



**DEVON &
SOMERSET**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY AND SERVICE

**Station Manager
Andy Hallam**



The Authority

- Was fully established on 1 April 2007 by the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority (Combination Scheme) Order 2006 (made under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004)
- represents the first voluntary combination of its kind in the country
- is a “body corporate” – a legal entity in its own right and not a joint committee
- comprises a total of 24 Members appointed by constituent authorities
 - 11 Members from Devon County Council
 - 8 Members from Somerset County Council
 - 3 Members from Plymouth City Council
 - 2 Members from Torbay Council



The Authority – Relevant Constitutional Legislation

The Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

The Local Government Finance Act 1988

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989

The Localism Act 2011

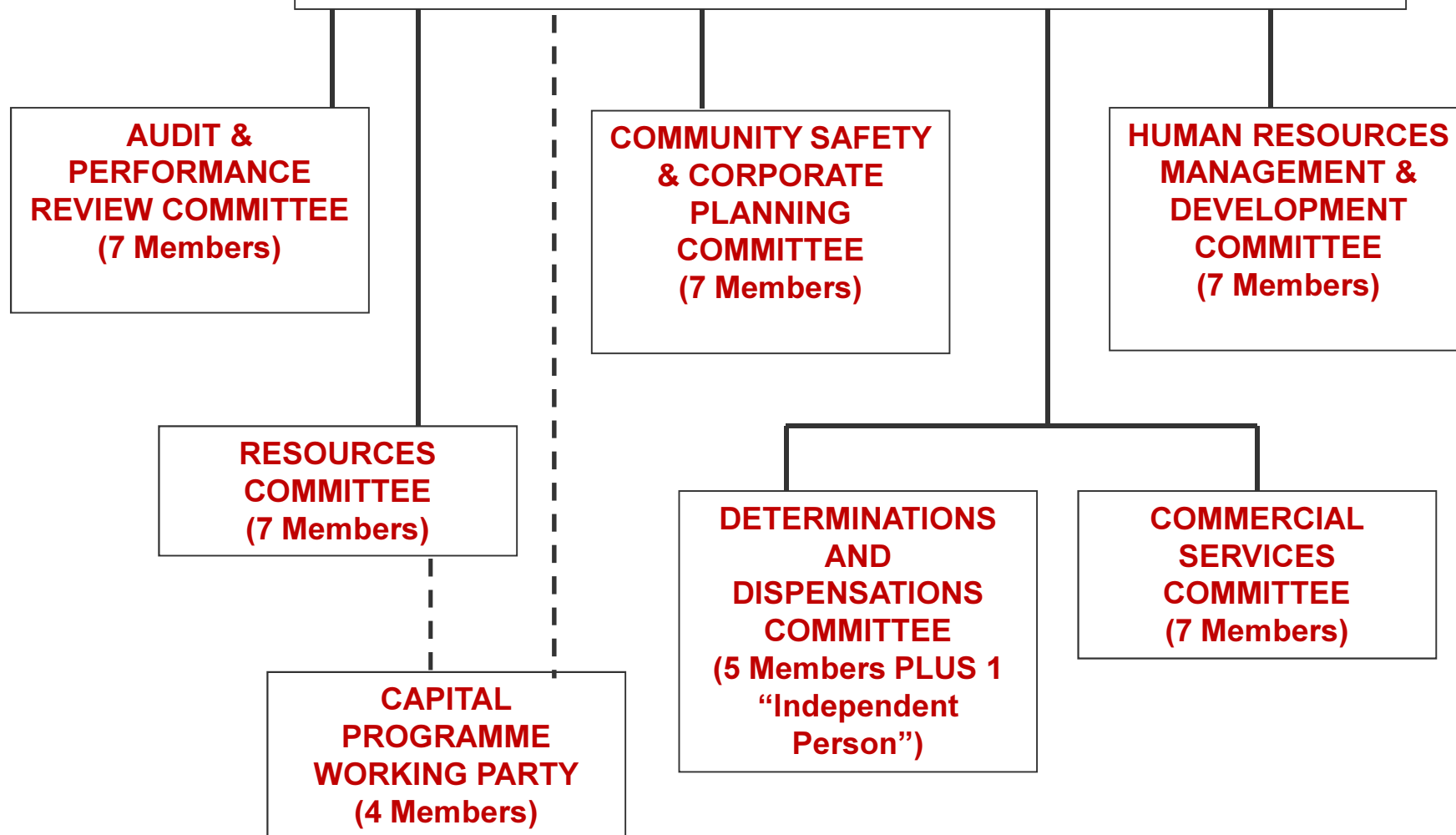
The Local Government Act 2003

The Local Authority (Members Allowances) Regulations 2003

The Authority is subject in its own right to external inspection regimes



DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY (24 Members)





THE SERVICE – OVERVIEW



LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- **Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 - PART 2** defines following Core Functions
 - **FIRE SAFETY** (Paragraph 6)
 - **FIRE FIGHTING** (Paragraph 7)
 - **ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS** (Paragraph 8)
 - **OTHER EMERGENCIES** (as may be specified by Order by the Secretary of State) (Paragraph 9)
- **PART 1, Paragraph 5** of the Act which provides “power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions”
- **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005** - provides for fire safety enforcement



LEGAL FRAMEWORK (CONT/...)

- **The Civil Contingencies Act 2004** – the Authority is a Category 1 responder and must co-operate with other emergency services and other agencies to ensure an effective response to a wide range of emergencies
- **The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (as amended)** – participation in Crime and Disorder Partnerships
- **The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007** – “named partner” for the purpose of Local Area Agreements
- **The Localism Act 2011** – introduction of a general power linked to function; relaxation of charging (AFAs) and the Right to Challenge



OUR VISION & MISSION

Our Vision

Our vision is to make Devon and Somerset a “safer place to live, work and visit”,

Our Mission

Our mission is to act to protect and save – to prevent emergencies, create safer communities and respond, when required, in order to save life.



THREE KEY PRIORITIES

A relentless focus on improving **public safety**

Be passionate about continually improving **staff safety**

Create an even more **efficient and effective** organisation



CORE VALUES

All staff and Members are expected to abide by and promote the Service Core Values, namely:

- Honesty, clarity and accountability;
- Respect for each other;
- Working together to improve; and
- A “can do” attitude



The Service's geographic area

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service is geographically the largest Fire Service in England

- 1.66 million people live in Devon & Somerset
- Almost 700,000 households
- Population increases by as much as 25% during the summer from tourism
- Area covers 1 million hectares (4,000 square miles)
- 20,000 kilometres of roads (more than Belgium)
- 900 kilometres of coastline
- Very sparsely populated areas
- A number of special risk sites





Response & Training

The Service operates from 85 fire stations

- 3 full-time shift fire and rescue stations
- 9 full-time additional shift/retained fire and rescue stations
- 70 retained fire and rescue stations
- 2 volunteer fire and rescue stations (including Lundy Island)
- 1 specialist operations section – Urban Search And Rescue (USAR)
- 1 fire control (despatch)(NFCSP)
- 3 Commands 6 Groups
- 2 Training Centres plus tri-service centre in Avon
- Emergency Response Standards (ERS)





Prevention Activities

The activities we will undertake to save lives, reduce injuries and incidents in places where people live

- Home safety checks/visits
- Schools education
- Fire-setter intervention
- False alarm call reduction (AFA)
- Deliberate fire reduction (Arson)
- RTC reduction
- Fire Investigation
- Local/national campaigns
- Intelligence led approach
- Targeting the most vulnerable
- Reactive and proactive
- Partnership working
- **Data and data sharing**





Protection Activities

The activities that we will undertake to save lives, reduce injuries and incidents in places people work and visit

- Fire Safety Enforcement
 - Fire safety audits
 - Fire safety checks
 - Action plans/Notices/Article 31
- Statutory consultations
 - Planning
 - Building Regulations
 - Licensing
- Compliance events
- Partnership working
 - Safety Advisory Groups
 - Community Safety Partnerships
 - Local Action Groups
 - Police Neighbourhood Teams
 - Joint inspections





CURRENT (2015-16) BUDGET

- **Net Revenue Budget Requirement of £75 funded by:**
 - Formula Funding Grant
 - Share of Non-domestic business rates
 - District Council collection funds

- **Band D Council Tax rate of £78**



FACING FORWARDS

- Since 2012-13, government grant funding to this Authority has been reduced by a total of £8.7m (22.8%)
- In rising to this challenge, the Service has generated significant savings from both back office and front-line service delivery but without the need, to date, for compulsory redundancies
- The Service has robust, evidence-based plans to maintain or improve firefighter and public safety whilst seeking to secure further savings from the base budget. Achieving these future savings will, however, be challenging



ANY QUESTIONS?