

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

30 September 2014

Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities

FUNDING REQUEST FOR PORTABLE MISTING SYSTEMS

1 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 more portable misting systems to be installed in the homes of vulnerable people with mobility problems who are at significant risk of harm from fire, as one of a range of responses to reduce this risk.

2 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.

Since March 2012, Cabinet have approved funding totalling £40,000 from the Communities Budget to match fund DFRS and create a total fund of £80,000 managed jointly by the Community Safety Unit (CSU) and DFRS. The systems are portable and can be fitted with minimal impact to the property (this includes: unit screwed to a wall, plugged into a power socket and filled on site with water), 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.

In January 2013, the first portable misting 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. A total of thirty four misting systems or heat suppression systems have been purchased and the procedure for their storage, installation and maintenance is working effectively. To date, 17 systems have been

fitted by DFRS; in some cases two systems are required in a property. Although the systems are designed for people who are restricted in mobility it has been found that often risk exists at night in the bedroom and during the day in a living room, or in other cases there is more than one immobile individual in a property occupying more than one room. The need for these systems is apparent but the number of homes where they will be available is reduced if more than one at a time is required.

To add resilience to the original project for the future and enable DFRS to install these systems in more properties reducing risk for those who are owner occupiers and in private rented accommodation DFRS and the CSU wish to purchase a further batch of these heat suppression systems.

3 Financial Considerations:

£20,000 will match fund a contribution from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service of £20,000 whereby delivering resilience to the existing scheme and enable safety measures for vulnerable people at risk from fire to be installed in more homes as required.

4 Other Considerations:

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

5 Background Papers:

- Report of the Strategic Director for Policy and Community Safety to the Cabinet Member Meeting – Public Health 2012 03 21
- Report of the Strategic Director Health and Community Safety 12th November 2013

6 Key Decision:

No

7 Call In:

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

8 Officer's Recommendation:

That the sum of £20,000 be awarded from the Communities Budget to support the Portable Misting Project.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**