

Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority



MEETING	Fire Authority
DATE OF MEETING	18 September 2019
OFFICER	Calum Bell, Head of Service Development
LEAD MEMBER	
SUBJECT OF THE REPORT	Draft 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan – For Public Consultation
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan sets out our strategic approach to the management of risk in the communities we serve.</p> <p>The plan identifies the key challenges that the Service will need to meet 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 dealing with the risks arising from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the introduction of new transport infrastructure across the area served by the Authority; • a growing, ageing and diversifying population; • civil contingencies (including the potential effects of climate change); • a changing technology, information and systems security environment; • workforce pressures; and, • a potentially adverse financial outlook. <p>The Plan sets out our broad approach to addressing each of these challenges over the next five years through to March 2025.</p>
ACTION	Decision
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the draft 2020-25 Public Safety Plan at Annex A be approved for public consultation; 2. the consultation plan at Annex B be approved; 3. the Chief Fire Officer be granted discretion to finalise the presentation of the 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan in readiness for the consultation and to determine the consultation questions.
RISK MANAGEMENT	Continued re-engineering of our service provision to reflect the changing nature of risk and demand in the

	<p>community may provide opportunities to further mitigate a number of our key corporate risks. For example, our Medium Term Financial Plan forecasts a cumulative revenue budget shortfall of £5.839 million by the 2024/25 financial year if we are unable to raise sufficient additional revenue above that currently envisaged in the Medium Term Financial Plan or, do nothing more to reduce the overall cost of our current service provision. This shortfall is currently being mitigated by reducing the revenue budget contribution to the capital programme but by doing this, our capital reserves would be exhausted before the end of the 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p>Staff availability is also another significant area of risk identified within our Corporate Risk Register. Modernising and continually improving the flexibility of our employment propositions, as envisaged in the draft 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan, will also present opportunities to improve staff retention and recruitment thus enhancing staff availability and general resilience relative to this important area of risk.</p> <p>Regarding the public consultation process, a detailed risk assessment was carried out with Opinion Research Services at the project planning stage and a risk log established within the Project Initiation Document with appropriate measures identified to control the identified risks. 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 representative of those of the public as a whole; and, • 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 Public Safety Plan were they to crystallise. The first risk is controlled via the focus group 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, disability and geographic factors. The second, via ORS’ training and research methods which are fully accredited to relevant British, ISO and Interviewer Quality Control Scheme standards. Opinion Research Services are also a Market Research Society (MRS) Company Partner and are fully compliant with the MRS Code of Conduct.</p>
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The cost of Phase One of the consultation was £13,550 which was paid during the 2018/19 financial year. The cost of this phase of the consultation, which will take place in this financial year (2019/20), is £16,150 (as well as a further five focus groups this includes</p>

	<p>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. No other significant costs are envisaged to arise as a result of the consultation process in relation to the draft Public Safety Plan.</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>
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</p>	<p>The approach to the consultation complies with National Framework requirements by ensuring that consultation is undertaken at appropriate points in the Integrated Risk Management / Public Safety Plan development process. 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 Public Safety Plan where relevant.</p>
<p>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</p>	<p>The National Framework requires every fire and rescue authority to produce its own Integrated Risk Management / Public Safety Plan. However, officers share thinking on approaches to plan development and consultation practices with other fire and rescue services, in particular our Thames Valley partners. The draft Public Safety Plan also identifies opportunities to continue and further collaboration where appropriate.</p>
<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>	<p>No direct implications arising from the draft Public Safety Plan. Any proposals for change arising from the Plan will include evaluation of the health and safety implications.</p>
<p>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</p>	<p>The focus group recruitment process is designed to ensure that a representative sample of the public is consulted as detailed in the risk management section above.</p>
<p>USE OF RESOURCES</p>	<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.</p> <p>Communication with stakeholders</p> <p>The development of the Plan was informed by an initial public consultation carried out in November / December 2018 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</p>

outcomes of the consultation is contained in the Plan and was reported on in full to Members at the February 2019 Fire Authority meeting.

Informal consultations have also taken place with Service Managers and the Representative Bodies during the development of the draft Public Safety Plan and formal 'gateway' reviews were undertaken by the Business Transformation Board on 1 August 2019 and Strategic Management Board on 13 August 2019.

Further consultations on the issues and proposals contained in the 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan will be undertaken as set out in the consultation plan at Annex B.

The system of internal control

The progress of the public consultation will be overseen by the Business Transformation and Strategic Management Boards. The outcomes of the consultation and finalised 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan, updated in light of the outcomes of the public consultation and any relevant findings from the Service's HMICFRS inspection report (due to be published in December 2019), will be submitted to the February 2020 Fire Authority Meeting for approval alongside the 2020-2025 Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan.

The medium term financial strategy

No direct implications arising from the consultation process. However, the medium term financial strategy will be informed by the interdependencies between the Public Safety Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan.

The balance between spending and resources

The immediate costs arising from the public consultation will be met from current financial year budgeted resources. Costs associated with the pursuit of the proposals contained in the draft Public Safety Plan will be factored in to future budget planning.

The management of the asset base

The 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan may have implications for current property and fleet related assets. These will be considered in our Property and Fleet Management strategies.

The arrangements to promote and ensure probity and propriety

These are assured by compliance with National Framework requirements relating to the development of, and consultation for, Integrated Risk Management Plans.

Environmental

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.
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 Public Safety Plan: https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/8114/2116/4524/2015-20-PUBLIC-SAFETY-PLAN Updated after 17 Dec CFA.pdf</p> <p>2020 – 2025 Public Safety Plan – “Listening & Engagement” Research Report: https://bucksfire.gov.uk/files/4915/4894/2682/ITEM_12_Outcomes_of_2020-2025_PUBLIC_SAFETY_PLAN Focus Groups Report Appendix.pdf</p>
APPENDICES	<p>Annex A: 2020-2025 Public Safety Plan for consultation Annex B: Consultation Plan</p>
TIME REQUIRED	30 Minutes
REPORT ORIGINATOR AND CONTACT	<p>Stuart Gowanlock, Corporate Planning Manager sgowanlock@bucksfire.gov.uk</p>