



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 21/26

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	16 June 2021
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	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 the Community Safety Plan 2021-2024.</p> <p>This plan has been developed taking account of the issues raised in the Strategic Assessment of Risk and is underpinned by the Medium-Term Financial Plan. In addition, the plan provides clear links to the inspection methodology used by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services.</p> <p>During the February Authority meeting Members approved the draft plan and its 12-week consultation programme. Following the completion of this consultation, Officers have reviewed and revised the draft plan.</p> <p>As Members are 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. Given this financial uncertainty there may be a need revise this medium-term plan following future government announcements.</p>

	Following Member approval, the plan will be finalised and published on the Service's website.
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 undertaken with the consultation programme seeking to mitigate the constraints imposed by the national controls associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. An impact assessment was also undertaken as part of the delivery of the draft plan which has helped to ensure it is inclusive.
BUDGET IMPLICATIONS	This plan is underpinned by the annually reviewed Medium Term Finance Plan.
RECOMMENDATIONS	Members are asked to: 1. Consider and approve the Community Safety Plan 2021-2024, following consultation.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	1. Fire & Rescue National Framework for England, 2018. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705060/National_Framework_-_final_for_web.pdf 2. Strategic Assessment of Risk, 2020. https://www.dwfire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Strategic-Assessment-of-Risk-2020-2022.pdf
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Community Safety Plan 2021-2024
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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.
- 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 presentations 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 Coronavirus 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 may 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 and will be subject to on-going Member debate and agreement.

2. Community Safety Plan 2021-2024

- 2.1 The 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 is compliant with the National Fire Chiefs Council's draft 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 plan, set out in Appendix A, is divided into the following sections:

- An overview of the Service and its approach to integrated risk management
- 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
- How the plan will be monitored and overseen by the Authority
 - Corporate targets
 - A glossary of key terms
 - 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 of the draft plan, at their meeting in February 2021, the Service has undertaken a 12-week consultation programme, which commenced on the 17 February 2021 and ran until the 13 May 2021.

3.3 The development of the consultation programme and process considered the national restrictions at the time and the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, along with dialogue with HMICFRS and learning from other fire and rescue services, who had undertaken consultation during 2020. Furthermore, an impact assessment was undertaken to ensure the approach was inclusive.

3.4 The consultation programme comprised of:

- An introductory video to support the draft plan
- A website consultation page with an electronic feedback form
- Distribution to all four Local Authority Community Forums and the two Police Community Alert Systems
- Distribution by email to all key stakeholders which included:
 - Local Resilience Forum partners including local authorities, Police forces, Ambulance service *et al*
 - neighbouring fire and rescue services
 - Police & Crime Commissioners
 - Community and charity groups
 - Local business forums
 - MPs
 - Home Office
- A social media campaign using Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and Linked In
- Dedicated consultation email address to promote two-way engagement
- Attendance at both the Dorset and the Wiltshire Public Services Boards
- Internal briefings to:
 - staff
 - managers
 - representative bodies
- Continued joint working group discussions with representative bodies
- Distribution through a large number of groups seeking to better represent underrepresented groups.

4. Consultation response and final plan

4.1 144 responses were received through the online process with 49% of responses being received as a result of a direct email from the Service, 24% through the community group alert system and 20% as a result of our social media campaign. 79% of respondents were residents within Dorset and Wiltshire.

- 4.2 The consultation and engagement programme sought to reach a diverse audience, from across our communities. To enable the Service to identify if the approach undertaken successfully encouraged a diverse response, a number of equality questions were asked through the online form.
- 4.3 Encouragingly, 76% of online respondents were comfortable to provide answers to these questions, providing the following responses:
- 15% advised to having a disability defined by the Equality Act 2010
 - 66% of responses were received by males with 30% from females and 4% not wishing to disclose
 - 48% were aged over 66 years of age, with 24% between 46-55 and 12% between 36-45
 - 80% of responses were from heterosexual people with 9% being gay, lesbian, or bisexual and 11% not wishing to disclose
 - 95% confirmed they were from a White background, 5% from a mixed, Asian, or Black background and 4% didn't wish to disclose
- 4.4 It is pleasing to note that over 80% of online respondents found the draft plan and supporting video clear and easily understood. Partners, including town councils and agencies and organisations on our Local Resilience Forums, provided positive returns and were supportive of the approach undertaken.
- 4.5 Following the feedback received, the plan has been revised in the following manner:
- Further clarification and explanation of those who are more vulnerable to fire and include those who are involved in substance abuse and have addictions along with drinking behaviour.
 - The Stonehenge Tunnel project and the Service's role in the project has been specifically referenced
 - Further explanation has been provided to confirm how the plan is flexible enough to respond appropriately to the Fire Reform agenda being proposed by the Government, including the imminent release of the White Paper to support this intent
 - Highlighted that subsequent consultation exercises maybe necessary, where fundamental decisions are required to meet future budgetary needs or improve efficiencies. The plan also emphasises that budget considerations are based on risk and demand and not on geographic allocation
 - Further clarified that the Service is fully cognisant of the new Fire Standards emerging from the National Fire Chiefs Council
 - Provided a clear link within the plan where diversity & inclusion and environmental sustainability are specifically considered
 - Sought to further clarify some of the corporate targets

- 4.6 Furthermore, following receipt of the draft plan, the Home Office requested a meeting with Officers to learn more about the Service's approach to the development, design and delivery of the plan and our approach to community risk management planning more generally. This approach undertaken was positively received by the Home Office.

5. Summary and next steps

- 5.1 The Authority is required to produce a Community Risk Management Plan covering at least a 3 year period. The Authority delivers this through its Community Safety Plan. This Community Safety Plan 2021-2024 has been developed by the Service taking account of the Strategic Assessment of Risk and the financial pressures currently forecast in the MTFP.
- 5.2 Following the conclusion of the consultation programme the Plan, has been updated to include the key issues raised by those responding to the consultation exercise. A revised Community Safety Plan is provided within Appendix A and Members are asked to review and approve.

June 2021