



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	12 December 2018
OFFICER	Julian Parsons, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	Councillor Jean Teesdale – Lead Member Community Protection
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	2020 – 2025 Public Safety Plan: “Listening & Engagement” Research
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Officers are currently engaged in the development of the Authority’s next Public Safety Plan (PSP). This is being constructed using integrated risk management planning principles as required by the Fire and Rescue National Framework. The new plan will succeed the current 2015-20 PSP and take effect from April 2020.</p> <p>The National Framework requires that, amongst other things, the IRMP <i>“reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies, and partners”</i>.</p> <p>This requirement is being met via a two stage consultation process, parts of which have already been implemented, embracing the general public, Authority staff and other stakeholders:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An initial ‘listening and engagement’ phase with the public which will explore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perceptions of, attitudes towards and tolerance for risk; • perceptions of the Authority and the services it offers and any expectations in relation to these; • awareness of the issues and challenges facing the Authority and general feelings about potential ways of responding to these; • what really matters to the public and other stakeholders as we seek to effect changes in order to respond to the challenges faced by the Authority. 2. A formal consultation on specific proposals arising out of the 2020-2025 PSP development process which will be undertaken Summer 2019.

	<p>Opinion Research Services (ORS) have been commissioned to undertake the public facing elements of the consultation process for both phases. Phase 1 consisted of five ‘Citizen Engagement’ focus groups. These were held in the following locations during the period 20 November – 5 December to capture both urban and rural perspectives: Milton Keynes, Buckingham, Aylesbury, Chesham, High Wycombe.</p> <p>A report on the outcomes of this initial research will be submitted to the February 2019 Fire Authority meeting.</p> <p>Also, there is scope to re-recruit the same participants again in phase 2, when specific proposals will be consulted on, which means that they will be able to consider them from a more informed perspective than would be possible with fresh groups of people drawn from the wider public.</p>
ACTION	For noting.
RECOMMENDATIONS	That the report be noted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	<p>A detailed risk assessment was carried out with ORS at the project planning stage and a risk log established within the Project Initiation Document (PID) & appropriate measures identified to control the identified risks.</p> <p>The key corporate risks arising out of the research process include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the range of views expressed are not typical of the public as a whole; • That the research is poorly executed and fails to meet the specified requirements. <p>Both of these risks could impair the decision making process in relation to the development of the PSP were they to crystalise.</p> <p>The first risk is controlled via the participant recruitment process which is designed to ensure that a representative sample of the public is selected by using quotas for age, gender, social group, ethnicity and geographic factors. The second, via ORS’ training and research methods which are fully accredited to relevant British, ISO and IQCS standards. ORS are also a Market Research Society (MRS) Company Partner and are fully compliant with the MRS Code of Conduct.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The cost of Phase One of the research is £13,550 which will be paid during the 2018/19 financial year.</p> <p>The cost of the second phase of the research which will take place in the next financial year (2019/20) is £16,150 (as well as a further five focus groups this</p>

	includes provision of an online consultation channel to facilitate a wider response from members of the public, Authority staff and other external stakeholders). These costs will be met from existing revenue budget resources.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	<p>The approach complies with National Framework requirements by ensuring that consultation is undertaken at appropriate points in the IRMP/PSP development process.</p> <p>The outcomes of the consultation are not binding on the Authority. However, it is required to have regard to them in reaching decisions associated with the integrated risk management planning process where relevant.</p>
CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE	The National Framework requires every fire and rescue authority to produce its own IRMP/PSP. However, officers share thinking on approaches to IRMP/PSP development and consultation practices with other fire and rescue services, in particular our Thames Valley partners.
HEALTH AND SAFETY	No direct implications arising from this initial consultation work.
EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY	The participant selection process is designed to ensure that a representative sample of the public is consulted as detailed in the risk management section above.
USE OF RESOURCES	The consultation work is being resourced from within existing budgets and staff capacity. The outcomes of the consultation work will be used to help inform decision making in relation to future Authority resource allocation.
PROVENANCE SECTION & BACKGROUND PAPERS	<p>Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018): https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-and-rescue-national-framework-for-england--2</p> <p>2015-2020 PSP: https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8114/2116/4524/2015-20_PSP_Updated_after_17_Dec_CFA.pdf</p>
APPENDICES	None
TIME REQUIRED	10 Minutes
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Stuart Gowanlock, Corporate Planning Manager sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk 01296 744435</p>