

Status of Report:	Public
Meeting:	Combined Fire Authority
Date:	14 February 2024
Subject:	Community Risk Management Plan Public Consultation Results
Report by:	Callum Faint, Chief Fire and Rescue Officer
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For:	Discussion

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to present the final results of the public consultation in relation to the Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2024-2028.

Recommendation

2. The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) is asked to note the contents of this report and the supporting appendices and approve the 2024-2028 CRMP.

Executive Summary

3. The CFA has a legal duty in accordance with the Fire and Rescue Act 2004, the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 and the Fire Standards Board CRMP Fire Standard to periodically review its fire and rescue service provisions to ensure that they are fit for purpose and appropriate to community needs. To comply with this requirement a formal project has been delivered to undertake public consultation on the CRMP which was agreed by the CFA at its meeting in July 2023.
4. The 12-week period of public consultation commenced on 1 September 2023 and concluded on 24 November 2023. The outcomes of the consultation have been collated and analysed and the results are presented as Appendix 1 to this report.
5. Non-survey based responses have also been included as Appendices to provide CFA members with all the information which was submitted in response to the consultation. Appendix 2 is the formal response from the Fire Brigades Union which was received as an open letter to the Chair of the CFA on 27 November 2023. Appendix 3 is the Chief Fire Officer's response to the FBU's letter. Appendices 4 and 5 are shortened, easy read versions of the consultation summary report.

Background

6. A CRMP must assess all foreseeable fire and rescue-related risks to communities and put in place arrangements to respond to and deal with them. It must cover at least a three-year time period, be regularly reviewed, reflect local risk, be developed through extensive consultation with multiple partners and be accessible and cost-effective. The planning process should also have regard for cross border, multi-agency risks and national incidents.
7. At its meeting in July 2023, the CFA approved the proposed CRMP 2024-2028 for public consultation.

Consultation Methodology

8. The consultation summary report, presented as Appendix 1, includes the background to the consultation and the principles which were followed in undertaking it. It summarises the engagement activity completed and details of the consultation responses.
9. Appendix 1 also includes a summary regarding the demographics of those who responded and a brief summary of the results for each strategy. It also contains detailed analysis of the consultation results and a summary of the comments received in the questionnaire.

Consultation Findings

10. The CRMP Consultation Results Report contains the results of the consultation. In total, 188 survey responses were received; 61% of the survey respondents were members of the public, and 25% were serving firefighters or support staff.
11. The majority of respondents agreed with the five strategies within the CRMP.

Next Steps

12. Assuming the CRMP is approved, a number of projects and activities will be initiated to deliver the actions and benefits outlined in the plan.
13. Activities to achieve successful delivery of the CRMP will be recorded on local District and Department Plans, with regular progress updates being presented to the Corporate Governance Committee at their quarterly meetings. All of the actions will be successfully delivered by the end of 2028.

Report Implications/Impact

14. Legal (including crime and disorder)

In delivering the CRMP consultation, the CFA has complied with 'best practice' as described by the 'Gunning' principles. In addition, the CFA has also complied with the requirement of the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England 2018 to have a valid CRMP.

15. Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

Delivery of the CRMP 2024-2028 public consultation incurred costs of £8,085. In addition to these costs there was significant resource effort incurred by staff in creating, managing, and communicating the consultation.

16. Risk (including corporate and operational, health and safety and any impact on the continuity of service delivery)

Through compliance with 'best practice' as described by the 'Gunning' principles, the CFA has eliminated risk associated with the delivery of its public consultation and the CRMP.

17. Staff, Service Users and Stakeholders (including the Equality Impact Assessment)

The detail and full analysis of participation in the public consultation are contained in Appendix 1.

The public consultation Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed prior to the commencement of the consultation. EIAs also exist for each of the five supporting strategies.

18. Environmental

Environmental factors including climate change are factored into the risks within the CRMP, proposals for mitigating them are included as suggested actions.

19. Impact upon Our Plan Objectives

Undertaking effective consultation achieves the 'aim' of our Governance Strategy of 'proving assurance.' It also delivers the four 'outcomes' of well-informed communities, well-informed staff and knowing what our staff and communities think. The 'objectives' of the Governance Strategy which states that 'we will engage with staff and all communities on major changes affecting our Service' and 'inform staff and communities about the key decisions that we make' have been successfully accomplished.

Background Papers

Community Risk Management Plan 2024-2028 Document – July 2023 CFA.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – CRMP 2024-2028 Consultation Results Report.

Appendix 2 – Fire Brigades Union Response to LFRS CRMP 2024-2028.

Appendix 3 – CFO Response to FBU regarding LFRS CRMP 2024-2028.

Appendix 4 – CRMP 2024-2028 Consultation Summary Report – One Pager

Appendix 5 – CRMP 2024-2028 Consultation Summary Report – Brief Summary

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