sent a copy of the draft Fire Action Plan 2009/2010 in October 2008, at the start of the 12 week consultation period.
2. Although the timetabling of the scrutiny committees meant that the consultation period had just ended, the Director of Public Protection and Chief Fire Officer for Suffolk, Andy Fry, attended the meeting to present the details of the Plan, and to discuss the proposals with Members.
3. A detailed discussion took place, and Members were particularly concerned with some of the statistics which were presented to them during the presentation. For example, the much higher number of fires in social housing compared with private, and the lack of sprinklers in new buildings despite statistics proving that they saved lives and property.
4. More detail of the discussions which took place will appear in the Committee's minutes, and the following recommendations are made to Cabinet.
5. **It is RECOMMENDED:- That**
 - (1) **a joint motion from the Borough Council and the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service be put to the Local Government Association, "that developers should be required to install sprinkler systems in new buildings as a matter of practice";**
 - (2) **through its work with developers, the Council encourage the increased installation of sprinkler systems in new buildings and homes;**
 - (3) **through its work and contact with Housing Association partners, the Council promote fire safety issues and support for tenants in making their homes as safe as possible; and**

- (4) the Council, through its contact and work with partners, support the delivery of the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service's Fire Action Plan 2009/2010 as attached to Report Z470.**

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