

# County Council

13 December 2022

## WFRS Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy

### Recommendations

That Council:

1. considers and takes account of the WFRS Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/2027 consultation process, and
2. approves the WFRS Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/2027 at Appendix 1 for publication.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Fire and Rescue National Framework for England places a requirement on every Fire and Rescue Service to have a Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP).
- 1.2 The CRMP sets out the Fire Authority's priorities, and the approach that Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service (WFRS) will take to ensure communities and individuals who choose to live, work, do business, study, or visit Warwickshire are safe. The CRMP consists of four component parts:
  - Risk Analysis - An assessment of fire and rescue related risk in the community
  - WFRS Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022 - 2027 - A strategy to reduce that risk through prevention, protection, and response activities
  - Performance Measures - A way to measure the impact of the strategy on reducing risk in the community
  - Statement of Assurance - Assurance of the process.
- 1.3 At their meeting on 12 April 2022, Cabinet approved the draft Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy, and its release for consultation with the community, our people, representative bodies, and partners.
- 1.4 A 12-week consultation exercise ran from 04.07.2022 to 25.09.2022 to seek views and feedback on the Prevention, Protection and Response strategy.
- 1.5 The full analysis of the consultation responses has been produced by the Council's Business Intelligence team and their report 'Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/2027

Consultation Results' is included as part of the background papers. A summary of the report is included in Section 4 Supporting Information.

## **1.6 Key Facts:**

- 1.7 There were a total of 465 respondents to the online survey, and 7 e-mails received containing views and feedback on the Prevention, Protection and Response strategy.
- 1.8 Overall, the strategy was strongly supported by the majority of respondents to the survey.
- 1.9 A high proportion of respondents (90.5%) agreed or strongly agreed that we should target our resources to reduce risk.
- 1.10 The majority of respondents agreed with the Prevention, Protection and Response priorities; however, it is worth noting that where 90.9% and 90.5% of respondents respectively agreed with the prevention and protection priorities, with regards to the response priorities, 61.7% agreed whilst 32.1% did not agree.
- 1.11 A high proportion of respondents (87.5%) agreed, or strongly agreed, that the service offer would meet their safety needs.
- 1.12 A high proportion of respondents (86.1%) agreed that the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service approach will ensure that the priorities are delivered in the right way.
- 1.13 A high proportion of respondents (79.5%) were satisfied that the strategy will make Warwickshire the best it can be both now and in the future.
- 1.14 For every question, respondents were asked to give a reason for their answer. It is worth noting that a higher proportion of those who disagreed or strongly disagreed with the question elaborated on their response, compared to those who agreed or strongly agreed.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 This paper seeks approval for the final Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy. The CRMP financial implications arising from future planned activities will be addressed through the formulation and development of the Fire & Rescue Business Plan.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 This paper seeks approval for the Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy. The CRMP environmental implications arising from future planned

activities will be addressed through the formulation and development of the Fire & Rescue Business Plan.

## 4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service, with support from Communications, Business Intelligence, Legal Services, and the Strategic Consultation and Engagement Lead, planned and delivered the 12-week consultation process which commenced on 04.07.2022 with the aim of seeking feedback on the Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/207.
- 4.2 The consultation process included the following elements:
- An online survey hosted on the 'Ask Warwickshire' website
  - Paper copies of the survey and alternative formats were also available - people could respond directly in writing or by e-mail
  - Production and release of a series of short-animated videos to explain the CRMP
  - News releases to the local press and promotion of the online survey across Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service and Warwickshire County Council social media, internal communications platforms, and the local mailing lists
  - Communications with key partners to advertise details of the consultation process across communities and community groups
  - Attending local community events to encourage people to complete the online survey
  - Attending local elected representatives' forums to explain background to the strategy
- 4.3 A high proportion of respondents (90.5%) agreed or strongly agreed that we should target our resources to reduce risk. The prominent themes from the comments were general support for targeting resources with reference to 'prevention being better than cure' and it 'being the most efficient use of resources'. There were concerns expressed about resources not being equally distributed and some areas being better protected than others.
- 4.4 The majority of respondents agreed with the Prevention, Protection and Response priorities; however, it is worth noting that where 90.9% and 90.5% of respondents respectively agreed with the prevention and protection priorities, 61.7% agreed with the response priorities.
- 4.5 The prominent themes from the comments on the **prevention** priorities were for general support, with prevention being better than a cure, especially for vulnerable people. There were further comments on the importance of education and local engagement. There were concerns expressed about it not being the job of firefighters, and lack of measures.

- 4.6 The prominent themes from the comments on the **protection** priorities were for general support, the service having adequate resources and funding, and the framing of the question. There were further comments on the importance of education.
- 4.7 The prominent themes from the comments on the **response** priorities were for general support, having adequate resources and funding, adequate levels of personnel, and issues with framing the question. There were also comments how response times and availability would be impacted.
- 4.8 Respondents were also asked if there was anything else Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service should consider in the prevention, protection, and response priorities. The comments were varied, however:
- the most frequent themes around the prevention priorities were ensuring sufficient information and education, sufficient funding and resources, and the impact of climate change
  - the most frequent themes around the protection priorities were sufficient information and education available, sufficient funding, and the importance of surveying buildings to ensure they are safe
  - the most frequent themes around the response priorities were sufficient resources and funding available, concerns about response times, staffing levels, and whether there would be reduction in fire station coverage
- 4.9 A high proportion of respondents (87.5%) agreed or strongly agreed that the service offer would meet their safety needs. The prominent themes from the comments were general support for the service offer, importance of response availability, concerns about equal distribution of resources, adequate training, and the need for adequate resources.
- 4.10 A high proportion of respondents (86.1%) agreed that the Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service approach will ensure that the priorities are delivered in the right way. The prominent themes from the comments were support for the approach, adequate resources, and funding. Other comments were made about the importance of local communities, risk being unpredictable, and the importance of ethics within the approach.
- 4.11 A high proportion of respondents (79.5%) were satisfied that the strategy will make Warwickshire the best it can be both now and in the future. The prominent theme from the comments were general support for the strategy. There were also comments highlighting concerns about adequate resources, staffing levels, and equal coverage.
- 4.12 There were a further 154 qualitative responses to the question on 'any further comments you would like to make about WFRS'. The prominent themes were general support of the Service, adequate resources, adequate funding, protecting vulnerable people, and the importance of education. There were

also comments highlighting concerns about staffing levels, local engagement, and the service carrying out activities they are not responsible for.

## **5. Additional Responses Received**

- 5.1 Leamington Spa Town Council indicated its general support for the draft Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022-2027.
- 5.2 Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership asked for, and were assured that, information about the partnership and that the targets WFRS have agreed were included in the relevant business plans for Prevention, Protection and Response.
- 5.3 The National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Protection Policy and Reform Unit suggested changes to the thematic risks. These comments will be considered at the next annual review of the PPR strategy.
- 5.4 Several external and internal communication channels were used to encourage communities to engage with the consultation process and complete the online survey including social media, videos, news releases, and internal publications.
- 5.5 The background paper 'Marketing and Communications Evaluation Report' contains a full breakdown of all communication activity undertaken to support the consultation.

## **6. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

- 6.1 Once approved, the PPR Strategy will be published on the website in December 2022 and will be subject to an annual review.

## **Appendices**

1. WFRS Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/2027
2. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/2027 Consultation Results (Report)
3. Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Prevention, Protection and Response Strategy 2022/2027 Consultation Results (Appendix) – Verbatim Comments

## **Background Papers**

Marketing and Communications Evaluation Report

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication  
Local Member(s): Not applicable as county wide report