

# ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>FIRE AUTHORITY</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>25 JUNE 2020</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>SUMMARY REPORT OF RESPONSES TO IRMP STRATEGY CONSULTATION – PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND RESPONSE CONSULTATION PROPOSALS</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	<b>KATIE MILLS, HEAD OF CORPORATE SERVICES</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR DEXTER SMITH</b>
<b>EXEMPT INFORMATION</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION</b>

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To provide Fire Authority Members with a full and final summary feedback report of the responses to the IRMP Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy consultation.
- 1.2 To seek a decision on those Prevention, Protection and Response proposals, following **conscientious consideration** of the consultation feedback.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Fire Authority:-

- 2.1 **Consider** the full summary report of consultation responses in relation to the Prevention proposals and **determine** what action should be taken in relation to proposals 1-5.
- 2.2 **Consider** the full summary report of consultation responses in relation to the Protection proposals and **determine** what action should be taken in relation to proposals 1 and 2.
- 2.3 **Consider** the full summary report of consultation responses in relation to the Response proposals and **determine** what action should be taken in relation to proposals 1-6.
- 2.4 **Note** the full summary report of consultation responses in relation to the **Council Tax** precept increase question.

### **3. REPORT**

#### **BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The IRMP Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy consultation opened on 2 March 2020, and closed on 11 May 2020, following a ten-week consultation period.
- 3.2 The consultation was initially due to finish on 27 April 2020, however, the impact of COVID-19 meant the planned face-to-face engagement activities were limited by these restrictions. Consequently, the decision was made to extend the consultation by two weeks, to enable increased social media activity and digital engagement and to provide more time for people to respond.
- 3.3 The report provided with this paper gives members an overview of stakeholder activity, a breakdown of demographic profiles and a detailed analysis of responses from members of the public, staff and a variety of organisations.
- 3.4 The online questionnaire was the primary method of gaining feedback from stakeholders. It received a total of 306 entries and, along with other collection methods such as email, gave an overall total of 312 responses.
- 3.5 In undertaking the consultation, a key focus was on ensuring it was as accessible to as many people as possible. This included working closely with the Service's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, improving the way we collect equality data, seeking advice and guidance from the Consultation Institute, and working with an external company to produce 'Easy Read' versions of the consultation documentation.
- 3.6 Following Fire Authority consideration and determination of the proposals set out in the consultations, officers will begin work on implementation and delivery of the agreed proposals.

### **4. PREVENTION PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 The headline results for the proposals contained within the Prevention Strategy and Underpinning Risk Analysis are:
- A significant majority of respondents (**93.8%**) agreed with proposal 1 – Introducing a risk-based programme of follow-up Safe and Well Visits for the most vulnerable cases.
  - A significant majority of respondents (**90.9%**) agreed with proposal 2 – Renaming our target groups for Safe and Well Visits to better reflect the type of risk posed to 'Risk to Individuals' and 'Risk to Households'.

- A significant majority of respondents (**91.4%**) agreed with proposal 3 – Within our Road Safety Programme include targeted activity for motorcyclists based on risk.
  - A significant majority of respondents (**95.5%**) agreed with proposal 4 - Focus our activities in support of Children and Young People through our road and water safety education programmes, Fire Cadets and Fire Safe.
  - A significant majority of respondents (**88.7%**) agreed with proposal 5 – Continue to pilot an Adult FireSafe programme to fully understand the implications and potential benefits of this activity.
- 4.2 Qualitative data was provided by respondents for some proposals and this has been analysed and coded into themes within the report to provide further insight into the choices made.

## **5. PROTECTION PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 The headline results for the proposals contained within the Protection Strategy and Underpinning Risk Analysis are:
- A significant majority of respondents (**96.6%**) agreed with proposal 1 – Develop our Risk Based Inspection Programme methodology to look at both risk of property and risk of compliance.
  - A significant majority of respondents (**98.5%**) agreed with proposal 2 – Continue to respond to changes in legislation and guidance related to building regulations and fire safety and ensure this is reflected in our policies, processes and ways of working.
- 5.2 Qualitative data was provided by respondents for some proposals and this has been analysed and coded into themes within the report to provide further insight into the choices made.

## **6. RESPONSE PROPOSALS**

- 6.1 The headline results for the proposals contained within the Response Strategy and Underpinning Risk Analysis are:
- A significant majority of respondents (**95.9%**) agreed with proposal 1 – In 2020/21, we propose to undertake a review of our specialist water rescue capability to ensure it continues to be aligned to local risk and reflects national practice.
  - A significant majority of respondents (**96.4%**) agreed with proposal 2 – In 2021/22, we propose to undertake a review of our technical rescue capability to ensure it continues to be aligned to local risk and reflects national best practice.
  - A significant majority of respondents (**95.8%**) agreed with proposal 3 – In 2022/23, we propose to undertake a review of our incident support capability

to ensure it continues to be aligned to local risk and reflects national best practice.

- The majority of respondents (**81.5%**) agreed with proposal 4 – Undertake a project to consider the feasibility of introducing dynamic risk-based nucleus crewing in the West of the County to improve emergency incident response times.
- A significant majority of respondents (**89.2%**) agreed with proposal 5 - We propose to retain the current operational planning assumptions and use these assumptions to underpin our Integrated Risk Management Planning.
- A significant majority of respondents (**96.4%**) agreed with proposal 6 – To avoid having to reduce our ability to meet our Response Standard in order to balance our budget, the Fire Authority will lobby Central Government for a fair funding settlement to sustain our optimum model.

6.2 Qualitative data was provided by respondents for some proposals and this has been analysed and coded into themes within the report to provide further insight into the choices made.

## **7. COUNCIL TAX QUESTION**

7.1 The majority of respondents (**82.5%**) agreed to the question of – Would you support an increase of £5 in Council Tax (based on a Band D property) for the next financial year?

## **8. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS**

8.1 The three Strategies support the delivery of all Strategic Commitments.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Financial considerations have been outlined in the Strategies as appropriate. Provision has been included in the 2020/21 budget to finance a project to assess the feasibility of introducing dynamic risk-based nucleus crewing in the west of the County, should Members decide, following conscientious consideration, to approve this proposal in the Response Strategy.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Fire and rescue authorities have a responsibility to make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities and response to fire and rescue related incidents. In support of this, the 'Fire and rescue national framework for England' ('the National Framework' is statutory guidance issued under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004) requires each fire and rescue authority to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan, which includes an assessment of foreseeable fire and rescue related risks.

- 10.2 The approach to the consultation has complied with the National Framework requirements by ensuring that consultation is undertaken at appropriate points in the IRMP development process; and that the IRMP reflects effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners.
- 10.3 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 IRMP.

## **11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 Equality Impact Assessments have been completed for each of the strategies and the consultation process. All three strategies are underpinned by our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Objective to improve our service delivery by knowing the communities we serve through partnerships and a risk-based approach.

## **12. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Strategies are underpinned by updated risk analysis, which has been used to inform the proposals for consultation.

## **13. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE**

- 13.1 In the delivery of its Services, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service works in collaboration with blue light partners both locally and nationally as required.

## **14. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION**

- 14.1 The statutory officers and Senior Leadership Team has been consulted in the preparation of the report.

## **15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 15.1 [Corporate Plan and Integrated Risk Management Plan 2019-23](#)

## **16. APPENDICES**

- 16.1 Appendix A – Strategies for Prevention, Protection and Response Consultation Summary Report
- 16.2 Appendix B - Prevention Strategy and Underpinning Risk Analysis
- 16.3 Appendix C - Protection Strategy and Underpinning Risk Analysis
- 16.4 Appendix D - Response Strategy and Underpinning Risk Analysis

## **17. CONTACT DETAILS**

- 17.1 Katie Mills, Head of Corporate Services 0118 938 4605