

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	DSFRA/22/1
MEETING	DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DATE OF MEETING	18 FEBRUARY 2022 (Budget Meeting)
SUBJECT OF REPORT	COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-23 TO 2026-27
LEAD OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
RECOMMENDATIONS	<p><i>(a). That the Authority consider any recommendations as may be made by the Community Safety Committee following its consideration of the outcome of the consultation on the draft Community Risk Management Plan;</i></p> <p><i>(b). That, having considered this and subject to any amendments as may be indicated at this meeting, the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-27 be approved.</i></p>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>The Fire and Rescue National framework for England requires fire and rescue services to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan. In line with the National Standard, the next iteration of this Authority's plan will be titled a Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2027.</p> <p>The Community Risk Management Plan provides an overview of fire and rescue-related risks faced by the communities in the geographical counties of Devon and Somerset. It identifies the plans for tackling those risks through Service prevention, protection, and emergency response activities.</p> <p>At its meeting on 10 November 2021, the Authority approved a draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-2027 for public consultation purposes. The outcome of the subsequent twelve-week consultation was submitted to the Community Safety Committee meeting on 9 February 2022, together with a proposed final Community Risk Management Plan amended as necessary to reflect views expressed during the consultation.</p> <p>The Community Risk Management Plan is supported by a Strategic Risk Analysis. Once the final Plan is approved, both it and the Strategic Risk Analysis will be published on the Authority website.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	N/A

EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ANALYSIS	An equality impact assessment has been prepared alongside the CRMP to identify any disproportionate impacts on groups of people within our communities. This will be finalised before the document goes to public consultation.
APPENDICES	A. Draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-2027
BACKGROUND PAPERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Risk Analysis 2. Community Risk Management Plan Consultation Overview: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Online Survey Findings (ii) Email Response Summary (iii) Focus Group Report (Devon Communities Together) (iv) Focus Group Report (Consultation and Engagement Team) 3. Community Risk Management Plan 2022-27 Equality Impact Assessment <p>(Note: each of the above papers are hyper-linked and are readily available on the Authority website. Each paper was submitted with the agenda for the Community Services Committee meeting held on 9 February 2022).</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority (the Authority) is responsible for ensuring that the communities of Somerset, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are protected and supported by an effective and efficient fire and rescue service, the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service (the Service).
- 1.2. The Authority has a statutory duty to assess and plan for threats and risks to all its communities. All fire and rescue services maintain a response capability to ensure that they can respond, together with partner agencies as necessary, to foreseeable risks identified at a national, regional and local level. This requirement is fulfilled through the Community Risk Management Plan (the Plan), where the key challenges and risks facing the Service are set out along with how it is intended to meet and reduce them.
- 1.3. There is an integrated approach to ensuring community safety through the Service's prevention, protection and response activities. The Service protects over 1.8m people and will always seek to prevent incidents from occurring but when needed, it will respond quickly to minimise harm and economic loss.
- 1.4. The Plan sets out how protection, prevention and response activities have and will be used collectively to prevent and/or mitigate fires and other incidents so as to reduce detrimental impacts on all communities (including business), firefighters and to promote economic wellbeing.
- 1.5. The Plan is accompanied by a Strategic Risk Analysis which outlines future trends anticipated in the next five years and the top-level plans to keep communities and staff safe.

2. THE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.1. The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England requires each fire and rescue service to prepare an Integrated Risk Management Plan. The next iteration of this for this Authority will be titled the Community Risk Management Plan (in line with the National Standard). This Plan provides an overview of how services are aligned to risk so as to keep people safe from fire and rescue-related risks. This is done by balancing Service resources across Prevention, Protection and Emergency Response activities. The Plan is framed by strategic duties and responsibilities including the Fire & Rescue Services Act 2004, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.
- 2.2. The Plan covers a five-year period (2022- 2027) and provides an overview of fire and rescue-related risks faced by the communities served. The Plan identifies how these risks will be addressed by prevention, protection and emergency response activities.

- 2.3. The Plan provides the strategy for keeping Devon and Somerset communities, its environment, homes and people safe from fire and other emergencies. Any emerging risks over the next five years will be considered and evaluated with evidence to inform, support and develop the resilience of both the Service and communities. The impacts of extreme events can be devastating and far reaching for communities. The Authority will, therefore, seek to improve community resilience through successful engagement and partnership working.
- 2.4. In determining the risks within the community and how to mitigate them, it is important to ensure that the planning process is sustainable for the future to deliver services to communities. This requires the proposals in the Plan to take account of the operating budget of the Service to identify the capacity and capabilities required to meet the needs of existing, new and emerging risks.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

Plan Development

- 3.1. In developing the Plan, it was essential for the Service to understand not only the risks to be addressed but also the views of its communities, residents and businesses on their perception of the risks and measures required to address them.
- 3.2. Several workshops were held with the Authority to develop a draft Plan which was approved for public consultation purposes by the Authority at its meeting on 10 November 2021 (Minute DSFRA/21/28 refers).
- 3.3. The consultation on the draft Plan commenced on 15 November 2021 and closed on 14 January 2022. Mid-term and closing reviews were undertaken to monitor responses from identified stakeholders and quality of response.
- 3.4. The consultation consisted of a dedicated email address, engagement events, focus groups and on-line survey.

Summary of Consultation Results

- 3.5. 249 responses to the consultation were received, 241 completed responses by online survey and 8 responses received by email. A further 36 individuals were engaged through focus groups. 53 members of staff and 13 members of the public engaged through the virtual events. Most members of the public represented a local parish council.
- 3.6. From the on-line survey, 32.9% of respondents were female and 54.7% male. 0.9% identified as non-binary and the remaining 11.5% chose not to say. The age make-up of respondents was:

Age Group	% Response
74+	5.5
65-74	18.3
55-64	22.1
45-54	24.7
35-44	13.6

34 or under	9.4
Prefer not to say	6.4
TOTAL	100

- 3.7. 53.6% of respondents were from rural area, 29.3% from urban areas, and 14.6% from coastal areas. The remaining 2.5% preferred not to say.
- 3.8. 70.3% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the Service had identified all the major risks it is responsible for. 9.2% disagreed, with 5.9% strongly disagreeing. 12.6% neither agreed nor disagreed and 2.0% selected “don’t know”.
- 3.9. 63.1% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the activities the Service both continues and as proposes to deliver were appropriate to the identified risks. 10.4% disagreed and 8.3% strongly disagreed. 17% neither agreed nor disagreed and 1.2% selected “don’t know”.
- 3.10. 57.3% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the activities the Service both continues and proposes to deliver did not affect them or anyone else more positively or negatively than other people. This question saw more neutral responses, with 23.6% neither agreeing nor disagreeing, and 16.2% responding they disagreed or strongly disagreed. This was in line with the equality impact assessment which considers a positive or neutral impact. 2.9% selected “don’t know”. The question was edited to have ‘do not’ in bold following a response which selected ‘strongly disagree’ to this question but made a positive comment in the free text.
- 3.11. The on-line consultation feedback was analysed by an external company. At its meeting on 9 February 2022, the Community Safety Committee received the full consultation feedback together with a revised draft Community Risk Management Plan amended to incorporate consultation feedback as appropriate.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1. The Community Risk Management Plan (formerly Integrated Risk Management Plan) is a key strategic document for the Authority. The Fire & Rescue National Framework for England requires every fire and rescue authority to have such a Plan. The Plan, which will run for a five-year period (2022-27), identifies risks faced by the communities of the geographical counties of Devon and Somerset together with how it is proposed to address these risks by protection, prevention and response activities.
- 4.2. In drafting the Plan, engagement was held with the communities served, Service staff and the Authority. The draft Plan was then approved for public consultation by the Authority at its meeting on 10 November 2021.
- 4.3. The outcome of the subsequent twelve-week consultation has been subject to extensive evaluation, with the results – together with a proposed final Plan, amended where necessary to reflect the consultation feedback – presented to the Community Services Committee meeting on 9 February 2022.

- 4.4. The proposed final Plan is now appended to this report. The Authority is asked to consider it, together with any recommendations as may be made by the Community Safety Committee, with a view to approving the Plan (subject to any other amendments as may be agreed by the Authority).

LEE HOWELL
Chief Fire Officer