



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Item 24/13

MEETING	Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
DATE OF MEETING	8 February 2024
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Draft Community Safety Plan 2024-2028
STATUS OF REPORT	Open Publication
PURPOSE OF REPORT	For approval
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>In line with the both the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 and the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework 2018, the Authority is required to produce and publish a strategic plan. Our Community Safety Plan now needs to be revised.</p> <p>This revised draft strategic plan (Appendix A) has been developed with the community as the primary audience. It has been formulated in line with expectations laid out by the Fire Standards Board and is referenced to His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) methodology.</p> <p>As Members are aware, the Authority continues to be in a challenging financial position. This is made all the more difficult through the continued announcements of single year financial settlements, an increasing reliance on grant funding mechanisms and the lack of flexibility over the fire-precept.</p> <p>This challenging position and levels of uncertainty hinders the ability to sensibly plan over the medium term. It should therefore be expected that any plan will need to be subjected to regular reviews of financial planning assumptions.</p> <p>This plan has been developed taking account of the issues raised in the Strategic Assessment of Risk, the sector and Service reviews on Culture, the delivery of a full Fire Cover Review and is underpinned by the</p>

	<p>proposed Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).</p> <p>Following Member approval, the draft plan will be subject to a 12-week consultation programme, which will be initiated on the 9 February 2024. The consultation programme will engage our communities, staff, representative bodies, and partners via a range of appropriate processes.</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 2024 for debate and approval, prior to publication on the Service's website.</p>
RISK ASSESSMENT	Failure to maintain an up-to-date strategic plan will undermine the reputation of the Authority and its associated governance arrangements.
COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An impact assessment has been completed as part of the development of the consultation programme, seeking to ensure Service wide engagement, particularly with the seldom heard groups.
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT	An environmental impact assessment has been completed as part of the development of the consultation programme. This has indicated, where possible, for the programme to be electronic and limit the requirement for printed versions of documents.
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"> 1. Consider and approve the draft Community Safety Plan 2024-2028 and associated consultation process.
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fire & Rescue National Framework for England, 2018. 2. Strategic Assessment of Risk 2023-2025
APPENDIX	Appendix A – Draft Community Safety Plan 2024-2028

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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. The current Strategic Assessment of Risk 2023-2025 is published on the Service's website. It is also reflective of both the sector and Service reviews on Culture.
- 1.3 During 2023 the Service delivered its first full and comprehensive Fire Cover Review since the combination in April 2016. This provided a Service wide review of existing fire cover and response arrangements. This has been a key document used to aid the development of the Community Safety Plan.
- 1.4 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 presentations to the Authority, by the Deputy Chief Fire Officer, along with the publication of an annual report presented to the Authority each September.
- 1.5 As Members are aware, the Service continues to be in a challenging financial position, particularly with the continued one-year financial settlements and the disappointing news regarding the lack of flexibility granted over the council tax referendum principles to be applied to the fire-precept. There also continues to be significant unknowns and therefore instability most notably around business rates funding and associated governance grants.
- 1.6 The funding position for future years remains a serious concern, with the challenging financial position and levels of uncertainty hindering the ability to sensibly plan over the medium term. It should therefore be expected that any plan will need to be subjected to a review of financial planning assumptions.

2. Draft Community Safety Plan 2024-2028

- 2.1 The draft Community Safety Plan 2024-2028 (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 His 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 Fire Standards Boards's Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard.
- 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 plan, what it is for, how it has been developed and how performance will be monitored
 - ii. A summary of each of the five priorities, agreed by the Authority, namely:

Prevention: *Helping you to make safer and healthier choices*
Protection: *Protecting you and the built 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 include some new and 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 The consultation programme and approach has been developed taking account of our community impact assessment, environmental impact assessment and Service learning from the consultation process undertaken for our current Community Safety Plan. Furthermore, the Service has reviewed the approaches recognised as good practise from the round three HMICFRS inspection reports, along with the highlighted areas for improvement.
- 3.3 The proposed consultation programme is aligned to the Fire Standard Board's Community Risk Management Plan standard and the Gunning Principles, which are applicable to public consultation in the UK.
- 3.4 The proposed consultation process will comprise of:
- An introductory video to support the understanding of the draft plan
 - A website consultation page incl. feedback forms (electronic and to download)
 - Advertising of the consultation programme and draft plan through posters in public premises
 - Engagement through our Safe & Well visits and other public face to face interactions and already organised events
 - Distribution through all four Local Authority Community Forums and the two Police Community Alert Systems
 - Distribution by email to:
 - i. Community and charity groups
 - ii. Home Office
 - iii. Local Area Boards
 - iv. Local business forums
 - v. Local Resilience Forums and other community safety partners
 - vi. Members of Parliament within the Fire and Rescue Authority area
 - vii. Neighbouring fire and rescue services
 - viii. Parish Councils
 - ix. Police and Crime Commissioners
 - A social media campaign including X/Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok, which will also be supported by our Local Authority partners who will share this information online

- Press releases highlighting the consultation
- A dedicated email address to promote two-way engagement and a phone number available to take feedback for those who are uncomfortable with technology
- Email distribution to a large number of underrepresented groups, schools and businesses who engage with our Fire Safety teams
- Internal briefings to:
 - i. staff
 - ii. managers
 - iii. representative bodies

3.5 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.

3.6 Following Authority approval, the Service will begin a consultation programme, aligned to these requirements, which will commence on the 9 February 2024, for a 12 -week period.

4. Corporate targets

4.1 As part of the development of the draft Community Safety Plan a suite of long-term corporate targets to be achieved over the lifetime of the plan have been set.

4.2 Whilst six of these corporate targets remain from the current Community Safety Plan, two targets have been revised, to wording considered easier for the public to understand.

4.3 The two revised targets are:

- We will achieve a reduction in our attendance at automatic fire alarms **which result in a false alarm**, compared to the average attended during the last five years
- We will achieve a 15-minute response time on average for the first appliance in attendance at confirmed road traffic collisions (this includes call handling, turnout and travel time)

4.4 Two new corporate targets have been added, following Member engagement, which increases the Authority's corporate targets from eight to ten. These are:

- We will reduce the number of working days lost to work related injuries and ill health, compared to the average over the last five years
- We will reduce our CO₂ emissions across our electricity and gas consumption, compared to the average over the last five years

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 2024-2028 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 2024.