

Status of Report: Public

Meeting: Corporate Governance Committee

Date: 10 March 2021

Subject: Industrial Action Business Continuity Planning

Report by: The Chief Fire and Rescue Officer

Author: Andy Galway, Area Manager – Service Assurance

For: Decision

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee that the appropriate arrangements are in place to support the third party providers internally within Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) with the activation of the business continuity plan, should the arrangements be called upon.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that the Committee closes this item. No additional reports will be presented to the Committee unless the 'Industrial Action Business Continuity' arrangements need to be activated, or arrangements need to be significantly adjusted.

Executive Summary

3. The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) is required by law to have effective Business Continuity Plans and make every effort in the event of Industrial Action to maintain the full range of response services.
4. The CFA agreed at its meeting in September 2019 to approve the use of third-party contingency providers, supported by internal arrangements, in order to satisfy the minimum response suggested by the Home Office of maintaining six fire engines during periods of industrial action.

Background

5. In November 2020 a report was presented to this Committee which confirmed that the request in September 2019 to arrange with a third party provider to ensure that suitable business continuity arrangements were in place, had been implemented.
6. At that time, the Committee noted the following: *'the arrangements in place to employ a third-party contingency provider in order to put in place appropriate business continuity arrangements should the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service be exposed to periods of industrial action.'*

7. Following the Committee noting the report, a number of internal arrangements then needed to be facilitated to ensure that should the plan be activated, LFRS could do so effectively and efficiently.
8. These arrangements were reviewed by the Corporate Risk and Resilience team and this included the production of any new processes, and ensuring that any existing procedures were suitable and sufficient, is now complete.
9. These processes and procedures are now in place, and have been set future review dates to ensure that they remain current and appropriate.

Report Implications/Impact

Legal (including crime and disorder)

10. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires Category 1 responders to maintain plans to ensure that they can continue to exercise their functions in the event of an emergency so far as is reasonably practicable. The duty relates to all functions, not just their emergency response functions.

Financial (including value for money, benefits and efficiencies)

11. The costs associated with the implementation of this third party provider have been previously reported to this Committee. No further costs have been identified in establishing the supporting procedures and processes.

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

12. The Contingency Response Arrangements project has assessed all aspects of risk associated with the use of the third-party provider crews.

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

13. No further issues have been identified in establishing the supporting

Environmental

14. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Impact upon Our Plan Objective

15. The Business Continuity Plan supports the Response strategy aim - respond effectively to incidents.

Background Papers

Report to the CFA December 2018 - Agenda item 9, Home Office Industrial Action Business Continuity Plan Review https://leics-fire.gov.uk/my-calendar/?mc_id=123

Report to the CFA 27 September 2019 – Agenda item 12, Industrial Action Business Continuity Planning https://leics-fire.gov.uk/my-calendar/?mc_id=140

Report to the CGC 11 March 2020 – Agenda item 13, Industrial Action Business Continuity Planning <https://leics-fire.gov.uk/your-fire-service/decision-making/cfa-meetings/>

Officers to Contact

Callum Faint

Callum.faint@leics-fire.gov.uk

07800709922

Andy Galway

andy.galway@leics-fire.gov.uk

07966111212