

Oxfordshire County Council
Fire and Rescue Service

365alive
365alive.co.uk

Community Risk Management Action Plan Draft for Consultation

2017-18



Securing a safer Oxfordshire

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Welcome and forward



Councillor
Rodney Rose

Cabinet Member for
the Fire and Rescue
Service



Chief Fire Officer
David Etheridge
OBE

We are very pleased to present Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service's Community Risk Management Action Plan for 2017-18. This highlights the key projects we are proposing to undertake during this period, which will lead to a safer Oxfordshire.

The service has already exceeded the targets set in our 365alive 10 year vision 2006-16. Not only has this resulted in significant financial savings to the public of Oxfordshire, it has kept more people safe in their own homes, at work and on the county's roads.

With the launch of our new 365alive vision 2016-22, we will ensure an effective response to emergencies in a wider life-saving role, which includes medical calls, to support the ambulance service. We will strive to mitigate the social, economic and environmental consequences of incidents.

The service is committed to delivering a high performing fire and rescue service which provides excellent value for money to the tax payers. Our integration within the wider county council and collaboration with partners enables us to ensure that we are joined up in delivering solutions to the key issues affecting our communities. These include safer and wellbeing visits, safeguarding of vulnerable people, whilst helping to deliver a thriving Oxfordshire.

We are extremely proud of Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) and of our achievements during recent years on keeping people in the county safe in their homes, at work and on our roads. This Community Risk Management Action Plan will assist us to meet the challenges ahead, by continuing to provide an efficient and effective public service.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Introduction

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 requires the Secretary of State to prepare a Fire and Rescue National Framework to which fire authorities must have regard when discharging their functions.

The 2012 Framework requires each fire and rescue authority to produce a publicly available Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP). Within OFRS we have called this our Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) to make it more meaningful to the public.

The Framework also states that fire and rescue authorities should review the effectiveness of 'cross-border' integration arrangements with neighbouring authorities and set these out appropriately in their IRMPs. Each fire and rescue authority should ensure that the IRMP:

- Is regularly reviewed and revised and reflects up-to-date risk information and evaluation of service delivery outcomes.
- Has regard to the risk analyses completed by Local and Regional Resilience Forums including those reported in external community risk registers and internal risk registers, to ensure that civil and terrorist contingencies are captured in their IRMP.
- Reflects effective consultation during its development and at all review stages with representatives of all sections of the community and stakeholders.
- Demonstrates how prevention, protection and response activities will be best used to mitigate the impact of risk on communities in a cost effective way.
- Provides details of how fire and rescue authorities deliver their objectives and meet the needs of communities through working with partners.
- Has undergone an effective equality impact assessment process.

OFRS are consulting on the strategic CRMP 2017-22 and the 2017-18 CRMP Action Plan. The consultation documents will be submitted for approval to Cabinet Member for the fire and rescue service and the Performance Scrutiny Committee of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), following pre-consultation with key stakeholders. The consultation period will run from 10 October 2016 for a 13 week period up to 9 January 2017 and we welcome your feedback on the plans.

Following the consultation, the outcomes will be evaluated and a revised CRMP 2017-22, CRMP Action Plan 2017-18 and consultation response report will be presented to Cabinet for final approval in March 2017.

The Consultation Response Report and final CRMP 2017-22 and the 2017-18 CRMP Action Plan will then be published.

You can take part in our consultation process by completing the online questionnaire at: **(Add link once document is approved prior to online OCC consultation launch on 10 October 2016).**

Or complete the consultation questionnaire in Appendix G and return to the address below:

Oxfordshire Community Risk Management Plan Consultation
Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters
Sterling Road
Kidlington
Oxfordshire
OX5 2DU

The CRMP Team can be contacted as follows:

Email us at: crmpteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Telephone us at: 01865 842999

Going forward: 365alive 2016-22 vision

Our new 365alive vision is 'working together, every day, to save and improve the lives of people across Oxfordshire'. The fire and rescue vision is supported by the whole of community safety including; Road Safety, Trading Standards, Emergency Planning Unit, Commercial Training Services and Gypsy and Travellers Services.

The vision describes the strategic outputs we will have achieved by 2022:

- 6,000 more people will be alive because of our prevention, protection and emergency response activities.
- 85,000 children and young adults better educated to lead safer and healthier lives.
- 37,500 vulnerable children and adults helped to lead more secure and independent lives supported by safe and well-being visits.
- 25,000 businesses given advice and support to grow.
- We have set a social media reach target of 1.6 million interactions across various social media platforms.



[365alive website](#)

Key strategic documents and links to the CRMP



Projects

The following projects are proposed to be included within the fire authority's CRMP for the fiscal year 2017/18:

- Project 1: Implement changes to whole-time duty systems following 2016 review.
- Project 2: Review / implement changes to key stations and provide area based strategic cover.
- Project 3: Removal of second fire engine from Chipping Norton Fire Station.
- Project 4: Review opportunities to share resources and assets to improve outcomes for Oxfordshire.
- Project 5: Alignment of operational policy across fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley.

Our medium term financial plan and supporting business strategies underpin the proposals within our CRMP action plan.

Project 1: Implement changes to whole-time duty systems following 2016 review

Responsible manager: Area Manager Mat Carlile

Purpose

Our aim is to have the right number of people on duty, at the right time and in the right place. OFRS has investigated the many different duty systems in use across the UK Fire and rescue service's as well as looking into the needs of the Oxfordshire to deliver prevention, protection and response for the county.

The evidence gathered during the review found that our busiest time of day responding to incidents is in the early evening, which coincides with the shift change at whole time stations. This results in additional appliance movements / expenditure to cover on-call key stations and reliefs at incidents.

The service currently has three different start and finish times and different duration of shifts depending on the duty system being applied to the station.

The review also found that reduction in the on-call availability at the start of the day coincides with the change of watch at our whole time fire stations. This means that it is difficult to cover on-call stations with whole time resources during this period.

Objectives

- The project will look to align shift start and finish times across whole-time duty systems.
- To change our shift duration from 14 hour night shifts and 10 hour day shifts to 12 hour shifts both day and night. This will ensure the most efficient use of our resources whilst complying with relevant regulations for working time.
- OFRS to provide a flexible resource to be able to deliver response, prevention and protection activities across the county.

Outcome

- We will ensure that we are using our whole-time resources in the most effective and efficient way possible in order to deliver prevention, protection and response activities across the county.

Project 2: Review / implement changes to key stations and provide area based strategic cover

Responsible manager: Area Manager Mat Carlile

Purpose

The public expect OFRS to maintain an efficient and effective emergency response to those that live, work and travel in Oxfordshire. We currently have a number of 'key' on-call fire stations in Oxfordshire based on historic incident data and perceived risk in the station area. These are located at Chipping Norton, Bicester, Witney, Faringdon, Henley on Thames and Thame.

When on-call crews are not available to provide cover at these station we currently send additional resources to maintain fire cover.

The purpose of this project is to review incident data and risk at these and surrounding fire stations to determine if changes to existing fire cover provision is required as we believe resources can be utilised more effectively to areas of risk.

Objectives

Determine a set of principles of a 'key' fire station using the following criteria:

- Risks in the fire station ground i.e. industry, housing, infrastructure etc.
- Revised analysis of incident data across a wide range of incidents that the fire service attends to include incident type, frequency and time of day that an incident occurs.

Outcomes

A new set of key stations will be identified. OFRS will allocate resources throughout the county, in the most effective way possible, in order to provide an effective emergency response.

Project 3: Removal of second fire engine from Chipping Norton Fire Station

Responsible manager: Area Manager Mat Carlile

Purpose

Chipping Norton has historically been a two pump fire engine on-call station due to it being classified as a key station when it was built. Over recent years the availability of personnel to crew the second fire appliances has been very low due to difficulties in recruiting and retaining on-call firefighters from the local area.

The number of calls for the second fire appliance has been very low, six calls in 2014-15. Our aim is to permanently remove the second fire appliance from Chipping Norton Fire Station, reducing the OFRS fire appliance fleet from 34 to 33 and therefore achieving associated cost savings.

Objectives

- To permanently remove the second fire appliance from Chipping Norton Fire Station.
- Ensure that the remaining fire cover provides appropriate response arrangements for Chipping Norton and that strategic fire and rescue cover arrangements for the county are maintained.

Outcomes

Appropriate fire and rescue cover arrangements are maintained and efficiency savings are realised.

Project 4: Review opportunities to share resources and assets to improve outcomes for Oxfordshire

Responsible manager: Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Simon Furlong

Purpose

Exploring the use of our resources and assets to assist any community service activity. By increasing its efficiency or effectiveness and improve the outcomes for the residents of Oxfordshire. OFRS have a unique set of skills, human assets and equipment available 24 hours a day.

Objectives

- Identify and investigate opportunities with potential partners.
- Decide which services to take forward and how they will improve public services.
- Determine which opportunities are to be prioritised for trial and develop an implementation plan.
- Initiate trials of services and evaluate their success.

Outcomes

We are able to take on services that allow us to add real value to the people of Oxfordshire while providing efficiencies or income for us or our public sector partners

Project 5: Alignment of Operational Policy Across Fire and Rescue Services in the Thames Valley

Responsible manager: Area Manager Mat Carlile

Purpose

To work with our Thames Valley fire and rescue partners to deliver operational alignment. This will allow us to continue to improve our emergency response service across the whole region by using the correct amount of resources while recognising our local risks.

By making sure we do things the same way we can have a more efficient command structure and realise savings in procurement, training and the maintenance of equipment from fire engines down to small hand tools. This work started with the implementation of the Thames Valley Fire Control Service and the alignment of operational policy will allow us to deliver further collaboration across the services in the future.

Objectives

- Prioritise all areas for consideration.
- Produce a plan for the work to be completed.
- Deliver against first the year of the plan.
- Evaluate the success of initial work and feedback into future work.

Outcomes

Fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley will work in the same way and be able to work across counties boundaries under a single command structure. People in Oxfordshire will continue to receive a first class emergency service but we will be able to do this more efficiently.

Appendix: A On-call recruitment

Do you want to become an on-call firefighter?

There is currently a shortage of on-call firefighters at some fire stations in OFRS. This is particularly the case in our small towns and rural areas because today there are fewer people who live and work in their local towns and villages. You might be just the person to fill the gap.

Where do you work?

First of all, you need to live or work near to a fire station because you have to be able to get there within a few minutes of a call. Secondly, because we can't predict when you'll be called out, you have to be flexible in your work. The chances are that you'll be working at home, self-employed or for a community-minded employer who can let you off from time to time.

Are you fit for the job?

To apply to join the fire and rescue service you don't need any formal qualifications. You must be at least 18, with good all-round fitness. You will be asked to take a straightforward physical test as part of the process, and just as important are qualities like common sense, commitment and enthusiasm.

How often will you be needed?

On average, you will be called out two or three times a week for a couple of hours. If you cannot be available all the time, that's not a problem. You can be paid for being "on-call" for only part of the day or week. There is a particular shortage of people who are available during weekends, but you would have some evenings and weekends free if you need to, and still do a valuable and worthwhile job. If you really can't be on-call - for example because of a holiday or a deadline at work - you can take time off.

What do you get out of it?

Apart from the excitement, the challenge and the satisfaction of a job well done, your on-going training will assist you in becoming more self-reliant and confident. After all, if you can cope in a real emergency, you are ready for anything else which life might throw at you. You will meet a lot of people in your local community and earn their confidence and respect. You will also get continual, on-going training in the use of equipment and in other more general life skills including first aid. Added to all this, you get paid! You get paid a basic retainer, plus a fee for call-outs and another fee for going into action. You also get paid for training and duties like equipment maintenance.

If you think you've got what it takes to join the team, contact your local fire station for further information, or check out our vacancies pages which can be found on the fire and rescue service pages on oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Appendix: B

Consultation proposals / questionnaire

Please use this form to give your views on the Proposed CRMP Action Plan 2017-18 projects.

The proposed CRMP Action Plan 2017-18 sets out projects that we address in year one of the CRMP 2017-22. Do you think we have identified the right projects?

Q. 1. Should any projects be removed?

(Tick one box only)

Yes

No

Comments:

Q. 2. Should any other projects be added?

(Tick one box only)

Yes

No

Comments:

Q. 3. Please give us your comments on the scope of the individual projects we have identified:

Project number 1: Implement changes to whole-time duty systems following 2016 review

Comments:

Project number 2: Review / implement changes to key stations and provide area based strategic cover

Comments:

Project number 3: Removal of second fire engine from Chipping Norton Fire Station

Comments:

Project number 4: Review opportunities to share resources and assets to improve outcomes for Oxfordshire

Comments:

Project number 5: Alignment of operational policy across fire and rescue services in the Thames Valley

Comments:

Any other comments

Q. 4. Do you have any other comments on the draft CRMP Action Plan 2017-18 as set out in the consultation document?

(Tick one box only)

Yes

No

Comments:

Service and Community Impact Assessment

We have undertaken an assessment of the impact on individuals and groups of the proposed projects as set out in the CRMP Action Plan 2017-18. These are outlined in the draft Service and Community Impact Assessment. Which is available on the County Council website, should you wish to read it.

Q.5. Please give us your views on the impacts we have identified. Have we missed anything?

Comments:

About you

It would be helpful to know a bit about you so we can check whether views differ across the communities we serve.

Please note that this section is optional and you don't have to complete these questions if you don't want to. If you would prefer not to answer, please tick prefer not to say so we know your choice.

Q.5. Which of the following best describes you in the context of how you are responding to this survey?

(Please tick one box only)

- OFRS uniformed staff
- OFRS non uniformed staff
- Councillors
- Oxfordshire residents
- Stakeholder

Q.6. If you have responded as a stakeholder, please indicate whether or not you consent to OFRS publishing your response in its entirety as part of the consultation response should they wish to do so.

(Please tick one box only)

- I / the organisation I represent gives their consent
- I / the organisation I represent does not give their consent

Thank you for completing this survey

All the information you have provided is governed by the Data Protection Act 1998 and will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DRAFT