



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Fire Authority, 11 October 2023

Report title: Extend the time period of the BFRS Response Strategy

Lead Member: Councillor Simon Rouse

Report sponsor: Simon Tuffley – Head of Prevention, Response and Resilience

Author and contact: Group Commander Stuart Grosse sgrosse@bucksfire.gov.uk

Action: Decision.

Recommendations:

That the Authority approve the extension of the Response Strategy, so that the strategy aligns with, and is informed by, the new Community Risk Management Plan.

Executive summary:

The current BFRS Response Strategy has been live since 2018 and is due to end in 2023. By extending the life of the current Response Strategy and then taking the information used to build the new CRMP, BFRS can better understand the future response needs of the communities we serve and the strategic direction the Service will take. This will enable a well-informed Response Strategy to be delivered, that is appropriate and relevant to the risks and the communities that BFRS Serve. The extension also brings the live strategy in line with the current Public Safety Plan.

Risk management:

By not extending the Response Strategy, BFRS are at risk of having to produce a new Response Strategy that does not fully understand the future needs of the communities we serve. By extending the life of the current Response Strategy and then developing a Response Strategy alongside the CRMP, we can be better informed of the community risks and needs.

BFRS will continue to monitor known and emerging risks, through community engagement and through the BFRS Emerging Risks Group. Examples of this are our wildfire response to the 2022 summer pressures and our early engagement with developers in the growth of Battery Energy Storage Systems in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes.

Though minor elements are now out of date, the current Response Strategy is suitable to be extended until April 2025.

Legal implications:

As part of the extension to the Response Strategy, legal implications were considered but no additional legal implications were identified.

Privacy and security implications:

There are no additional privacy or security implications to the extension of this strategy.

Duty to collaborate:

The Service continues to collaborate with Thames Valley Fire and Rescue Service partners, Thames Valley Police and South Central Ambulance Service as part of the current Response Strategy.

Health and safety implications:

There are no additional Health and Safety implications.

Environmental implications:

There are no additional environmental impacts.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:

An Integrated Impact Assessment forms part of the current Response Strategy (section 19). An Equalities Impact assessment (EIA) has been completed as part of this recommendation; this will be reviewed during the extension period of the Response Strategy. A new EIA will be completed with the 2024 Response Strategy.

Consultation and communication:

The extension of the Response Strategy has been consulted on with the Joint Consultation Forum, corporate planning and the Leadership Group.

The extension of the strategy will progress through Joint Consultation Forum, Business Transformation Board, Strategic Management Board, for approval at the full Fire Authority meeting in October 2023.

Every effort will be made to ensure individuals are fully involved in the review of the Response Strategy and their feedback captured and considered during the consultation process.

Changes to Version 1.1

A title box with the paragraph *'Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service Response Strategy 2018-2023 will remain live until its replacement is published alongside the Community Risk Management Plan in April 2025'* has been added to the top of the response strategy.

The title of the Information Asset Owner has changed to Head of Prevention, Response and Resilience.

The title 'His Majesty's' has replaced 'Her Majesty's' when referring to the HMICFRS.

These have been updated in the Response Strategy Version 1.1.

Background papers:

Response Strategy 2018 – 2023 Version 1.1, with additional extension paragraph (in title box) added and updates to asset Owner and HMICFRS.

Appendix	Title
Appendix A	Response Strategy with extension
Appendix B	Equality Impact Assessment