

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	13 June 2018
OFFICER	Mick Osborne, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Roger Reed
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Fire and Rescue National Framework for England
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>On the 8 May 2018 a revised Fire and Rescue National Framework for England was published alongside a report containing the Government's responses to the outcomes of the public consultation in relation to the same that was run between 27 December 2017 and 14 February 2018.</p> <p>The draft National Framework, together with a recommended response to the consultation, was presented to the Authority at its 14 February 2018 meeting. The Government's position on the issues raised by the Authority in its response to the consultation is set out at Appendix A. The full report on the outcomes of the national consultation and Government responses to the same is shown at Appendix B.</p> <p>The revised National Framework (shown at Appendix C) will take effect from 1 June 2018 and has been comprehensively updated to reflect:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1/ the effect of legislative changes (notably the Policing and Crime Act 2017) and other reforms that have been introduced since the last edition of the Framework was published in 2012; and, 2/ the feedback from the public consultation. <p>The revised Framework seeks to embed key elements of the Government's reform agenda for fire and rescue including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation of local governance by enabling mayors and police and crime commissioners to take on responsibility for fire and rescue from existing fire authorities where a local case to do so is made; • The establishment of a new regime of inspection via Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue (HMICFRS); • A comprehensive set of professional standards (the Minister for Policing and the Fire Service announced

	<p>the Government’s approach to improving professional standards for fire and rescue services across England on 22 May. This includes the creation of a new Fire Standards Board to ensure standards are nationally coordinated to a high level across the sector – further details of the approach are shown at Appendix E);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More efficient procurement and collaboration; • Improved transparency via publication of greater performance data and a new national website for fire and rescue; • An ambitious programme of workforce reform.
ACTION	Noting
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the content of the new National Framework and the Government’s response to the outcomes of the public consultation in relation to the same, be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>No material changes to the requirements for integrated risk management planning specified in the 2012 National Framework have been made.</p> <p>In the response to the 2018 National Framework consultation the Government noted that there was some demand for additional guidance in relation to integrated risk management planning and stated that:</p> <p><i>“The NFCC’s commissioned Community Risk Programme is in the process of developing a comprehensive, evidence-based and accredited risk analysis toolkit which should be used by FRAs to inform IRMPs. However, given the nature of the Framework, we have not made specific reference to this work”.</i></p> <p>It is not yet known whether the toolkit will be available in time to inform the development of the Authority’s 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan, preparations for which are already underway.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	No immediate or direct financial implications arising from the publication of the revised National Framework are envisaged.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	Section 21 of the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004 (FRSA 2004) requires Fire & Rescue Authorities to ‘have regard’ to the National Framework in carrying out their functions.
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	<p>The new National Framework restates the existing statutory duty on fire and rescue authorities, police forces, and ambulance trusts to collaborate set out by the Policing and Crime Act 2017. It also requires, at section 2.15, that:</p> <p><i>“Fire and rescue authorities must collaborate with</i></p>

	<p><i>other fire and rescue authorities to deliver intraoperability (between fire and rescue authorities) and interoperability (with other responders such as other emergency services, wider Category 1 and 2 responders and Local Resilience Forums) in line with the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP). Fire and rescue authorities must collaborate with the National Resilience Lead Authority to ensure interoperability is maintained for National Resilience assets”.</i></p> <p>Intraoperability and interoperability are further defined at sections 2.16 and 2.17 respectively.</p>
<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>	<p>In response to the consultation findings, the new National Framework has been modified to make more specific reference to mental health in the ‘People Strategy’ section which now states, at section 6.1, that this should:</p> <p><i>“...take into account the principles set out in the NFCC’s people strategy and at a minimum cover [amongst other things]... health and safety, wellbeing, disabilities and support (e.g. mental health and physical support)...</i></p>
<p>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</p>	<p>In its response to the consultation findings the Government noted, at paragraph 37, that:</p> <p><i>“One representative body found the detail in the Workforce section light and lacking any ‘teeth’ and invited Home Office to consider the re-introduction of national targets or diversity measures, or to require FRS to set local targets/diversity measures underpinned through appropriate data for their local communities.</i></p> <p><i>Response – The current lack of diversity amongst firefighters is unacceptable and although we have seen improvements in the most recent data on new joiners for whole-time staff, there is still a lot further to go. Firefighters should represent the communities they serve which is why diversity targets should be set locally rather than nationally. We would expect FRAs to have an improvement plan in place and consider and scrutinise available data to improve diversity year on year”.</i></p> <p>The People Strategy therefore states, at section 6.1, that an FRS should be <i>“continuously improving the diversity of the workforce to ensure it represents the community it serves”.</i></p>
<p>USE OF RESOURCES</p>	<p>The arrangements for setting, reviewing and implementing strategic and operational objectives; Performance monitoring, including budget monitoring; achievement of strategic objectives and best value performance</p>

	<p>indicators.</p> <p>Given the statutory requirement for fire and rescue authorities to 'have regard' to the National Framework in carrying out their functions, the requirements of the Framework will inform the Authority's approach to pursuit of its strategic objectives and enablers via its Public Safety and Corporate plans.</p> <p>Communication with stakeholders</p> <p>The new National Framework sets out requirements for fire and rescue authorities relating to stakeholder consultation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That each Integrated Risk Management Plan must "<i>reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners</i>" (section 4.6i);• "<i>In demonstrating their accountability to communities for the service they provide, fire and rescue authorities need [amongst other things] to: ...provide the opportunity for communities to help to plan their local service through effective consultation and involvement...</i>" (section 7.12); <p>These essentially re-state what was in the 2012 Framework and are not considered to impose any additional burdens on the Authority.</p> <p>The system of internal control</p> <p>Officers will have regard to National Framework requirements when preparing key strategic documents covered by the scope of the Framework such as the Public Safety Plan (IRMP), Medium Term Financial Plan, Annual Statement of Assurance and People Strategy.</p> <p>The medium term financial strategy</p> <p>The new National Framework specifies a number of requirements at section 5, in particular in relation to the production of medium term financial plan, efficiency plan and reserves strategy. The Authority is already fully compliant with these requirements.</p> <p>The balance between spending and resources</p> <p>No immediate or direct revenue or capital costs arising from the publication of the new Framework.</p> <p>The management of the asset base</p> <p>The new National Framework confirms, at section 3.1 relating to national resilience, that:</p> <p><i>"The Government retains responsibility for the provision of national resilience assets and capabilities managed and delivered through fire and rescue services. This responsibility extends to undertaking the National Risk Assessment which informs the</i></p>
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	<p><i>requirements for fire and rescue national resilience capabilities. In meeting this responsibility, the Government has committed significant financial resource to build national resilience capabilities and to support their ongoing maintenance”.</i></p> <p>The arrangements to promote and ensure probity and propriety Requirements in relation to accountability and transparency are set out at sections 7.10 – 7.12 and 7.14 – 7.16 of the Framework document. Officers are of the view that the Authority already meets these requirements.</p> <p>Environmental No new or specific requirements specified in or arising from the publication of the new Framework.</p>
<p>PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS</p>	<p>Background The draft 2018 National Framework and proposed response to the public consultation in relation to the same was presented to the Authority for approval at its 14 February 2018 meeting (at agenda item 9): http://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/9615/1782/8239/FIRE_AUTHORITY_AGENDA_AND_REPORTS_140218-min.pdf</p>
<p>APPENDICES</p>	<p>Appendix A: Home Office responses to BMKFA consultation feedback; Appendix B: Home Office response to national consultation outcomes; Appendix C: 2018 Fire and Rescue National Framework for England; Appendix D: Home Office letter announcing approach to re-development of the Incident Recording System; Appendix E: Ministerial announcement regarding approach to fire professional standards.</p>
<p>TIME REQUIRED</p>	<p>15 Minutes</p>
<p>REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT</p>	<p>Stuart Gowanlock sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744435</p>