

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
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REPORT AUTHOR: ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Background Papers: CRMP 2019-2023 (previously circulated)

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:

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 (as amended 2020) and the 2020/21 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 The current 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. The current CRMP is available on our website here:
<https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/About/Governance/Community-Risk-Management-Plan.aspx>
- 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; and
 - 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 annual action plan based on our intentions and our rationale against each aim.
3. Revisions for 2020
- 3.1 A new 2020/21 action plan has been included. At the end of 2019/20 a separate document will be produced detailing progress made against the 2019/20 Action Plan and this will be published on bedsfire.gov.uk alongside the reviewed plan for 2020 CRMP.
- 3.2 The document has been reformatted from portrait to landscape to bring it in line with the Service use of landscape for documents and papers to allow better online viewing.
- 3.3 The Service has engaged with the workforce and the community to develop new Service values and the document has been updated to include the new values.
- 3.4 A new forward by the Chief Fire Officer and new Chair of the Fire Authority Cllr Chatterley has been included.
- 3.5 Images have been updated to reflect changes to our fleet and the introduction of our new Fire Fighting Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- 3.6 Figures and Statistics have been updated where new data is available. The narrative of the document has also been refreshed in some areas.

3.7 The revised CRMP provided for consultation can be found on our website here:
<https://www.bedsfire.gov.uk/About/Governance/BFRS-CRMP-2020-Draft.pdf>

4. Consultation

4.1 The National Framework requires Authorities to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that:

Reflect[s] effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners.

4.2 To fulfil this requirement, the Service has consulted both internally and externally on the proposed updates to the CRMP during January 2020. This consultation was combined with the Service budget and Council Tax consultation and consultation on the new Service values. The Service has utilised the Service's community messaging system Beds Fire Alert for both the external and internal consultation process. 14,961 emails were sent asking Alert subscribers to participate in the consultation process. As of 27/01/2020 this has generated 307 responses. The consultation was also made available via the Service website and this was promoted via our social media channels. A number of face to face engagement events have been held with people being encouraged to submit answers online with a paper based alternative for those not confident or able to respond online. This has generated an addition 63 responses as of 27/01/2020. The consultation was also promoted internally via the Blue Bulletin and email which had generated 25 responses as 27/01/2020.

4.3 Two questions in the consultation related directly to the CRMP. Before answering the questions respondents were asked to read the 2020/21 action plan. An initial high level assessment of responses at 21/01/2020 has been made for this paper.

4.4 Question 1 *“Do you agree that delivering on these action will help us to achieve our Mission to provide outstanding fire and rescue services that help make Bedfordshire Safer?”* As of 27/01/2020 229 people responded to this question with 69% of people answering this question with an answer of “yes”.

4.5 Question 2: *“Is there anything that you feel is missing from our proposals for 2020/21?”* As of the 27/01/2020, 327 people had responded to this question with 34% of people answering this question with an answer of “No”.

4.6 A more detailed analysis of the responses will be produced after the closing of the consultation period on 31/01/2020. However, an analysis of the feedback received so far has revealed some re-occurring themes:

- Grenfell – for us to be proactive and not wait for the final outcomes of the review, be collaborative and promote best practice;
- More collaboration of blue light services, sharing of services to avoid duplication;
- Greater community presence working in communities and with communities; and
- Stronger interaction and communication with the voluntary sector within Bedfordshire to support vulnerable people and the elderly.

Having considered the current feedback, FRA members should be assured that the work streams already included in the draft 2020/21 action plan will work towards the areas, and build on the initiatives commenced in 2019/20. Should we receive areas for considered inclusion within the plan, in the remaining consultation period, we will bring this back for the attention of the FRA.

There are also reoccurring positive comments on the effective role of the Service in the community and the CRMP. For example, 'that the mission sets out to deliver an outstanding service is highly credible and indeed welcome'.

- 4.7 The proposed new Service values are included within the CRMP document and there were separate questions on these.
- 4.8 Overall, the feedback to date has been positive, with the new values being highly supported and seen as both refreshing and staff driven.

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