

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 25 November 2019

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

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**Executive Summary**

The Authority has a consultation strategy which provides a framework through which it can seek public opinion on major change issues.

Each year the planning committee reviews the 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 consultation strategy.

**Information**

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority's consultation strategy has been in place since the new Integrated Risk Management Planning arrangements were introduced in 2003. It is considered on an annual basis.

A 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 priorities identified in the Annual Service Plan reach the point where this is required. A review in 2016 amended the strategy to make clearer links between the equality impact assessment process and consultation.

A review in 2018 updated the strategy to reflect the General Data Protection Regulation which came into effect in May 2018, in relation to transparency obligations and the re-use of public sector information. The Service's employee voice groups, which form part of its equality, diversity and inclusion work, were added as a consultation method. They provide opportunities to consult with diverse groups within the Service and also links to external groups.

The strategy has once again been reviewed and continues to reflect industry good practice and guidance, with no changes. The document remains compliant with legal duties.

**Business Risk**

The consultation strategy provides the necessary framework to help the Authority ensure that it has comprehensive 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 consultation strategy helps the Authority fulfil its statutory duties to make sure those that have legally defined protected characteristics are not discriminated against.

**HR Implications**

None

**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:		