

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 26 APRIL 2016****REPORT OF: MR RICHARD WALSH, CABINET MEMBER FOR LOCALITIES AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING****LEAD OFFICER: TREVOR PUGH, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE****SUBJECT: DRAFT PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN 2016-2025****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority is required by the Government to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which considers all the fire and rescue related risks that could affect our communities. This planning process helps us to identify longer term priorities, to make sure we have an up to date assessment of risk, and how to mitigate it effectively.

We set out our IRMP in our Public Safety Plan (PSP), which is currently valid until 2020. However within a constantly changing environment, new threats and opportunities have emerged. This new document outlines how we will respond and adapt to these changes and continue to deliver a high performing, valued, sustainable and cost-effective service.

The draft PSP refresh document covers the period 2016-2025.

Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority proposes to consult with the public and stakeholders on the direction it is intending to pursue, and intends to do this in collaboration with the Surrey Fire Brigades Union, Resident Experience Board, Cabinet Member and Cabinet Associate Member. The proposed consultation dates are 27 April to 7 June 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

The draft Fire and Rescue Authority PSP for 2016-2025 is approved to proceed to public and stakeholder consultation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

Public consultation led by the Service will benefit residents as it will help them to better understand the choices we have to make to manage the service and give them the opportunity to comment on the plan.

<u>DETAILS:</u>

Draft Public Safety Plan

1. This refreshed PSP, currently in draft form, is our key planning document that describes how we will play our part in keeping Surrey residents, and those that work in or travel through the county, safe over the coming years. It outlines our understanding of the risks and challenges facing the county and how we will maintain, adapt and enhance our service accordingly.
2. Our current PSP was developed in 2011 and the context in which the plan was developed has changed. Drivers for change include:
 - I. Fall in demand for traditional services
 - II. Shift in population characteristics
 - III. Redefined budget and need to make further savings and efficiencies
 - IV. Reviews and changes to policy and legislation including emerging Government policy on collaboration between emergency services and the recent Government departmental move of Fire Service policy from DCLG to the Home Office
 - V. Public Service Transformation projects with a key focus on collaboration
 - VI. Busier roads
 - VII. Environmental factors such as climate change and threat of terrorism.
3. The proposals in the plan are:
 - I. Undertaking an options appraisal on working more closely with other Fire and Rescue Services, and with Police and Ambulance Services, behaving as one, whilst maintaining our front-line provision.
 - II. Anticipating changes to the demographic profile across Surrey to identify and target residents and businesses most at risk of fire in our communities by using a broad range of data, including information shared with us by other agencies, to assist us with this work.
 - III. Increasing integration and meaningful collaboration with other emergency services to assist them to respond to an increasing demand for services, where we can improve community safety and add public value.
 - IV. Continuing to review mobilising arrangements with our emergency service partners (other Fire and Rescue Services, Police and Ambulance) to develop a next generation 999 call system to improve how we communicate, share information and respond to incidents to enhance public value.
 - V. Reviewing our training requirements and introducing more realistic training to offset the reduction in real-world experience created by a fall in demand for our traditional services.

- VI. Examining our communities to see where we can better meet community needs.
 - VII. Exploring all options to maximise income and avoid, reduce or recover costs to enable us to invest in our workforce, facilities and community.
 - VIII. Review our Surrey Response Standard.
 - IX. Review the way we call handle and respond to Automatic Fire Alarms.
5. Greater collaboration is a key theme of our proposals. Surrey residents are already experiencing the benefits of our closer collaboration with Police and Ambulance services. Surrey firefighters provide assistance to other emergency services with defibrillator usage, missing person location, assisted entry and, if we are first to attend an incident, immediate emergency medical care. These are examples of how we can offer a safer, more coordinated community response, which focuses on the needs of residents and the changing nature of emergencies.
 6. In addition, we believe that further meaningful collaboration with our emergency service partners offers greater potential savings, because we can look to create efficiencies by eliminating duplication across services, which we cannot do if reviewing our own service in isolation.
 7. The draft PSP should be read alongside the draft Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), a summary of which is provided in this report (paragraph 28). The EIA will be reviewed following the consultation period.

CONSULTATION:

Public consultation

8. This report recommends that Surrey Fire and Rescue Service consults with the public and stakeholders on the draft refreshed PSP.
9. The links to the consultation documents and the communications plan are towards the end of this document.

Fire Brigades Union

10. Throughout the development of the PSP, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has worked closely with the Fire Brigades Union. It is important that they have the opportunity to comment on our proposals and our vision for the service. As part of this co-designing process, the Fire Brigades Union has authored Chapter Three of the PSP. In addition, representatives have met with Elected Members, and they are members on the PSP Steering Group.

Resident Experience Board

11. The Resident Experience Board considered a draft of the PSP at its meeting on 16 October 2015 – also see Member Reference Group below.

Staff engagement

12. It is important that our staff are fully aware of the plans we are proposing and we have engaged in a number of ways with them ahead of the consultation period. We have issued a joint communication with the Fire Brigades Union to highlight

the key issues in the draft PSP, briefed leaders in the organisation to enable them to answer questions from staff and engaged with staff on Yammer. Group Commanders and Assistant Group Commanders have received briefings, as has the Staff Council.

Member Reference Group

13. A subgroup of the Resident Experience Board have met together as a cross-party Member Reference Group. This Group was set up to act as a sounding board and provide a Member steer as the project progresses and the refreshed PSP is developed. It has also questioned and challenged officers about the changes being considered and assisted in ensuring that the refresh is as comprehensive as possible. The Member Reference Group has met roughly once a month since its first meeting on 29 April 2014. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and Democratic Services work together to facilitate the meetings.
14. The Member Reference Group has discussed the PSP refresh and its timeline, the workforce transformation programme, risk modelling and Community Risk Profiles. It has also met with representatives from the Fire Brigades Union, the Chief Fire Officer and senior officers from Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

15. The draft PSP provides mitigation against risks. We publish a Community Risk Profile for the county to provide a picture of the changing landscape of community risk in Surrey, highlighting areas of concern, identifying plans for reducing risk and exploring the impact of geography, demographics and lifestyle on community risk.
16. Community risk represents the **likelihood** of an emergency incident occurring in a given location and its expected **impact** on the community. Intelligence and an assessment of what, where and when emergencies may occur feeds into our risk modelling and helps us understand how our efforts can impact on the risks we identify. This provides an advantage when planning to protect the community and generates knowledge to inform critical decision making.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

17. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service achieved efficiency savings of £4.8m between 2010/11 and 2015/16. Within the 2016/21 Medium Term financial plan there are a further £5.9m of required savings for the service to achieve.
18. The plan focuses on providing an efficient and effective service, matching resources to risk and predicted demand. By collaborating with other emergency service partners and other relevant agencies, we will be able to provide a more efficient and effective service without having to reduce frontline service delivery.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

19. The PSP looks out to 2025, a period in which the financial climate and risks will change, and therefore needs to be flexible enough to ensure that the service can adapt as required.
20. The plan describes the approach the service intends to take in order to meet future savings requirements, whilst still delivering an effective Fire and Rescue service. There is a particular emphasis on collaboration with other blue light services in order to achieve this.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

21. The development of the PSP and subsequent consultation meets the requirement in the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework and associated guidance for the authority to produce an Integrated Risk Management Plan. As a fire and rescue authority, Surrey County Council has a statutory duty to have regard to this Framework in carrying out its functions.
22. The PSP describes how the authority will discharge its functions under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, and its role as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
23. The PSP must reflect effective consultation. The results of this consultation will be taken into consideration, and the PSP will be revised as necessary. If any changes in service delivery are necessary to implement the PSP, then a further specific consultation will be carried out.

Equalities and Diversity

24. In considering the PSP, members must have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, foster good relations between such groups, and eliminate any unlawful discrimination. These matters are dealt with in the equalities paragraphs of the report and in the attached equalities impact assessment. The assessment attached is based on the proposals being consulted on, and may need to be revised if there are any amendments to the PSP as a result of the consultation. If any changes in service delivery are necessary to implement the PSP, a further, specific equalities impact assessment will be carried out.
25. Valuing and promoting equality and diversity are central to the work of the Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). The ability to protect the public through fire safety advice, fire prevention, fire protection and emergency response depends on understanding the differing needs of the diverse communities and responding appropriately to those needs.
26. The refreshed PSP has no negative impact on service delivery compared to the current level of service received by any particular protected group. All future proposed policy changes will require separate EIAs looking into the potential impacts on service delivery and any consultation and engagement activities will enable us to inform and further develop these EIAs.
27. The draft Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed by following the link under Consultation Documents towards the end of this document.

Other Implications:

28. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Surrey experiences relatively low numbers of fatalities and injuries from fires. Our challenge is to continue to reduce these small numbers and this means the accurate targeting of those who are most vulnerable. We must also maintain our contribution to the reduction of casualties associated with road traffic collisions and will continue to focus on young drivers. We recognise that we also have an important part to play in improving the life chances for young people, so we deliver a number of other effective prevention activities.
Public Health	Increase integration and meaningful collaboration with other emergency services to assist them to respond to an increasing demand for services, where we can improve community safety and public health, and add value. We continue to educate the public through community safety campaigns and the Safe and Well Visit. Our Safe and Well Visit is designed to cover fire safety, road safety, environment safety and by using the One Stop Surrey referral process, cover a range of health and social issues that support independent living. We also supply a range of equipment, like smoke alarms, hard of hearing alarms, fire retardant bedding and advise on TeleCare alarms and sprinklers. We are continuing to work with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board members, such as Adult Social Care, the NHS, public health and Age UK Surrey, to develop the content of our Safe and Well Visits to reduce risk to the elderly.
Climate change	The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a legal duty on all emergency services to carry out risk assessments in their area. Significant risks are recorded on the Surrey Community Risk Register. We have to assess the risk of major emergency incidents such as flooding, derailments, major spillages, fires, chemical incidents, civil unrest, terrorist attacks and flu pandemics.
Carbon emissions	No significant implications arising from this report.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

29. Subject to approval of the recommendations by Cabinet, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will consult with the public and stakeholders on the draft PSP. The consultation will open on 27 April 2016 and close on 07 June 2016.
30. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will then consider the feedback received from the public and stakeholders and will make any revisions necessary to the draft PSP.
31. A final version of the PSP will be submitted to the Resident Experience Board on 30 June 2016 for scrutiny and will then be presented to Cabinet on 19 July 2016 for final approval.
32. Following the online publication of the final PSP at the end of July 2016, plans for carrying out the work outlined in the document will be developed and communicated to staff.

Contact Officer:

Russell Pearson
 Chief Fire Officer
 Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
russell.pearson@surreycc.gov.uk
 01737 224000

Consulted:

PSP 2025 Member Reference Group, Resident Experience Board, Cabinet Member and Cabinet Associate, Strategic Director Environment and Infrastructure, Legal Services, Finance, Surrey Fire Brigades Union, PSP Steering Board.

Annex:

Annex 1 – Draft Public Safety Plan summary document

Consultation Documents:

[Draft Public Safety Plan 2016-2025](#)
[Draft public consultation questions](#)
[Draft Equalities Impact Assessment](#)
[Draft consultation and communications plan](#)

Sources/background papers:

[Fire and Rescue National Framework for England](#)
[Public Safety Plan 2011-2020](#)
[Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004](#)
[Fire and Rescue Policy move to Home Office](#)
[Enabling Closer Working Between The Emergency Services](#)
[Public Service Transformation Network](#)
[Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)
[Community Risk Profile](#)
[Policing and Crime Bill 2015-16](#)
[Medium Term Financial Plan](#)
[Resident Experience Board](#)

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