1. Purpose of Presenting the Report and Decisions Required

1.1 This report brings items for the Board to note regarding the current work and priorities of the London Fire Brigade.

1.2 It is recommended that the Community Safety Partnership Board:

- consider how they can assist in the delivery of London Fire Brigade community engagement activities; and
- considers the development of a “locations board” where the Fire Service, Local Authority and Police can discuss and agree strategies to address problem areas with high levels of arson and anti-social behaviour.

2. The London Fire And Emergency Planning Authority

Background

2.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide Board members with an understanding of the community safety work the London Fire Brigade (LFB) carry out as well as its Borough level activities and priorities. The LFB for many years was a service which only responded to incidents. However, our aim now is to stop fire incidents happening in the first place and our prevention activities fall into two broad categories:

- community safety (prevention); and
- fire safety regulation (protection).
2.2 To address the danger of fire and injuries from fire in the home, LFB have developed an active programme of community safety and education initiatives based on their extensive understanding of those most at risk. This means that LFB’s prevention work often involves working in areas of social deprivation and with people who are involved in anti-social behaviour, including deliberate fire setting. LFB works closely with Local Authority and Police partners as well as other agencies in the public, private and voluntary sectors and are active participants in the delivery of local area agreements with local strategic partnerships and crime and disorder partnerships.

2.3 The objective is to focus on people most at risk from fire, in order to measure this, the Borough Commander has targets with a focus on:

- reducing primary (serious) fires;
- reducing accidental fires in the home;
- reducing arson incidents;
- reducing casualties (injuries and deaths) from fires; and
- carrying out home fire safety visits, particularly in high risk areas.

2.4 The LFB has 20 fire safety teams located across London to enforce fire safety in the capital. The Fire Safety team is based at East Ham and serves most of the North East of London. Staff are attached to the London Borough of Barking Dagenham. They carry out inspections to ensure buildings meet statutory fire regulations and they will take action to enforce fire safety measures if necessary. LFB aims to improve the safety of buildings, including major projects affecting Borough infrastructure, working with developers at an early stage to ensure all possible fire engineering solutions are applied during construction. LFB also influences planners, designers and decision makers to improve safety for residents and visitors to Barking & Dagenham.

2.5 In order to meet organisational strategies and targets as set out above, LFB staff must focus on people most at risk. However, it is important that Board members have an understanding of the work that goes on by the LFB both pan-London and locally.

2.6 Pan-London activities are managed by teams based at the London Fire Brigade Headquarters for the benefit of all Londoners. These activities include:

**Escape plan**

2.7 The Borough Commander works with partners to provide residents with access to advice to follow if they live in a purpose-built block of flats or maisonettes, of any height, with shared communal corridors, external walkways, staircases or entrances. This is publicised as “know the plan” [http://www.knowtheplan.co.uk/](http://www.knowtheplan.co.uk/)

2.8 This provides advice to tenants and landlords of their rights and responsibilities.
Monthly Fire Kills Campaign

2.9 The majority of domestic fires with fatalities, smoke alarms were either absent or did not go off, a common cause is missing or flat batteries. This is why the Fire Kills campaign has a monthly campaign to increase fire safety awareness such as, Tick Tock Test when you change your clocks test your smoke alarm, fireworks and sky lantern as well as electrical and candle safety. Partners can assist in these campaigns by linking them to their web and social media sites.

Dementia

2.10 The LFB is now a member of the Pan-London Dementia Action Alliance working alongside London-wide organisations to support the National Dementia Declaration to make life better for people with dementia. The Dementia Friends awareness campaign is currently featured in the recent media launch. The Community Safety Development Human Behaviours team attend quarterly meetings and are working towards the LFB aims and objectives to:

- identify the options we can recommend to help keep people who live with dementia safer from fire and its effects;
- educate its staff about dementia and other cognitive and mental health issues; and
- support our staff whose lives are affected by dementia – if they develop it or if they care for someone who does.

2.11 Borough staff are signing up to become Dementia Champions with a plan to deliver Dementia Friends sessions to teams and colleagues within the organisation.

School Liaison Officers

2.12 Our Youth Engagement Strategy for the Borough has improved this year, this is due to the development of new contacts within the Borough. The team are committed to providing young people with educational and diversionary activities that can engage them and increase their self-confidence and their interpersonal skills. The Schools Team work a risk based programme of school visits working with pupils at Key Stage 1 and 2. Approximately 560,000 children throughout London have benefited from the schools fire safety programme. The knowledge they have acquired from this education can be used throughout their lives so reducing the number of fires and the effects of fire on a much wider scale.

Sprinklers

2.13 The Borough Commander will continue to work with the Local Authority on the installation of sprinkler systems. Modern sprinkler systems are very effective in limiting fire spread and fire and water damage. The Borough Commander will continue to strongly promote the use of sprinklers to protect both life and property. Barking & Dagenham won the LFB sprinkler competition winning over £86,000 match funding for the installation of sprinklers in high risk areas.
Unprotected premises. Through Statutory Fire Safety Inspecting Officers the Borough Commander will also continue to lobby for appropriate amendments to the building regulations and to lobby individual developers for inclusion of sprinklers in their developments, where the risk justifies their use.

Hoardings

2.14 Hoarding is by its nature is extremely difficult to identify, especially in Private Owner Occupier and Private Rented Sector Housing. High levels of clutter make it much easier for a fire to start and create a greater risk of fire spreading, increasing the risk of injury and death. It also makes it very difficult to escape and can lead to difficulties for firefighters tackling the blaze. The Borough Commander is optimistic that partnership arrangements in place in the Borough will result in these residents being referred to LFB. Agencies such as adult social services and mental health charities seem to be aware of the importance of this type of referral. I believe more work can be done to refer hoarders and train partners in Fire Safety Risk Assessments.

3. Borough-led Community Safety

Safe Drive Stay Alive

3.1 Safe Drive Stay Alive is a hard hitting road safety message which has been running in the Borough since 2011. It is designed to target the ‘new driver’ age bracket that have a statistically high chance of being involved in injury accidents. The production is seen by local year 12 pupils, currently the Borough has 9 schools taking part. It is estimated that as a result of this intervention 1800 year 12 pupils in the Borough receive this message every year, hopefully influencing how they think about driver and passenger behaviour. The next production is due to take place on 11 and 12 February 2015. Not all schools in the Borough take part in this event.

Road Traffic Collision and Safety Events

3.2 Barking and Dagenham Fire Stations have put on a number of multi-agency RTC in conjunction with the LBBD to reaffirm LFB’s road safety message. As well as these demonstrations an event called “stay safe and live healthy in Barking and Dagenham” was held in Barking town square designed to encompass all community safety. This event had around 50 partner agencies giving advice on such things as mental health, healthy living, drugs and alcohol advice and much more. The LFB will continue to support these events.

3.3 Due to the rising numbers of RTCs in Whalebone lane Dagenham close to Warren School, a multiagency RTC demonstration was organised in conjunction with the MPS schools team for July 2014 to be held in the playground of Warren School. On the request of the school this event has been postponed, however staff are confident it will go ahead in the new year.
Citizen Day

3.4 Citizen day was held at Arden Crescent PRU (pupil referral unit). The Tuition Service is the only Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) providing for students aged 11-16 in the Borough. Nine secondary schools are served and the large majority of students have invariably been excluded, or are at risk of being excluded for persistent disruptive behaviour. The PRU also provides for a small number of vulnerable students with mental health needs. A small number of students have statements of special educational needs for their difficulties. On entry the majority of students are significantly under achieving because of the previous gaps in their education. Students come from a variety of social and economical backgrounds. The majority are from white British families with a very small number coming from minority ethnic backgrounds, the largest being from Black African and Caribbean families. There are around twice as many boys as girls. During Citizen day nine areas are covered with the LFB looking at Arson, the PRU also attend the safe drive stay alive presentation.

LiFE (local Intervention Fire Education)

3.5 The London Fire Brigade is helping to reduce anti-social behaviour by leading the way through the LIFE programme: a scheme which helps to address anti-social and dangerous behaviour in young people. The Life programme is targeted at young people aged between 13 and 17, who may have already begun offending, be otherwise at risk or are socially excluded. The scheme works by offering an intensive five day course that gives at risk and socially excluded young people the opportunity to focus on areas like leadership, confidence building, physical exercise and social skills. Young people build a rapport with the staff who run the courses who explain the impact and consequences of anti-social behaviour, encourage co-operative working and most importantly build confidence and self esteem in young people so they are less inclined to commit crime and instead continue with education or employment. The course mimics the real job of a firefighter as participants take part in a range of activities from using ladders, casualty rescue techniques and first aid, as well as learning about fire safety and prevention. Participants have their performance monitored and at the end of the week they take part in a passing out ceremony with friends and family present so they feel like they've really achieved something.

Community Fire Cadets

3.6 The Community Fire Cadets deliver an exciting youth engagement Programme which offers young people the opportunity to work alongside the London fire Brigade to gain a recognised BTEC qualification and life skills they can use in the workplace. Young people aged 14-18 attend one evening a week at a Dagenham fire station over a 12 month course. The course is designed to provide positive opportunities to improve community cohesion and reduce undesirable behaviour by enhancing key citizenship skills in young people, as well as learning firefighting skills alongside frontline firefighters, cadets learn how to handle money, job application techniques and healthy living. Attributes, such as teamwork, communications skills and
discipline are encouraged on the course – all of which cadets can use when they enter employment.

Borough Arson Liaison Officer (BALO)

3.7 The BALO role is a senior Officer role and has been developed to give each Borough Team and the Brigade a point of contact for Arson related incidents. Our BALO has developed a good working relationship with their nominated police counterparts and with council liaison officers sharing intelligence and information that has been the basis for a reduction in fire related anti-social behaviour.

Private Landlord Registration Scheme

3.8 The LFB has teamed up with the Local Authority in this scheme, working together has already resulted in over 1000 Home Fire Safety Visits being completed by LFB and Local Authority surveyors. This intervention has improved the safety of these residents from fire, there is an estimated 17,000 privately rented properties in the Borough so we have a long way to go.

3.9 The information above is not an exhaustive list but provides Board members with broad information on some of the work the LFB is doing to make residents of Barking and Dagenham and London safer.

4. Facilities

4.1 On 25 November 2014 Dagenham Fire Station closed for approximately 12 months to be demolished and re-built under the London Fire Brigade’s PFI programme. This will provide Dagenham with a state of the art fire station with facilities for the community.

4.2 The appliances and staff based at Dagenham which include two pumping appliances (fire engines) and an aerial ladder platform, along with their large animal rescue capability have been successfully relocated to fire stations in Barking and Dagenham and Havering.

4.3 Early indications are appliances continue to meet their attendance times to incidents within the Borough.

4.4 Dagenham Fire Station will have a Community Room when it is rebuilt in November 2015. The room has kitchen facilities and is available to all partners for engagement activities as well as local people for social clubs, mother and toddler groups or any event which benefits the community.

5. Other Organisations’ Priorities

5.1 Previously presented priorities of other organisations which have previously been discussed at the CSP Board are presented here for information.

Community Safety Plan
5.2 The Community Safety Plan set out three key overarching priorities built upon the priorities of all partner agencies:

- integrated offender management;
- integrated victim management; and
- confidence.

Policing

5.3 The major MOPAC crime priorities echo those in the Borough and include:

- reducing reoffending;
- reducing the seven most common neighbourhood crimes - burglary, violence with injury, robbery, theft from person, criminal damage, theft from motor vehicle and theft of motor vehicle;
- tackling substance misuse (including alcohol);
- reducing gang crime and serious youth violence;
- reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice system;
- reducing violence against women and girls;
- roosting public confidence in the MPS;
- improving Integrated Offender Management (IOM); and
- achieving the three R’s - Reform, Rehabilitation and Reparation.