

-> Shawn.

Barbara Wiggins  
Democratic Services Officer  
East Northamptonshire Council  
Cedar Drive  
Thrapston  
Northamptonshire  
N14 4LZ



Dear Ms Wiggins,

With regard to your letter dated 18 December 2013.

Firstly please once again accept my apologies for not being able to attend the meeting to discuss our Integrated Risk management plan update and review for 2014 and also for the delay in formally responding.

Please find below some further information for your scrutiny group as requested.

To provide value for money is one of our three strategic objectives and in support of this objective we have the priority to "develop social capacity and generate resource for reinvestment into the service."

There are several strands that contribute to this objective. It is widely recognised that against a backdrop of reduced funding and organisational capacity across all sectors of local government, there is a greater dependency on 'helping people help themselves'. The Fire and Rescue Service contribute to this in a number of ways, e.g. through changing behaviours and reducing risk via fire and road safety education programmes, youth diversion and intervention work, such as the new Fire Cadet programme and through developing advocates within the community.

One of the key things we do as a Service to develop "social capital" is to support community activity through charitable organisations and community groups, such as Blackthorn Good Neighbours and the Daventry Happy at Home project. Our involvement supports and attracts volunteers to these groups, which in turn supports the local community.

We also recognise that through enhancing collaboration there are opportunities to do some things in a different way, maintaining the services valued by the community but also achieving efficiencies. A good example of this is our collaboration with Northamptonshire Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner, already providing greater efficiency in some support functions and also sharing facilities and support services, for example postal services and more visibly with Police and Fire now sharing one station in Thrapston. Further examples will materialise as the current programme of activity moves forward.

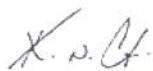
In terms of generating resource for reinvestment, the Service recognises the opportunity to utilise expertise and some of the recently developed facilities within the county, to generate income for reinvestment in the Fire and Rescue Service, albeit that under current arrangements income is limited by law to recovery of costs. This can be achieved through examples such as expanding the use of our excellent

Command Development Centre (CDC) in Daventry to other agencies, delivering training through our new Chelveston training facility (on specialist technology such as the Cobra Cold Cut system) to other Fire and Rescue Services. Your members will be interested to note that both sites have reduced the need to pay for and obtain the training outside the county as was previously the case. These local training centres have been largely funded by central government capital grants, without the need for any capital loans locally. In addition, both sites are being recognised nationally as exemplary. The CDC in Daventry won the BT award for innovation last year and has been awarded European Centre of excellence for training provision. The county should be rightly proud of the facilities that are now providing both the Fire and Rescue Service and our county's Police Service with high standards for emergency response.

I hope I have provided sufficient information to answer your query. Your Councillors are of course more than welcome to come along and visit NFRS at any time to look at some of the facilities we have, our Command development Suite in Daventry may be of particular interest, though equally the site at Chelveston. Should this be something you would like to arrange please contact me in the first instance and I will make suitable arrangements with our training department.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation.

Yours sincerely,



K N Crocker  
Integrated Risk Management Planning Manager