

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES****12 November 2013****Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director – Health and Community Safety****FUNDING REQUEST FOR PORTABLE SPRINKLERS****Purpose of Report**

To seek approval for £20,000 to match fund a contribution from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service (DFRS) for the purchase of domestic sprinkler systems to be installed in the homes of vulnerable people with mobility problems who are at significant risk of harm from fire.

Information and Analysis

Domestic sprinkler systems are exceptionally effective through their ability to control a fire before it develops to life threatening proportions. DFRS is actively engaged in a campaign to ensure that all newly built homes are fitted with domestic sprinkler systems and has allocated funding towards retro-fitting existing vulnerable properties with sprinkler systems. Residential Social Landlords (RSLs) in each local authority have contributed to this scheme for their own properties. To compliment this approach DFRS is also supporting a number of portable systems for use in properties where retro fitting may not be an option.

In 2012, Cabinet approved funding of £20,000 from the Communities Budget to match fund DFRS and create a total fund of £40,000. This fund has been targeted at portable systems for properties across Derbyshire for individuals at significant risk of fire within their homes. The project is jointly managed by the Community Safety Unit and DFRS.

In January 2013, prior to the operational roll out of this project, the first portable sprinkler system to be fitted in Derbyshire (jointly funded by DFRS and DCC Adult Care) in Long Eaton, activated as a result of fire in a litter bin caused by a discarded cigarette. The occupant (who was unaware of the fire) was thus safeguarded and the effectiveness of these systems proved.

In June 2013, seventeen portable systems were purchased and a joint protocol established for their storage, installation and maintenance. The systems can be installed with minimal impact to the property, although an element of electrical hardwiring is required. They are used in conjunction with a range of other responses to reduce risk (fire resistant bedding etc.) and can be re-used in other properties when no longer required.

Early feedback from the project has found that often risk exists at night in the bedroom and during the day in a living room thereby requiring the installation of two systems in one property. In other cases there is more than one immobile individual in a property occupying more than one room, these also require more than one system to be installed. With current numbers of portable systems only a small number of properties can be covered. To add resilience to the original project and enable DFRS to install these systems in more properties it is proposed to purchase a further batch of portable sprinkler systems.

Financial Considerations

The proposed funding of £20,000 can be met from the Communities budget to match fund £20,000 from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service for the purchase of additional systems.

Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, and legal, environmental, health, human resources, property and transport considerations.

Background Papers

Previous Cabinet reports

Key Decision – No**Call In**

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? - No

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the sum of £20,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget to support the Portable Sprinkler Programme with the Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.

David Lowe

Deputy Chief Executive Strategic Director – Health and Community Safety