

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority

Introduction

The Council is the designated Fire and Rescue Authority for the County of Oxfordshire with the primary responsibility to protect the community, reduce harm and save lives through prevention, protection, and response.

The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 sets out those core functions which all Fire Authorities must make provision for, including:

- Promoting fire safety
- Extinguishing fires and protecting life and property when fires do occur, including:
 - the provision of resources necessary to meeting normal requirements;
 - appropriate training for firefighters;
 - ensuring 999 calls for assistance can be dealt with effectively; and
 - minimising damage to property arising from firefighting operations
- Rescuing people involved in road traffic collisions
- Rescuing and protecting people in the event of other emergencies

The 2004 Act also introduced the Fire and Rescue National Framework which Fire and Rescue Authorities must have regard to when carrying out their functions. The five national priorities set out in the Framework require Fire and Rescue Authorities to:

- (a) Make appropriate provision for fire prevention and protection activities
- (b) Identify and assess the foreseeable range of fire and rescue related risks which their areas face
- (c) Collaborate with emergency services and other local and national partners to increase efficiency and effectiveness
- (d) Be accountable to communities for their service
- (e) Develop and maintain a workforce which is professional, resilient, skilled, flexible, and diverse

1. The Chief Fire Officer

The Chief Fire Officer is authorised to:

- (a) ensure that the Council meets its legal and operational responsibilities for an effective fire and rescue service to be provided across the County
- (b) to secure provision of resources, training, and equipment for the purposes of discharging the core functions of the Fire and Rescue Service; and
- (c) to undertake fire safety promotion, road traffic collision rescues and other emergency responses to civil emergencies

2. The Cabinet Member for Community Services and Safety

The Cabinet Member for Community Services and Safety is the lead Councillor with specific responsibility for Fire and Rescue within the remit of their Cabinet portfolio.

The Cabinet Member's responsibilities include:

- (a) To provide assurance on the performance of Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service
- (b) To receive reports from the Chief Fire Officer on the development and delivery of strategy, budgets, and policy
- (c) To develop expertise and knowledge in their portfolio area
- (d) To be the Council's lead spokesperson for their portfolio
- (e) To attend the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee as requested, to discuss decisions taken and to assist the scrutiny and policy development process
- (f) To respond to questions relating to their portfolio arising at Council, Cabinet and Committee meetings

3. Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility for scrutinising the Fire and Rescue function and acting as a critical friend. The Chief Fire Officer reports into the Committee providing key performance information to ensure members can hold the Portfolio holder to account and ensuring all statutory responsibilities placed on the Service are discharged and targets and objectives for performance are met.

4. Channel Panel

In compliance with the statutory requirements set out under Section 36-41 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015, the Council has a Channel Panel

in place for the County of Oxfordshire and follows the Channel Duty Guidance 2020. The Chief Fire Officer currently has responsibility for the Channel Panel.