

Decision Record – Fire and Rescue Service, Shaping the Future Consultation

Cabinet Portfolio Holder taking the decision Cllr Les Caborn
Community Safety
Date of Decision (not before: 14th March 2014) 14/03/2014

Decision Taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety agrees that the proposed Stage One public and staff consultation exercise be conducted, lasting for no less than 12 weeks, starting on Monday 24th March 2014.

Reasons for Decisions

The consultation exercise is being completed as part of the planning process and it will invite the public to consider how we can make the savings and continue to keep the public and our firefighters safe.

The public and our partner's (other blue light services) views are important and the Service needs to capture and consider their comments so that the Chief Fire Officer can make informed recommendations to the Fire Authority that incorporate public and professional opinions.

It is proposed that the Service, with the support of County Council colleagues, engages with the public through invited forums and road shows to directly discuss the changes to policy and location of firefighters and fire engines (operational resource model). Activity will include, but is not limited to:

- Public Meetings of 20-25 members of the public
- Public and Staff roadshows
- Strategic meetings with partners (especially neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services)
- Online consultation survey (Ask Warwickshire)

It is proposed that the consultation exercise is split into two stages. Stage One will cover the first two years of the four-year savings plan and aims to achieve just under £1.3 million of the required savings. A two-stage approach will allow us to review the changes made in the first two years, and use the outcomes of that review to inform our proposals to meet the balance of the savings required in the last two years of the savings plan. This will also enable the second stage of the plan to be developed within the next Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2017-2021. Appendix A to the proposed decision report outlines in broad terms our proposals for the Stage One consultation.

A consultation report will provide a commentary on the consultation exercise. This will inform the recommendations made by the Chief Fire Officer to the Fire Authority meeting on the 25th September 2014.

Background Information

All councils must reduce their costs as part of the Government's savings plan.

The grants made by the Government to fund services that are delivered locally are being reduced.

The Fire and Rescue Service must contribute to the balancing of the County Council's budget.

The Fire and Rescue Service is required to deliver savings of around £2.4 million by March 2018 and we believe that just under £1.3 million can be delivered in the first two years.

Savings of this magnitude may affect the delivery of frontline service including the response to emergency incidents and community fire safety, as set out in the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2013-17.

The potential change to responding to emergencies requires a public consultation exercise that is compliant with the Best Value requirements embodied in the 1999 Local Government Act (Section 3). The Service is following principles set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government IRMP Guidance Note 2 and County Council good practice guidelines.

Financial Implications

As listed in the report.

Report Author	David Pemberton
Head of Service	Gary Phillips
Strategic Director	Andy Hickmott
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Les Caborn

Checklist

Urgent matter? No

Confidential or Exempt? No
(State the category of exempt information)

Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework? No

List of Reports considered - please include link to report

Link to published proposed decision report:

<https://democratic.warwickshire.gov.uk/cm55/CalendarofMeetings/tabid/128/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/645/Meeting/3141/Committee/549/Default.aspx>

List of Background Papers - please include a contact for access to background papers


Demand Analysis
Proposed New Response Model Profile

Members and officers consulted or informed – please include any comments

Portfolio Holders – Councillor Les Caborn
All Strategic Directors
Legal – Ian Marriott, Peter Oliver, John Gregory, Ann Belcher
Finance – Liz Firmstone
Equality – Minakshee Patel
Democratic Services – Georgina Atkinson

Communities OSC – party spokes:

Councillors Richard Chattaway, Jenny Fradgley, John Holland and Chris Williams

I Agree the decision

14/3/14

