

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	24 June 2014
OFFICER	Jason Thelwell, Chief Operating Officer
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Catriona Morris
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	2015 – 20 Public Safety Plan: For Public Consultation.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The 2015-20 Public Safety Plan sets out our strategic approach to the management of risk in the communities we serve in what the independent, national review of the fire and rescue service conducted by the former Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, Sir Ken Knight, describes as "a completely different era of risk and demand". Over the last ten years we have seen total fires attended across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes fall by 54 per cent, with serious injuries down 68 per cent.</p> <p>The plan contains an overview of the risks at national, regional and local level, together with a review of the factors that could impact on these. It also sets out a number of challenges that the Service will need to overcome if it is to successfully adapt to the changing landscape of risk and demand and meet the expectations of the public and other key stakeholders. These challenges include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the targeting and effectiveness of our prevention and protection programmes to ensure that these deliver genuine value for the money and effort invested in them and maintain the downward pressure on incident volumes; • 'Right-sizing' our response capacity to deal with the realities of low level day-to-day demand for emergency response services with the relatively infrequent need to respond to major contingencies; • Better matching assets and resources to demand and risk to ensure more even and productive use of our capacity across the areas we serve; • Modernising our 'on-call' duty system to improve availability and reliability. <p>The Plan sets out our broad approach to addressing each of these challenges over the next five years through to</p>

	March 2020.
ACTION	Decision.
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>That Members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the 2015-20 Public Safety Plan at Annex A for public consultation. 2. Approve the consultation plan at Annex B. 3. Grant the Chief Fire Officer discretion to finalise the presentation of the 2015-20 Public Safety Plan in readiness for the consultation and to determine the consultation questions.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>Re-engineering our service provision to reflect the changing nature of risk and demand in the community will provide opportunities to further mitigate a number of our key corporate risks. Our Medium Term Financial Plan forecasts a revenue budget shortfall of £2.5million by the 2017-18 financial year if we do nothing more to reduce the cost of our current service provision and / or raise additional revenue.</p> <p>Striking a more appropriate balance between the capacity needed to deal with current and anticipated levels of 'day-to-day' demand and that needed to deal with relatively infrequent major emergencies is likely to generate significant savings relative to the current cost of our emergency response provision.</p> <p>Staff availability is also another significant area of risk identified within our Corporate Risk Register. Modernising our 'on-call' duty systems will also present opportunities to improve our overall staff availability and general resilience relative to this important area of risk.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The only direct financial impact arising from the publication of this plan is the cost associated with the public consultation process. These are expected to amount to c. £12,500.</p> <p>Further consultation and other costs may arise depending on the nature of and outcomes of the various reviews proposed by the plan. The costs and benefits arising from any recommended changes to service provision will be accounted for in our Medium Term Financial Planning process.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The consultation process will comply with legal requirements by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ being undertaken at a time when proposals are at a formative stage; ▪ providing sufficient information to allow for a

	<p>proper and informed response;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ allowing adequate time for response; and ▪ having responses - or a summary of them - fed back to the Authority for it to take into account when finally approving any Public Safety Plan
HEALTH AND SAFETY	No direct implications arising from the draft Public Safety Plan. The individual reviews will evaluate the health and safety implications associated with any recommendations arising from them.
EQUALITY & DIVERSITY	<p>The consultation plan is designed to ensure that a representative sample of the community is consulted on the issues and proposals contained in the 2015-20 Public Safety Plan. Focus group recruitment is controlled to ensure that an appropriate gender balance, age profile and factors such as ethnicity and disability are addressed.</p> <p>Any changes to service provision arising from the reviews set out in the Plan will be subject to full People Impact Assessments.</p>
USE OF RESOURCES	<p>The Plan sets out the Authority's strategic approach to delivery of the vision of making Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes the safest areas in England in which to live, work and travel addressing, in particular, the pursuit of the underpinning prevention, protection and response strategic aims.</p> <p>Communication with stakeholders</p> <p>The development of the Plan was informed by an initial public consultation carried out in November / December 2013 to explore public expectations of the Service and awareness of the issues and challenges facing it together with some of the ways we might potentially respond to these. A summary of the outcomes of the consultation is contained in the Plan and was reported on in full to Members at the February 2014 CFA meeting.</p> <p>Also a cross-section of the Authority's staff were provided with an opportunity to provide input to the development of the Plan via participation in full day planning workshops run in April 2014.</p> <p>Further consultations on the issues and proposals contained in the 2015-20 Public Safety Plan will be undertaken as set out in the consultation plan at Annex B. There will also be follow on consultations with affected stakeholder groups relating to the outcomes of the various reviews of service provision identified in the Plan.</p> <p>The system of internal control</p> <p>The progress of the public consultation will be overseen</p>

	<p>by the Business Transformation and Strategic Management Boards. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the December CFA meeting together with any proposed changes to 2015-20 Public Safety Plan arising as a result of these for the Authority's approval.</p> <p>The medium term financial strategy</p> <p>The re-shaping of our service provision implied by the Plan will have significant implications for our medium term financial strategy by addressing how it can be delivered in a more efficient and economical manner appropriate to the changed pattern of risk and demand in the community.</p> <p>Balance between spending and resources</p> <p>The immediate costs arising from the public consultation will be met from budgeted resources. Costs associated with the various reviews will be met from within budget and / or recovered from future savings arising from the re-shaping of our service provision.</p> <p>Management of the asset base</p> <p>The plan will have implications for current property and fleet related assets. These will be considered in our Property and Fleet Management strategies.</p> <p>Environmental</p> <p>Where appropriate any changes arising from the outcomes of the reviews of service provision contained in the Plan will be subject to environmental impact assessments.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Public Consultation – Pre-IRMP “Listening & Engagement” research – report of consultation outcomes. 19 February 2014 CFA meeting paper.</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Annex A: 2015-20 Public Safety Plan for consultation Annex B: Consultation Plan</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>Stuart Gowanlock, Corporate Planning Manager sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744435</p>