

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 17 July 2017

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY CONSULTATION STRATEGY -
ANNUAL REVIEW
(Appendix 1 refers)**

Contact for further information: Justin Johnston, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Tel: 01772 866801

Executive Summary

The Authority has a Public Consultation Strategy which provides a framework through which it can seek public opinion on major change issues.

Each year the Planning Committee reviews the Public Consultation Strategy (attached as appendix 1) to assure continued compliance with guidance or legislation and to incorporate learning from any public consultation exercises undertaken.

This year's review concludes that the Strategy continues to be legally compliant and in line with good practice.

Recommendation

The Planning Committee is asked to note and endorse the Public Consultation Strategy.

Information

The Lancashire Combined Fire Authority Consultation Strategy has been in place since the new Integrated Risk Management Planning arrangements were introduced in 2003. It has been thoroughly reviewed and updated in 2007 and 2014 and is considered on an annual basis.

The comprehensive review undertaken in 2014 resulted in a streamlined approach which ensures consultation is proportionate to the issue being addressed; with a dedicated plan for each exercise, rather than a prescriptive format for every consultation. Any requests to the Authority to consult with the public are made throughout the year as-and-when projects identified in the Service Action Plan reach the point where this is required. The review in 2016 amended the Strategy to make clearer links between the equality impact assessment process and consultation.

During the year there have been no changes to legislation that impact on the Strategy. Members may recall that at its meeting held January 2017, the Planning Committee endorsed the consultation process surrounding the draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2012-17 as being adequate in scale and scope (resolution 17/16 refers).

The review of the Public Consultation Strategy in 2017 confirms that the Strategy continues to reflect industry good practice and guidance and is compliant with legal duties.

Business Risk

The Public Consultation Strategy provides the necessary framework to help the Authority ensure that it has comprehensive public consultation arrangements in place to make sure that the public has opportunity to provide opinions and views on proposals or changes that have the potential to significantly alter services provided.

Environmental Impact

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

The Public Consultation Strategy helps the Authority fulfil its statutory duties to make sure those that have legally defined protected characteristics are not discriminated against. The Strategy has been updated to more clearly link the equality impact assessment process with consultation.

HR Implications

Staff are able to take part in consultations – arrangements are separate to the Public Consultation Strategy.

Financial Implications

None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		