

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
28 March 2019
Item No 14

REPORT AUTHOR: DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: CRMP 2019-2023 CONSULTATION SUMMARY

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Background Papers: None

Implications (tick ✓):

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

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

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this paper and its attached report is to inform the Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) of the outcomes of the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2019-2023 consultation process.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the FRA acknowledges the content of this paper and:

1. Acknowledges the findings of the CRMP consultation, and;
 2. Approves the adoption of the final draft CRMP 2019-2023 and the 2019/20 annual action plan, suitable opportunity having been given for local communities and staff members to comment.
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1. Background

- 1.1. The CRMP is Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Services (BFRS) process to consider the current and future risks, and present detail on how we plan to meet the impact of those risks.
- 1.2. This CRMP covers the period 2019-2023, replacing the previous 2015-2019 plan. It incorporates an annual action plan; those more detailed activities that will be our priorities within the coming year to deliver organisational improvement and public safety.
- 1.3. The CRMP is a requirement of the Service within the National Framework document issued by the Home Office. There is a requirement that it is publically consulted on, and that local communities have opportunity to influence it.

2. The Community Risk Management Plan

- 2.1. The development of our CRMP for 2019-2023 has provided us opportunity to reconsider the structures and priorities within our organisation, and to consult with the public and staff on their understanding of these.
- 2.2. The CRMP for 2019-2023 is built around six aims, these are:
 - 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;
- Maximising use of data and digital solutions to drive improvement.

- 2.3. The CRMP then considers the strategy that supports each of these aims, focusing on the priorities and approach that the Service will take to deliver these; presenting an action plan for 2019-2020 based on our intentions and our rationale against each aim.
- 2.4. Having now received our report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) following over six months of work in 2018, we have also been able to consider opportunities for improvement from that inspection and include them into our CRMP action plan.
- 2.5. To provide improved understanding of the risks to our community we undertook a Community Risk Analysis (CRA). The CRA draws on a range of data and information which provides trend analysis on our previous activities. By using this data to have an improved understanding of our communities, we can reasonably predict new or developing risks that we would want to consider.
- 2.6. The CRA was also offered for public consultation as evidence of our planning process.

3. Community Survey Outcomes

- 3.1. A draft CRMP and the CRA were provided for consultation between February and March 2019. The public consultation ended on 8 March, however the ability for staff to engage in the survey remained open until 19 March. This extension for staff enabled us to maximise Corporate Management Team (CMT) visits to fire stations and workplaces and host a management briefing day where further engagement on the CRMP was possible.
- 3.2. Following the success of our recent Budget Consultation process (2019-2020) we have used the same processes to engage with communities on our CRMP. This includes significant use of social media platforms, websites, support from partners (for example Bedford Borough council shared our CRMP survey with its citizen panel and Central Bedfordshire council with its staff), newsletters, physical adverts and our BedsFireAlert Community Messaging system.

- 3.3. Our survey was set around 13 core questions. These questions included both objective (yes or no) content and subjective (tell us more) content to build an understanding as to whether we had support for our proposals, and whether there were any fundamental areas we needed to revisit.
- 3.4. Whilst it is difficult to accurately assess how many people to whom we have been able to show our CRMP during the consultation period, a conservative estimate based on known social media and website engagement indicates we have reached over 65,000 people, or 10% of the population.
- 3.5. Despite this reach, we have received 125 public survey responses – 10% of the number we had for our budget consultation exercise – in addition we have received feedback from approximately 250 staff through station visits and a management briefing event.
- 3.6. The low return in comparison to the recent budget consultation has been considered. The budget could be seen as having a more direct impact on the communities of Bedfordshire and therefore generated more interest in responding. It used less questions and relied on less information than our CRMP, therefore it is reasonable to assume that only those with sufficient time would engage. The CRMP does not, we believe, contain anything that could be deemed challenging, and warranting response, and as such a low return could be seen as acceptance.
- 3.7. A Survey Results document has been produced by Mark Hustwitt (Communications and Engagement Manager) and Prue Wullems (Service Improvement Manager) which is included as Appendix B. This report provides detail on the consultation responses and the levels of support for our aims and priorities.
4. Outcomes
 - 4.1. From the responses received, there is 99% support for our mission; this amends our previous vision ‘to be an excellent fire and rescue service’ to ‘providing outstanding fire and rescue services’.
 - 4.2. There are high levels of support across our aims and priorities. These are captured within the Survey Results document. Of note is that 91% of respondents support (or chose not to read in any detail) the CRA approach and content, and 82% support an in-depth analysis of emergency cover arrangements.

- 4.3. Where there have been qualitative responses about risk identification, these have been reviewed within both the CRMP and CRA to provide assurance they are identified. We will continue to periodically review our CRA to ensure it remains current and identifies all reasonably foreseeable risk.
- 4.4. There remains public interest in the issues surrounding the tragic Grenfell Tower fire. Respondents have asked that we provide assurance and education for those that live in high rise residential premises. Whilst we have delivered significant work within prevention and protection areas already, and will continue to work with our partners to ensure the safety of our communities, it is acknowledged that this was not explicit in our draft priorities under 'Prevention' and has therefore been added (albeit it was already detailed within Protect).
5. Recommendations
 - 5.1. That the FRA acknowledges the findings of the CRMP consultation survey, and;
 - 5.2. Approves the adoption of the final draft CRMP 2019-2023 and the 2019/20 annual action plan suitable opportunity having been given for local communities and staff members to comment.

ANDREW HOPKINSON
DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE OFFICER