

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on Monday 7 February 2022

**CONSULTATION STRATEGY – ANNUAL REVIEW
(Appendix 1 refers)**

Contact for further information – Steve Healey, Deputy Chief Fire Officer
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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 Integrated Risk Management Planning arrangements were introduced in 2003. It is reviewed on an annual basis.

The strategy was implemented to good effect during the public consultation on the draft Community Risk Management Plan 2022-27 in summer 2021 and has been updated to reflect learning from that exercise. This includes conducting a mid-point review of progress, in addition to a closing review, to provide an opportunity for any adjustments to be made to the consultation plan if needed.

It is commonplace to use a standard 12-week period for public consultation however the length of time given for consultees to respond can vary depending on the subject and extent of impact of the consultation. Although in most cases 12 weeks will be sufficient, the maximum 12-week period has been changed to reflect the need for flexibility to allow sufficient opportunity for consultees to participate.

This year the Authority will consult the public in relation to the emergency cover review incorporating the withdrawal of the day crewing plus duty system. Any other requests to the Authority to consult with the public will be made as-and-when priorities identified in the annual service plan reach the point where this is required.

Business risk

The consultation strategy provides the necessary framework to help the Authority ensure that the Service provides relevant stakeholders with the opportunity for a genuine exchange of views and to influence decisions, policies and services.

Effective consultation gives the Service better understanding of the needs of our communities and stakeholders, and helps to create services that are more closely aligned to those needs.

Environmental impact

None

Equality and diversity implications

The strategy sets out that equality impact assessments should be undertaken for all consultations. These assessments inform stakeholder analysis of who to involve and how; describe the positive and reasonable adjustments that may be made to reach groups of people with protected characteristics; and understand the barriers that may be encountered when trying to involve them.

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 2 if appropriate: