

Lancashire Combined Fire Authority

Planning Committee

Meeting to be held on Monday 5 February 2024

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 community risk management planning arrangements were introduced in 2003. It is reviewed on an annual basis.

The strategy has been reviewed and continues to be legally compliant and in line with good practice. It is in line with the National Fire Chiefs Council's guidance on stakeholder and public engagement in relation to community risk, published in 2022.

The strategy has most recently been implemented to good effect during the public consultation on the community risk management plan in 2021 and the emergency cover review proposals in 2022.

Any 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.

Sustainability or 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.

Data Protection (GDPR)

Will the proposal(s) involve the processing of personal data? No

HR implications

None

Financial implications

None

Legal implications

Legal implications are set out in Section 9: Data use and subjects and transparency obligations. Although the UK law is still based on the European Directive (the General Data Protection Regulations), the wording has been amended to avoid confusion post Brexit.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of background papers

Paper:

Date:

Contact:

Reason for inclusion in Part 2 if appropriate: Insert Exemption Clause