



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE  
FIRE AND RESCUE  
AUTHORITY**

Item 21/11

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	11 February 2021
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024
STATUS OF REPORT	Open Publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In line with the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2018, the Service has developed a draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024.</p> <p>As Members are acutely aware, there remains considerable economic uncertainty emerging from the need to deal with the national deficit now significantly exacerbated by the effects arising from the national Covid-19 pandemic. It is extremely difficult to plan for the medium term and it should therefore be expected that any plan will need to be subjected to a review of financial planning assumptions. These assumptions will become clearer following government announcements in September and December and will be subject to on-going Member debate and agreement.</p> <p>This Plan has been developed taking account of the issues raised in the Strategic Assessment of Risk and is underpinned by the proposed Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP). In addition, the draft Plan provides clear links to the inspection methodology used by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire &amp; Rescue Services.</p> <p>Following Member approval, the draft Plan will be subject to a 12-week consultation programme, which will</p>

	<p>be initiated on the 17 February 2021. The consultation programme will engage our communities, staff, representative bodies, and partners via a range of mechanisms appropriate to the constraints imposed by the need to deal with the effects of the national pandemic.</p> <p>The final Plan and summary of the key issues raised during the consultation process will be presented to the Authority at their meeting in June 2021 for debate and approval prior to publication on the Service's website.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to maintain an up-to-date corporate plan will undermine the reputation of the Authority and its associated governance arrangements.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An impact assessment has been completed with the consultation programme seeking to mitigate the constraints imposed by the national controls associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	This draft Plan is under pinned by the annually reviewed medium-term finance plan currently being considered by Members.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider and approve the draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 and associated consultation process.</li> </ol>
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fire &amp; Rescue National Framework for England, 2018.</li> <li>2. Strategic Assessment of Risk. February 2020.</li> </ol>
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Name: Head of Strategic Planning &amp; Corporate Assurance, Jill McCrae</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk">jill.mccrae@dwfire.org.uk</a></p> <p>Tel no: 07711 458888</p>

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2018 requires fire and rescue authorities to produce a Community Risk Management Plan (formerly known as an Integrated Risk Management Plan) covering at least a three-year period. The Authority fulfils this requirement through its Community Safety Plan.
- 1.2 To ensure that our Community Safety Plan is relevant and reflective of the wider landscape in which the Service operates, biennially the Service undertakes a Strategic Assessment of Risk. This was last presented to Members in February last year.
- 1.3 To provide strategic direction, the Community Safety Plan is aligned to the Authority's Medium Term Finance Plan (MTFP) and a number of supporting strategies. Members scrutinise progress through the meetings of the Authority, Finance and Audit Committee and Local Performance and Scrutiny Committees. This is further supplemented by the six-monthly progress report presented by the Chief Fire Officer along with the publication of an annual report presented to the Authority each September.
- 1.4 As Members are aware, the Authority has received a one-year financial settlement. The national Covid-19 pandemic, coupled with a number of other economic changes, has meant that there is considerable and heightened financial uncertainty. Whilst Members have debated and agreed the financial planning assumptions set out in the MTFP, these will inevitably need to be revised in light of government financial statements currently forecasted to be announced in September and December 2021. This may have consequences for any future revisions of the Community Safety Plan, given the strain on the Authority's financial outlook.

## **2. Draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024**

- 2.1 The draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 (Appendix A) is principally written with the public as the primary audience. It is a non-technical overview of the strategic intent of the Authority and work of its Service.
- 2.2 The plan has been broadly referenced to Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) methodology, which is in accordance with the wider approach to performance reporting and assurance arrangements.
- 2.3 In addition, the delivery of this plan has taken account of the National Fire Chiefs Council's Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard, in preparation of its imminent publication.

2.4 At a more detailed and technical level the Plan is translated into a Service Delivery Plan against each of the Inspectorate's judgement criteria and associated sub-diagnostics, which form the Service's Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). Performance against each KLOE is then presented to Members via the five priorities set out in the Community Safety Plan.

2.5 The draft Plan, set out in Appendix A, is divided into the following sections:

- i. An overview of the Service and its approach to integrated risk management
- ii. A summary of each of the five priorities, agreed by the Authority, namely:

**Prevention:** *Making safer and healthier choices*

**Protection:** *Protecting you and the environment from harm*

**Response:** *Being there when you need us*

**Governance:** *Making every penny count*

**People:** *Supporting and developing our people*

Where the following is provided:

- a. An explanation of the priority along with the key areas of work
  - b. The outcomes being sought from the work of the Service
  - c. The issues arising from the Strategic Assessment of Risk
  - d. The activities the Service will continue to undertake
  - e. The activities and reviews planned within the lifetime of the Plan
- iii. How the plan will be monitored and overseen by the Authority
  - iv. Corporate targets. These are revised targets (see section 4 below)
  - v. A glossary of key terms
  - vi. Details of consultation and contact arrangements

### **3. Consultation and communication programme**

3.1 The Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2018 requires fire and rescue authorities to undertake effective consultation with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners.

3.2 Following Authority approval, the Service will begin a consultation programme, aligned to these requirements, which will commence on the 17 February 2021, for a 12 -week period.

3.3 The consultation programme and process has been developed taking account of the current restrictions and challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Following

dialogue with HMICFRS we have considered learning from other fire and rescue services who have been through this process within the past 12-months.

- 3.4 Furthermore, the proposed process has also been through an impact assessment to help support an inclusive approach, as can reasonably be expected, given these national restrictions.
- 3.5 The proposed consultation process will comprise of:
- An introductory video to support the draft Plan
  - A website consultation page incl. feedback forms (electronic and to download)
  - Distribution by email to:
    - Local Resilience Forum partners incl. local authorities, Police *et al*
    - neighbouring fire and rescue services
    - community groups
    - police community contact groups
    - MPs
  - Distribution by social media (e.g. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
  - Briefings to:
    - staff
    - managers
    - representative bodies
  - Continued joint working group discussions with representative bodies
- 3.6 The proposed final Community Safety Plan, along with a summary of the key issues raised through the consultation programme, will be tabled at the Authority's June meeting for consideration and approval.

#### 4. Corporate targets

- 4.1 As part of the development of the draft Community Safety Plan a suite of long-term corporate targets have been developed to be achieved over the lifetime of the plan. There are three main changes:
- 4.2 **A move to bettering long-term trends:** Members will note that as well as revising the corporate targets to reflect the proposed direction of the Service, they are based upon bettering long-term trends. This has been proposed as the resource constraints within the Service make it increasingly difficult to continually commit the Authority to a year-on-year percentage increase. Instead, it is proposed to indicate

an improvement on long-term trends determined over a rolling five-year rolling average.

- 4.3 **Making response times more understood and benchmarked.** It is proposed to seek to better align our response standards to definitions being used by the Inspectorate. Currently the Authority has set its response standard on achieving attendance times of ten minutes for the first and second appliance to sleeping risk on 75% of occasions. It is proposed to measure an *average* rather than *percentage* for the first appliance to confirmed fires in sleeping risk premises whilst maintaining the same ten minutes response time (incl. call handling, turnout, and travel time). This maintains the same response standard but is considered easier for the public to understand and, importantly, allows the performance to be better benchmarked using HMIFRS data. This corporate target will be supplemented by key performance indicators to look in more detail at specific aspects of performance.
- 4.4 **Making the diversity of our whole workforce the key focus.** Previously the focus of diversity targets has been the operational workforce. As Members are aware, the workforce comprises of uniformed (grey book) and corporate members (green book) of staff who are often delivering similar services to the community. For example, a fire safety inspecting officer can be either a 'green' or 'grey' book member of staff, the only difference being that the operational member of staff needs to maintain operational competence. The diversity of the workforce would discriminate between these two people broadly delivering the same service to the public. It is therefore proposed that a 'one-team' approach to diversity is adopted but that Members are furnished with supported key performance indicators to break down the change in workforce dynamics, so that it is transparently reported.

## 5. Summary and next steps

- 5.1 The Authority is required to produce a Community Risk Management Plan covering at least a three-year period. The Authority delivers this through its Community Safety Plan. This draft Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 has been developed by the Service taking account of the Strategic Assessment of Risk and the financial pressures it is currently forecasting as outlined in its medium-term finance plan.
- 5.2 Following the conclusion of the consultation programme a final Community Safety Plan, including the key issues raised by those responding to the consultation exercise, will be presented to Members for their approval at their meeting in June 2021.

February 2021