

10. Fees and Charges

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on progress in implementing the Fire and Rescue Authority's decision on charging.

Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the report be noted.

Background

2. In December 2010 the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) considered a report on fees and charges and agreed a policy of charging for lift rescues and assistance to the Environment agency.
3. Following a detailed period of consultation with potentially affected parties, the lift rescue charging regime was fully implemented from July 2011.
4. This report provides Members with an update on the position to the end of December 2011.

Lift Rescues

5. The December paper was based on information relating to lift rescues for the period April 2009 to March 2010 and indicated that there were around 90 of which 30 would be chargeable under the adopted regime.
6. Looking at the period from July – December 2009 (to match the period in 2011 when charges have been levied) there were 52 rescues of which 18 would have been chargeable, although the corresponding figures for 2010 were only 41 and 14 respectively.
7. There were only 33 rescues in the same period of 2011 of which 10 were charged for.
8. Although there has been an overall reduction in the number of rescues in the short reporting period the proportion that is chargeable has remained broadly consistent.
9. As part of the review of fees and charges the level to be charged was examined in relation to actual costs and other services and this has resulted in a charge that is higher than was estimated in the December 2011 FRA paper, with the result that income levels are broadly where expected:
 - July – December: expected 15 rescues at £148 = £2,220
 - July – December: actual 10 rescues at £238 = £2,380
10. To date there have been no reported problems with invoice payment.

Other Charges

11. The policy to charge for assistance to the Environment Agency was implemented immediately with the result that a significant charge was made towards the end of 2010/11 (£12,600).
12. The nature of such incidents is such that they are relatively infrequent and to date there has only been one further chargeable incident of £4,700.
13. As a consequence of the review of fee levels referred to in paragraph 9 above, the level of income from charges for Fire Reports (generally to Insurance companies) have increased by a factor of 10, although this is less than £3,000 in total.

Conclusion

14. The policy is generating the small amount of income that was forecast in the December FRA report.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Yes	Whole report

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	No	

Additional Considerations

15. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	N	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	N	
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	N	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	N	

Supporting Information

None

Background Papers

None

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