

## **LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on Monday 7 February 2022

### **EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW**

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*Executive summary and recommendations*

#### **Executive Summary**

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) is required to review emergency response arrangements periodically to ensure that provision remains effective and commensurate with our dynamic risk profile. This process is a robust assessment of historic data and emergent risk and is delivered in the format of an Emergency Cover Review (ECR).

The Combined Fire Authority (CFA) endorsed the findings and recommendations of the previous ECR in 2017 and a number of changes have been made over the past 5 years. Additionally, The CFA Performance Committee of 15 September 2021 was informed that a ECR would be considered by the CFA in early 2022 once the Government finance settlement was known.

As part of the ECR, the Service will be considering revised crewing arrangements at all 11 Day Crewing Plus (DCP) stations following the recent decision by the CFA to withdraw the duty system.

The aims of the ECR are to:

1. Ensure LFRS always provide an effective response to fire and other emergencies.
2. Ensure LFRS crewing arrangements are fit for purpose to meet the risk levels of the community.
3. Ensure the DCP duty system is phased out and replaced with crewing arrangements that provide efficient and effective resources across the whole of Lancashire.

#### **Recommendation**

The Planning Committee is asked to note and endorse the report and commission the production of an ECR in line with the timelines below.

#### **Background**

The Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) for 2022–27 will be presented for approval at the next Combined Fire Authority meeting and within this Plan are a series of organisational commitments associated with LFRS' capabilities including the emergency response provision.

LFRS seek to deliver high standards of operational response and in doing so we prepare and plan for emergencies so that when an emergency happens and we have to respond, we do it quickly, with the right fire appliances, the right specialist vehicles and the right crewing arrangements to deal with the incident effectively and safely.

The community of Lancashire changes dynamically through commercial and residential growth and retraction, new road and other infrastructure provision and these along with many other factors may create a differing emergency response requirement from LFRS. To ensure that response arrangements remain appropriate and effective the Combined Fire Authority periodically commissions an Emergency Cover Review in order to validate current provision and to identify any appropriate proposals for change in response provision.

## **Information**

It is recommended that LFRS partakes in an ECR process in 2022 and that within the methodology three key elements will be focussed upon:

- i. **Risk and Demand** (Performance Data and Risk in Lancashire).
- ii. **Process** (Mobilising criteria).
- iii. **Resource Provision** (Location, Configuration and Weight of attack).

In order to validate the current response arrangements and to test predictive impacts, LFRS plans to draw on the services of an external specialist organisation to provide third party objective data analysis. This will enable the use of predictive modelling software in determining and subsequently validating the potential impact of any changes to the number, type, location and crewing arrangements of emergency resources across the county.

It is recommended that the scope of the ECR includes:

- A) Validating the deliverables, outcomes and actual performance.
- B) Developing a subsequent Baseline Model for 2022 inclusive of the above.
- C) Determining the potential impact of a series of changes to the number, location, response capabilities and crewing arrangements of emergency resources across the county. More specifically but not exclusively:
  - 1) Replacement of the Day Crewing Plus (DCP) duty system
  - 2) Enhancement of our response to climate change
  - 3) Enhancement of our emergency cover in rural parts of the county

A review of the Strategic Assessment of Risk for Lancashire will be completed and used to support the ECR proposals.

The timeline for the ECR is aligned with our annual planning cycle:

January - April 2022*	Research, data and analysis including engagement in relation to alternative duty systems.
May - June 2022	Evaluation and administration, creating reports for the CFA and preparing the final proposals ahead of relevant stakeholder consultations.
July - October 2022	A period of consultation and review of feedback.
November - December 2022	Final approval of the ECR by the CFA.
January 2023	Implementation commences (including a phased approach to the removal of DCP).

\*To ensure that the Service fully considers the most suitable and appropriate arrangements for the replacement of DCP, staff (especially current / permanent DCP staff) have been invited to express their interest in supporting ECR working groups, which will look at options for future crewing systems through to April 2022.

### **Business risk**

Production of the ECR is a business-critical planning function. LFRS must demonstrate a timely review of response arrangements in line with National Framework guidance issued by central government.

### **Environmental impact**

Inevitably there will be a requirement for a printed version of the ECR documentation (on request) however the approach taken will be 'digital by default' and therefore the environmental impact will be minimal with no sustainability issues identified. A key driver of the ECR process is to align to our climate change response plan. This will drive our operational response through speed of attack and ensuring the most effective and efficient resource is deployed with the aim of reducing harm to the environment.

### **Equality and diversity implications**

An initial Equality Impact Assessment will be created as a part of the Emergency Cover Review process to ensure that both static response arrangements and any proposed changes do not impact negatively upon Lancashire's diverse community or LFRS' workforce.

### **HR implications**

The ECR will look at all aspects of response across the Service, with a key driver being the replacement of the DCP shift system, with sustainable and efficient shifts that deliver optimal response to risk within Lancashire. The introduction of the new shifts, and associated operational resource, will have a direct effect on HR. Post consultation,

it is likely that there will be an impact on staff within the Service and this will be managed through relevant HR process.

### **Financial implications**

Additional temporary resource will be used to provide the capacity to deliver the ECR within existing staffing budgets. There will be a requirement to pay for third party data scrutiny, again managed through existing budget.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

### **List of background papers**

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: