

REPORT TO THE FIRE AUTHORITY

DATE: 30th June 2008 **REFERENCE:**

SUBJECT: Safer Valleys Project

SUMMARY: Please find attached a summary of progress made on the project in relation to the change of crewing system at Pontardawe and the introduction of a new Fire Station to cover the Upper Amman and Upper Swansea Valleys.

OBJECTIVES		IMPLICATIONS	
More than an Emergency Service		Operational Risk Management	Y
Trusted & Respected by our customers		Community Risk Reduction	Y
Saving Lives, Protecting Communities	Y	Learning & Development	Y
Managing within Budget	Y	Service Control	
Allocate Resources to Priorities	Y	Civil Contingencies & Resilience	
Efficiency savings	Y	Finance & Procurement	
Alternative funding & resources		H.R.	
Managing People		ICT	
Risk Reduction Planning		CCMS	
Partnership Working		Transport	
Effective & Empowered People		Health & Safety	
		Premises	
		Sustainability & Environment	
		Welsh Language	
		Legal	
		Governance	
		Equality & Diversity	
		Representative Body Consultation	

COMMENTS/OBSERVATIONS ON THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES/IMPLICATIONS:
As attached

RECOMMENDATIONS:
That members receive the update.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT:
Draft Risk Reduction Action Plan 2009/2010
Safer Valleys report to Policy Board 5th June 2008

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Safer Valleys Project

A project has been set up to deliver the improvements to our service in the Upper Amman and Upper Swansea Valley areas. The project has been named the 'Safety Valleys Project' to reflect the Authority's continued commitment to improving safety in all of these areas. The project will deliver the following changes:-

- The 'on station' crewing at Pontardawe will correspond with the periods of greatest risk and activity whilst maintaining 24 hour operational availability.
- Establish a new Community fire station in the Upper Amman Valley to make these communities safer.
- Move the second fire engine currently provided at Ammanford to the proposed new station in the Upper Amman Valley.

A project manager has been appointed to drive the work and a project team will plan in detail the changes in order to deliver improvements. Prince 2 Project Management methodology is being utilised for the planning and implementation of changes. A detailed project plan has been drawn up taking into account all aspects of these changes and the Authority will closely monitor progress.

The project is currently at an early stage; options for potential sites for the new community station in the Upper Amman Valley are being assessed and discussions are ongoing with local agencies and services to ensure that the new facility meets all needs. The recruitment and support of a crew for the new station is being fully assessed with work in the community planned for July - August.

This is an innovative project and the new facility will be a community based resource used for a wide range of activities. The project has close links with our partner agencies and will work with other regeneration strategies in the area to improve overall Community regeneration in these areas.

An improved system for crewing Pontardawe Fire Station to reflect the periods of greatest risk and activity will be introduced and we will look at the use of this site to see if there are opportunities for more joined up working with partner agencies.

The second fire engine currently stationed at Ammanford and crewed by part time firefighters, will be relocated to the new station in the Upper Amman Valley. As part of the project, careful consideration will be made on the best use of staff taking into account the station's specific responsibilities.

The progress of the plan will be regularly communicated to staff and the community in order that they are kept up to date with developments and to allow them to take ownership of the project. The Authority is committed to ensuring that this project will deliver our stated objectives of improving the safety of our communities.