

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Executive Committee
15 November 2022

REPORT LEAD: CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP) 2023-27 ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET
CONSULTATION 2023-24

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Background Papers: Details of our 2022-23 CRMP consultation are [HERE](#)
Fire and Rescue Authority (FRA) report from 14 December 2021 entitled Consultation on the 2022-23
Budget and Community Risk Management Plan 2022-23 Annual Action Plan See [HERE](#)
FRA report from 10 February 2022 entitled Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-
23 Action Plan and Budget Consultation Update see [HERE](#)
FRA Executive report from 22 June on Proposals for Strategic Planning Cycle for CRMP
2023-27 and update on 11th October See [HERE](#)
FRA report from 8 September 2022 entitled CRMP Planning and Engagement update See [HERE](#)

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present members of the Fire & Rescue Authority (FRA) with proposals for formal consultation on the Budget for 2022-23 and Community Risk Management Plan 2023-27.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members acknowledge the content of this paper.

1. Summary

- 1.1 Every year, the FRA consults the public on our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Action Plan and Council Tax proposals. The FRA engages with the local community to seek views on the Service's priorities and proposals and to seek an increase in contributions for funding from council tax.
- 1.2 This year the FRA proposes to consult on CRMP proposals just once as the FRA has carried out two other recent consultations. The FRA has had the two most successful Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) and budget consultations yet, one in late 2021 and the other on community concerns in the summer of 2022. This gives the FRA a rich picture of stakeholder and staff views based on targeted and regular engagement. As a result, the FRA has the most comprehensive picture of community risks, public concerns and stakeholder expectations that the FRA has ever had. These excellent results are due to more effective use of social media, maximising internal and external staff networks, and encouraging our partners to share consultations.
- 1.3 In the 2022-23 CRMP action consultation in 2021 the FRA received overwhelming support for proposals and have a rich baseline of comment and intelligence in line with the Service Value 'Every Contact Counts'. Results included:
 - 86% of those responding said yes to the 1.99% increase of Council Tax;
 - 78% of those responding said yes to the £5 increase;
 - 610 (85%) said that they support us prioritising investment in our property based on changes to housing, economic and social change, and the impact of Covid-19 on how we work; and
 - 92% support us in innovating our fleet and testing different ideas.
- 1.4 This report sets out the approach to consultation and engagement and gives proposals for survey questions in Appendix 1. Appendix 1 shows what ask question we will ask and why the FRA is asking them.

2. Background

- 2.1 Again this year the FRA is proposing to split the online the survey into two parts - the budget and the CRMP proposals - but in reverse order. The average time taken to complete the surveys in the last two years is reducing. In 2021 it was six minutes and seven seconds, in the summer of 2022 it was four minutes and two seconds. This will have helped encourage the high number of responses.
- 2.2 The FRAs approach to stakeholder engagement is line with the CRMP Communication and Engagement Strategy 2022-23 and CRMP Staff Engagement Plan 2022.
- 2.3 Service values, behaviours, and code of ethics guide the approach to communication, consultation and engagement activity.
- 2.4 The CRMP community engagement strategy is based on the following principles:
- Any appropriate national guidance and thinking;
 - Building on previous engagement;
 - Insight developed from our community risk analysis, assessment of community risk, and strategic assessment;
 - Evaluation of our top 50 stakeholders for power and influence – this guides our engagement priorities and effort;
 - Effective internal and external collaboration and not duplicating effort in line with our service value Every Contact Counts;
 - Towards Bedfordshire 2050 long term horizon scanning;
 - Integrating Equality, diversity and inclusion into everything rather than treat it as an ‘add on’;
 - Effective People Impact Assessment – formerly known as an Equality Impact Assessment; and
 - Demonstrating ethical principles, Values based thinking and professional behaviours
- 2.5 Underlining good practice for consultation are the ‘Gunning Principles’ which govern stakeholder and public consultation where case law has defined that a consultation is only legitimate when the following four principles are met:
- Proposals are still at a formative stage. A final decision has not yet been made, or predetermined, by the decision makers.
 - There is enough information to give ‘intelligent consideration’. The information provided must relate to the consultation and must be available, accessible, and easily interpretable for consultees to provide an informed response.
 - There is adequate time for consideration and response. There must be enough opportunity for consultees to participate in the consultation.

- Conscientious consideration must be given to the consultation responses before a decision is made, decision-makers should be able to provide evidence that they took consultation responses into account.

2.6 The FRA is currently on target with our 2023-27 CRMP delivery plan.

2.7 The improvements to the overall approach to engagement is important because the first of the thirteen Areas for Improvement (AFI) in the service's recent Effectiveness, Efficiency and People inspection report for 2021/22 by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue HMICFRS finds: *The service needs to improve how it engages with its local community.* This consultation forms part of the response to this AFI.

3. Consultation Timeline

Action	By When	By whom
Design of survey questions in collaboration with members of our CRMP Reference Group, the HealthWatch Youth Forum, and Consultation Institute	14 th October 2022	HSSA
Amendments made in light of any Member comments on 15 th November 2022	15 th November 2022	HSSA
Online survey goes live	Week commencing 21 st November 2022	HSSA
Sharing and promotion of survey	2 nd December 2022	HSSA
Analysis of results	Week commencing 2 nd January 2023	HSSA

Start reporting results	FRA Executive meeting on 10 th January 2023	HSSA
Summary of all engagement activity and link to CRMP proposals	FRA meeting on 2 nd February 2023	HSSA
Draft CRMP 2023-27	FRA Exec meeting 14 th March 2023	CFO
Final approval of CRMP 2023-27	FRA meeting on 30 th March 2023	CFO

4 Next Steps

- 4.1 We will map comparable results against earlier CRMP consultations. You will see this year's consultation takes more account of, environmental, community engagement and ethical issues which were issues raised in last year's consultation.
- 4.2 The Service will share the results of consultation on the website and show what is changing as a result in line with the Service Value 'We Are Accountable'.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Members acknowledge the contents of this report

ANDREW HOPKINSON
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

Appendix 1

We will now examine each proposed survey question in detail.

Survey Question	Source
<p>In our CRMP consultation in 2021, we had strong support for prioritising investment in our property based on changes to housing, economic and social change, and the impact of Covid-19 on how we work. Do you support us in continuing to target our investment in our community fire stations based on community risk, environmental management and long-term operational need?</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Community engagement • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment
<p>In our CRMP consultation in 2021, we had strong support for innovating our fleet and testing different ideas. In 2023-24 we intend to carry on doing this. Do you support us in carrying out further trials to pinpoint the best location for any new or upgraded community fire station?</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Agree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Community engagement • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment

<p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	
<p>In our CRMP consultation in 2021, we had strong support for investing in income generation opportunities. Do you support us in exploring further collaboration with our blue light partners in developing our workshops in a new location that meets our long term operational, strategic and environmental needs?</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Medium term financial plan • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment
<p>Are there any other income generation and/or efficiency opportunities that you think we should pursue?</p> <p>Comments box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Medium term financial plan • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment
<p>To help pay for investment in new and existing buildings we may need to sell small parcels of land or one of our fire stations that is in the wrong location, does not or will not meet environmental standards, or costs too much to maintain. Do you support the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review

<p>principal of making the best use of our property and estate in line with operational need?</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium term financial plan • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment
<p>Do you support us in taking a clearer and more strategic approach to collaboration, explaining why and how we work in partnership. This includes our work with our blue light partners and public service partners across Bedfordshire, the Bedfordshire Local Resilience Forum, and other neighboring Fire and Rescue Services.</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community and stakeholder engagement • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Medium term financial plan • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment
<p>Do you support us in sharing facilities with our blue light and public service partners and maximizing the utilization of our property and estate?</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue light estates strategy

<p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	
<p>Do you support us in developing the way we report, display and describe our performance?</p> <p>Strongly Agree</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Strategic risk assessment
<p>What should Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service look like in 2050?</p> <p>Comments box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Strategic risk assessment
<p>In order to pay for our proposals indicated earlier we need to spend wisely, increase our income, use some of our earmarked reserves, and potentially borrow money....</p> <p>The Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority is currently considering a council tax increase of 1.99% for a Band D house. Do you support an increase of below 2%? This would increase the Band D charge for the Fire & Rescue Service from to £104.45.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Medium term financial plan • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment

<p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	
<p>If in this year or another year the council tax referendum cap is increased above the current 2%, would you support an increase of up to £5 for a Band D property to protect and invest in your local Fire & Rescue Service?</p> <p>Agree</p> <p>Either agree or disagree</p> <p>Disagree</p> <p>Strongly disagree</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP survey in 2021 • Community Risk Analysis • Emergency Cover Review • Medium term financial plan • Pilots and trials • Assessment of Community Risk • Strategic risk assessment
<p>In our CRMP consultation in 2021, we had strong support for investing in ethical investment opportunities. What kind of ethical investments should we consider?</p> <p>Comments box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 CRMP consultation for comparison • Community engagement • Strategic risk assessment
<p>Are there any positive or negative impacts relating to equalities, diversity and inclusion that you believe should be taken into account? If so, are you able to suggest any ways to reduce or remove any potential negative impact and increase any positive impact?</p> <p>Comments box</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP People Impact Assessment

<p>If you are happy to answer some further questions which helps us to monitor personal information, please tick the box below and proceed to question 10. If not, please press submit at bottom of form</p> <p>Yes I will provide equal opportunities information</p> <p>No I will just submit this section of the form</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRMP People Impact Assessment • Standard Beds FRS equality questions • Consultation Institute good practice toolkit
<p>What is your age?</p> <p>16 - 24</p> <p>25 - 34</p> <p>35 - 44</p> <p>45 - 54</p> <p>55 - 64</p> <p>65 - 74</p> <p>75+</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Please could you tell us if you have any health conditions that may impact on your safety in the event of an emergency?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>If yes please feel free to tell us what they are</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Do you observe any particular religion?</p>	<p>As above</p>

Buddhism Christianity Hinduism Islam Judaism Sikhism Spiritualist None Other Prefer not to say	
How would you describe your ethnicity? White English/British/ N. Irish/Scottish/Welsh Irish White other Asian or Asian British Black British Black other Dual or multiple ethnic heritage	As above

Chinese Bangladeshi Pakistani Indian Gypsy or traveller White or Black African White or Black Caribbean Arab Other Prefer not to say	
What gender do you identify with? Woman Man Non-binary Transgender Other Prefer not to say	As above
How would you describe your sexual orientation?	As above

Heterosexual/Straight	
Gay Man	
Lesbian/Gay Woman	
Bisexual	
Prefer not to say	
Other	