

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
11 February 2021

REPORT AUTHOR: DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: 2019-2023 COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (2021/22 ACTION PLAN) - CONSULTATION SUMMARY

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Background Papers: Fire & Rescue National Framework for England (2018)
2019-2023 Community Risk Management Plan (2020-21 refresh)

Implications (tick ✓):

LEGAL		✓	FINANCIAL	✓
HUMAN RESOURCES			EQUALITY IMPACT	✓
ENVIRONMENTAL			POLICY	✓
CORPORATE RISK	Known	✓	OTHER (please specify)	
	New			

Any implications affecting this report are noted at the end of the report.

PURPOSE:

To inform the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) of the outcomes of the public consultation on the proposals for inclusion in the 2021/22 Annual Action Plan within the 4-year Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) covering the period 2019-2023.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Members consider the outcomes from the CRMP public consultation, and;
 2. That Members approve the adoption and publication of the final draft of the refreshed 2019-2023 CRMP and the 2021/22 annual action plan (Appendix A).
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1. Background

- 1.1. The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), covering the 4-year period 2019-2023, sets out the strategic approach Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services (BFRS) intends to take to deliver on its mission to:

'...provide outstanding fire and rescue services that help make Bedfordshire safer.'

- 1.2. The CRMP is structured around six aims:

- PREVENTING fires and other emergencies from happening;
- PROTECTING people and property when fires happen;
- RESPONDING to fires and other emergencies promptly and effectively;
- EMPOWERING our people as we work together to make Bedfordshire safer;
- UTILISING our assets and resources efficiently and effectively; and
- MAXIMISING use of data and digital solutions to drive improvement.

- 1.3. The CRMP fulfils a requirement of the Fire & Rescue National Framework for England (2018) to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that identifies and assess all the foreseeable fire and rescue related risks and challenges which may arise and how we plan to mitigate these risks using our available resources. The CRMP is published on our website and contains an annual action plan covering those more detailed priorities the Service will focus on within the coming year.
- 1.4. The CRMP is directly informed by the outcomes from our comprehensive Community Risk Analysis (CRA) document, also published on our website, and refreshed annually to ensure the statistical content and information within it remains current.

2. 2021/22 Annual Action Plan – consultation outcomes

- 2.1. The Framework requires a Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) to publicly consult with local communities, partners, our staff and their representative bodies when developing their CRMP.
- 2.2. The draft annual action plan for 2021/22 was presented to the FRA in December 2020, prior to being consulted upon alongside the FRA's budget proposals for 2021/22.
- 2.3. The CRMP public consultation was opened following the December FRA meeting and closed on 31st January 2021. It was combined with the FRA's Budget and Council Tax consultation, targeting both internal and external stakeholders and utilised the Service's community messaging system 'Beds Fire Alert'. 15,411 emails were sent (on three occasions) asking subscribers to participate in the consultation process. The consultation was also made available via the Service website and was promoted via our social media channels. It was also promoted internally via the weekly Blue Bulletin and email system.
- 2.4. A total of **471 respondents completed the survey**.
- 2.5. Two questions in the consultation related directly to the CRMP (4a & 4b). Before answering the questions, respondents were asked to read the 2021/22 action plan provided as an appendix.
- 2.6. Question 4a: *Do you agree delivering on these actions will help us achieve our Mission to provide outstanding fire & rescue services that help make Bedfordshire Safer?*
 - 67% of respondents answered 'Yes';**
 - 8% answered 'No';**
 - 25% answered 'Unsure'.**

2.7. Question 2: *Is there anything you feel could improve our proposals for 2021/22?*

96 respondents completed this free text question,

2.8. Analysis of the narrative feedback received revealed some re-occurring themes:

- *Maintenance of the present levels of service and efficiency is essential*
- *Increased community engagement*
- *More collaboration with other blue light services*
- *Comprehensive and realistic*
- *Well written and appropriately positive given the challenging circumstances*
- *More on your website about your plans and how you are delivering against them*
- *Opening a whole time station somewhere near Sandy/Biggleswade. Fire cover in this area is entirely dependent on retained stations only*

There were recurring positive comments on the effective role of the Service in the community and the CRMP. For example, *'you're the experts and please stay that way!'* Overall, the feedback received has been positive, with the new priorities being well supported and seen as both refreshing and relevant during the current climate. Having considered the consultation feedback, there are no proposals to amend the draft annual action plan for 2021/22.

3. Recommendations

1. That Members consider the outcomes from the CRMP public consultation, and;
2. That Members approve the adoption and publication of the final draft of the refreshed 2019-2023 CRMP and the 2021/22 annual action plan (Appendix A).

4. Implications

LEGAL

Legal implications as detailed in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018.

FINANCIAL

The financial impacts of the CRMP are taken into account in the budget proposals included elsewhere on this agenda. The proposals have been discussed through the development process with managers and staff and their views are reflected in the report.

EQUALITY IMPACT

Each of the priorities within the 2021/22 annual action plan will be subject to an Equality Assessment prior to implementation.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK

The CRMP is the primary delivery vehicle for address the organisational risks identified within the Corporate Risk Register.

ANDREW HOPKINSON
DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER