

**LANCASHIRE COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on 20 March 2017

**EMERGENCY COVER REVIEW**

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**Executive Summary**

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) is required to review emergency response arrangements periodically to ensure that provision remains effective and consummate 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 2013 and a number of changes have been made over the past 3 years.

It is recommended that LFRS reviews the current response arrangements and delivers an ECR during 2017 with the below key ambitions:

1. Carry out and consult on an Emergency Cover Review to ensure appropriate future provision of our resources and crewing arrangements.
2. Ensure we provide an effective response to fire and other emergencies at all times.
3. Ensure our crewing arrangements are fit for purpose to meet the risk levels of the community.

**Recommendation**

The Planning Committee is asked to note and endorse the report.

**Background**

The Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2017–22 has recently been approved by the Combined Fire Authority 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.

It is recommended that LFRS partakes in an ECR process in 2017 and that within the methodology three key elements will be focussed upon:

- i. **Demand** (Performance Data, Risk in Lancashire & Response Targets)
- ii. **Process** (Pre-Determined Attendance's, Time Engaged, Appliance Availability & Special Appliances)
- iii. **Resources** (Location, Configuration, Crewing Status & Mobilising Criteria.)

In order to validate the current response arrangements and to test predictive impacts LFRS plans to utilise the services of an external specialist organisation. This will enable the use of predictive modelling software in determining and subsequently validating the potential impact of any changes to the number, location and crewing of fire appliances across the county. This will also offer an opportunity to review the impacts of the previous 2013-17 ECR.

It is recommended that the scope of the ECR includes:

- A) Validating the deliverables / outcomes / actual performance from within the previous ECR as we operate within a business as usual period beyond the implementation.
- B) Developing a subsequent Baseline Model for 2017 inclusive of the above.
- C) Determining the theoretical potential impact of a series of changes to the number, location, response capabilities and crewing of fire appliances across the county. More specifically but not exclusively:
  - i. Realising a wider Emergency First Responding capability.
  - ii. Determining a revised response to Automatic Fire Alarms.
  - iii. Developing a Pre-Alerting policy.
  - iv. Responding to emergent risk.
  - v. Acknowledging a strategic commitment in Strengthening and Improving RDS.

\*A review of the organisation's Strategic Assessment of Risk for Lancashire will be completed within the life cycle of determining ECR proposals.

The ECR is proposed to be scheduled in a phased approach to enable the conclusion of the work stream during 2017; the key timeframes are detailed below:

- April 2017 - Review of the data and evidence generated through our historic emergency response evidence.
- May / June 2017 – Evaluate potential impacts of any proposed changes using predictive software.
- June / July 2017 - Create documentation and reports that define recommendations and present to CFA meetings.

- July – October 2017 – A period of consultation and review of feedback leading to possible changes to the reports and recommendations.
- November/ December 2017 - Final approval of the ECR sought from the Combined Fire Authority.

The timeframes offered align to the planned CFA meetings which will offer the required scrutiny and approval. Should the ECR conclude with changes to the response provision for LFRS these would be scheduled for implementation in 2018/19 or later.

### **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.

### **Sustainability or 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.

### **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**

None

### **Financial Implications**

None identified at this scope phase.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact Justin Johnston Tel. 01772 866801
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate:		