



TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Item No 5

MEETING: FIRE AUTHORITY 11 MARCH 2024

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP) 2024-2027:
CONSULTATION FINDINGS**

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER/CHIEF EXECUTIVE (THE CLERK
TO THE AUTHORITY)**

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to present Members of the Fire Authority with the results of the formal consultation on the draft Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2024-2027 and; seek agreement to the CRMP proposals.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England [2018] requires all Fire and Rescue Services to have an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) that reflects effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners; and be easily accessible and publicly available.
- 2.2 The Chief Fire Officer must, in exercising their functions, have regard to the Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Plan (CRMP). The Fire and Authority should give due regard to the professional advice of the Chief Fire Officer while developing the Integrated Risk Management Plan and when making decisions affecting the fire and rescue service.
- 2.3 In May 2021, a new national Fire Standard on Community Risk Management Planning was introduced by the Fire Standards Board. Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's draft CRMP 2024-2027 is aligned to the requirements of the Fire Standard and incorporates the IRMP requirements.
- 2.4 Following the presentation of the draft CRMP 2024-2027 to Fire Authority on 11 December 2023, and Fire Authority approval to commence consultation, an eight week period of formal public consultation and engagement was held between 12 December 2023 and 6 February 2024.



3 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Consultation has been conducted in accordance with HM Government Consultation Principles 2018, resulting in a proportionate, targeted and concise consultation programme that formed part of the wider engagement piece.
- 3.2 A wide range of methods were used to communicate, engage, and consult with internal and external stakeholders during the eight week period.
- 3.3 Methods included face to face meetings between Principal Officers and elected Members; watch briefings; social media posts, letters to stakeholders; and information published on the TWFRS website and intranet, including frequently asked questions.
- 3.4 The Service also listened to early feedback from staff and the public and adapted the approach to consultation and engagement, for example by arranging five public information sessions (one in each of the five local authority areas) and holding staff information sessions (via Teams).
- 3.5 The main channel of collecting formal feedback was an on-line survey (hard copy versions were also made available). The survey contained questions relating to the whole CRMP document.

4 CONSULTATION FINDINGS

- 4.1 The survey attracted **528** responses, including:
 - **240** from people who identified as members of the public
 - **92** from people who identified as staff members
 - **5** from elected officials
 - **2** from strategic partners
 - **41** from those who did not declare
 - **148** from those who did not identify.
- 4.2 A written response was also received from the Fire Brigade's Union (FBU).
- 4.3 The majority of survey respondents who answered this question agreed with proposals for four of the five key areas of the CRMP:

People – 81% agreement (303)
Prevention – 80% agreement (300)
Protection – 77% agreement (287)
Resilience – 68% agreement (255)
- 4.4 379 people who responded to the survey answered the question relating to response. 38% (143) respondents who answered this part of the survey agreed with the proposals for response.



- 4.5 62% (236) of respondents who answered this question disagreed with the proposals relating to response. However, qualitative feedback (free text question) indicated that some respondents had not read the CRMP or have misunderstood the proposal relating to Wallsend Fire Station before completing the survey, for example:
- 4.5.1 *"I've said no on the basis that I haven't seen them"* [the proposals]
- 4.5.2 *"I oppose the closure of Wallsend Fire Station. I am a local resident and only found out about this from a friend"*
- 4.6 If agreed by Fire Authority, one specific area that the Service will continue to engage with communities on in relation to the proposals relating to Response (day crewing of Wallsend fire station), is that the Service will as far as reasonably practicable, ensure that there are two fire appliances within North Tyneside during the period when Wallsend is not crewed.
- 4.7 The full Consultation Findings Report can be found at Appendix 1. All qualitative comments can be found at Appendix C to this full consultation report.
- 4.8 The feedback provided in the qualitative comments is useful for the Service, as it provides indication of where further engagement and communications would be useful, to help manage perception and provide assurance that the CRMP is data and evidence based, and will enable the most effective and efficient use of resources to address the evolving risk in our community.
- 4.9 In conclusion, no evidence was presented during the consultation period to contradict the data and information used to inform the CRMP 2024-2027 and its proposals.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Community Risk Management Planning process enables the Service to analyse risk, and allocate resources to address this risk, in the most effective and efficient way. The draft CRMP 2024-2027 presents the most effective and efficient use of available resources to enable management of risk across the whole Service area.
- 5.2 Consultation and engagement is a key element of understanding, addressing and monitoring risk, and consultation results support the Service's understanding of potential impact of proposed changes to the Service. By carrying out a thorough consultation and engagement programme, and committing to open and transparent communications throughout the implementation stage, this will reduce any risks associated with change management and reputation.



6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.

7 EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no equality and fairness implications in respect of this report.

8 HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no health and safety implications in respect of this report.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Having consulted the workforce, trade unions and wider public of Tyne and Wear, the Fire Authority is recommended to:

- a) Note the findings of the consultation;
- b) Approve the proposals within the CRMP 2024-2027, for implementation from April 2024.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The under mentioned Background Papers refer to the subject matter of the above report.