



Northumberland

County Council

COMMITTEE: CABINET

DATE: 25 JANUARY 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS):
Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) 2022-26 Consultation

Report of Chief Fire Officer Paul Hedley

Cabinet Member: Councillor Colin Horncastle, Cabinet Member for Community Services and Fire Authority Chair

Purpose of report

Following guidance from Northumberland County Council (NCC) Legal and Democratic Services, the NFRS Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is being presented as part of the consultation process which opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022.

This report is to ensure that Cabinet are aware of the consultation and the background to the development of the NFRS Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26

Recommendations

It is recommended that Senior Officers have the opportunity, should Cabinet wish, to present our Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, and that Cabinet Members contribute to the consultation.

It is acknowledged that Cabinet members may have been in receipt of the CRMP presentation and update from Chief Fire Officer Hedley and other senior officers during their attendance at their respective Local Area Councils.

Link to Corporate Plan

Living – ‘we want you to feel safe, healthy and cared for’.

Key issues

1. Under the [Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#) (2018) all fire and rescue authorities have a statutory duty to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan. This is now called a Community Risk Management Plan.
2. According to the framework, each plan must:
 - a. Reflect up to date risk analyses including an assessment of all foreseeable fire and rescue related risks that could affect the area of the authority.
 - b. Demonstrate how prevention, protection and response activities will best be used to prevent fires and other incidents and mitigate the impact of identified risks on its communities, through authorities working either individually or collectively, in a way that makes best use of available resources.
 - c. Outline required service delivery outcomes including the allocation of resources for the mitigation of risks.
 - d. Set out its management strategy and risk-based programme for enforcing the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 in accordance with the principles of better regulation set out in the Statutory Code of Compliance for Regulators, and the Enforcement Concordat.
 - e. Cover at least a three-year time span and be reviewed and revised as often as it is necessary to ensure that the authority is able to deliver the requirements set out in this Framework.
 - f. Reflect effective consultation throughout its development and at all review stages with the community, its workforce and representative bodies and partners.
 - g. Be easily accessible and publicly available.
3. The consultation has been publicised internally across NCC, across local and regional media outlets and has been placed on all Northumberland FRS and NCC social media platforms.
4. Although the consultation **is open to all residents and interested parties**, there are a range of stakeholders who have been specifically targeted as part of the consultation. These include.
 - a. NCC elected members
 - b. NCC Corporate partners
 - c. NCC Senior Officers and NCC Staff
 - d. NCC Staff Network Groups
 - e. NFRS Staff
 - f. Other Fire and Rescue Services
 - g. Northumberland Businesses
 - h. Emergency Service partners - Police / NEAS / MRT / HMG / RNLI
 - i. HMICFRS
 - j. Corporate Partners

Background

1. Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan 2017-21 was extended by one year.
2. The rationale behind extending the plan for one year were presented to Execs/Cabinet in a previous report in December 2020. The reasons were deemed to *'have merit'* by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
3. Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service is now consulting on its Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26, supporting the Fire Authority to meet its responsibilities under the Fire and Rescue National Framework for England (2018).
4. This plan was previously known as the Fire and Rescue (or Integrated Risk Management) Plan.
5. Consultation opens on 5 January 2022 and closes on 16 February 2022.
6. Consultation questions can be completed online by clicking the link <https://haveyoursay.northumberland.gov.uk/nfrs/crmpconsultation2022/> or by email fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk to request a hard copy.
7. Copies of the consultation questions can be provided in an alternative language on request. Please email your request to fireconsult@northumberland.gov.uk.
8. The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 has now been developed, providing data and analysis on key fire and rescue related risks, and information on how Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service will work with communities to address and mitigate those risks.
9. It is important to note that the CRMP is reviewed annually to ensure that it remains fit for purpose, can respond to new and emerging risk and is flexible and able to react appropriately to unforeseen events and impacts. Where the annual review results in new priorities or actions there may be a requirement to undertake additional consultation.
10. [Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services \(HMICFRS\) report Fire & Rescue Service 2021/22 Effectiveness, efficiency and people: An inspection of Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service](#) states that *'the service budget is now funded at a level that allows it to meet local risks'* (P27). As such, the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is a plan of improvement, aspiration and collaboration.
11. The Service has a Performance and Assurance Framework (PAF), which has been developed to ensure that we deliver the aims and priorities as outlined in the Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26. The PAF will ensure a more focused and mature approach to managing the Service and will facilitate a golden thread from Service Leadership Team and Strategic Performance Board, through to department and station plans and individual objectives. Progress against priorities will be monitored monthly using a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP).
12. Emerging risks such as the development of BritishVOLT and the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne rain line, an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, and Northumberland's ageing population will lead us to work more collaboratively and develop new or enhanced partnerships with internal (NCC), local and national partners in shaping our offering to the communities of Northumberland. For instance, for the first time we are co-developing our Safe and Wellbeing Programme policy with partners from across Northumberland County Council, Social Care and the third sector, focussing on our joint priorities of smoking, alcohol, dementia and falls.

13. Our six priorities for 2022-23 are as follows:
- a. Deliver service improvement as outlined in our Continuous Improvement Plan.
 - b. Deliver the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) risk model for dwelling fires as a pilot in Northumberland.
 - c. Undertake a review of protection delivery across the organisation utilising the NFCC Fire Standard and Implementation Tool.
 - d. Undertake a review of prevention delivery across the organisation utilising the NFCC Fire Standard and Implementation Tool.
 - e. Apply robust risk modelling to inform and further develop our community risk and response operating model.
 - f. Undertake a review of response standards for Northumberland.
14. Delivery of the six priorities for 2022-23 may require further consultation, and we will develop specific consultation plans for engagement as required.

Implications

Policy	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 (and the annual updates) will inform all key policies for Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service.
Finance and value for money	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 includes information on finance and how prevention, protection and community risk and response resources are utilised to remove or to mitigate key risks across the county of Northumberland.
Legal	Northumberland Fire Authority has a legal responsibility to produce a Community Risk Management Plan, and to consult on it.
Procurement	N/A
Human Resources	N/A
Property	N/A
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and is attached for reference. The EIA will be reviewed post consultation.
Risk Assessment	The Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26 is a risk-based document, capturing key fire and rescue related risks across Northumberland, and how the Service will mitigate those risks.

Crime & Disorder	Details on crime and disorder are captured within the plan.
Customer Consideration	The plan is customer focused, written to capture key risks to residents across the county, and providing details on how the Service will mitigate those risks.
Carbon reduction	A carbon impact assessment has been completed.
Health and Wellbeing	Details on health and wellbeing are captured within the plan.
Wards	All

Background papers:

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2022-26.

CRMP Equality Impact Assessment.

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

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